

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2000**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of January 11, 2000 were approved with the following correction: page 9 - "Venice Island is now zoned RC-1."; and the inclusion of "Dennis Winters being named timekeeper and parliamentarian."

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Sue McNamara, RCC Chair, clarified her proposal at the last meeting to keep the meetings shorter by allowing 15 minutes of discussion per action item; the assembly must then vote to add another 15 minutes of discussion time. The RCC had agreed with this concept, and it will continue.

Ms. McNamara then drew the RCC's attention to the Staff Summary of Board Action for January, which outlined the RCC motion relative to Route 42 and College Road in Gloucester County; the RCC had recommended that NJDOT include public participation early in the process, and provide a progress report within 60 days. Ms. McNamara spoke with Gerry Mooney, NJDOT Project Engineer, who felt that he would have a report by the March RCC meeting date on this issue. Ms. McNamara stressed the importance of this, particularly to those from New Jersey. She also stated that Mooney mentioned the need for an RCC representative on the New Jersey Subcommittee of the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC). Dennis Winters, as RTC representative, could cover this as well. Warren Strumpfer stated that he, a New Jersey citizen, would be willing to attend and represent the RCC. This information will be passed on to Chick Dougherty for his follow-up regarding future meetings.

The RCC also discussed the response of the Board to the last RCC recommendation regarding Venice Island. The committee was not happy with the response and discussed it in more depth later in the meeting.

Lorraine Brill reported that DRPA has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Delaware River Tram, with public meetings scheduled for February 29 and March 1. Ms. Brill made copies of the legal notice available. Dennis Winters questioned whether it is possible to get a copy of the EIS in the DVRPC Library so that the Environmental/Legislative Subcommittee could review it. Candace Snyder will follow up on this.

Winters also brought up the fact that a letter should be sent to the transportation and transit agencies notifying them that the RCC would like copies of EIS's for future study. Winters will work on this with Sue McNamara and Cathy Zukoski.

Kevin Smith distributed postcards as part of a write-in campaign to Mayor Street to prevent future SEPTA service interruptions.

TIP MODIFICATION 9931:

Dennis Winters, newly elected Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee, outlined TIP Modification 9931, which is a request from the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) to modify TIP Project #0576, Smart Bridges, for the ITS Deployment Project. This project is possible through additional demonstration funding from USDOT; DRPA will provide a 50% match for a total of \$1,600,000. The project includes the integration of various ITS applications from planning, systems engineering, and operations perspectives; it will also enhance communication and incident response capabilities. Because this is a demonstration project, the financial constraint of the TIP and air quality conformity will not be affected. The subcommittee recommends approval of TIP Modification 9931.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the Board approve TIP Modification 9931, DRPA's request to modify the TIP by adding \$800,000 in federal demonstration funds and \$800,000 in DRPA funds to the Smart Bridges Project.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item A on voting record.)

TIP MODIFICATION 9932:

Winters reported that TIP Modification 9932 is a request from SEPTA for a change of funding source for the Suburban Station Transit Improvement Project (TIP #S062). The total amount of \$10 million is consistent with the funding programmed in the FY 2000 TIP. The new funding split is \$8,000,000 federal, \$1,666,667 state, and \$333,333 local. FY 2000 funding for the Market Frankford Automated Train project will not be required; the project is moving but funds will not be needed immediately. This shift will maintain financial constraint. The subcommittee recommends approval of TIP Modification 9932.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Bob Machler) to recommend that the Board approve TIP Modification 9932, SEPTA's request to modify the TIP by changing the funding source of the Suburban Station Transit Improvement

Project from state funding to federal funding, and by removing the FY 2000 funding from the Market Frankford Automatic Train Control Project.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item B on voting record.)

TIP AMENDMENT 9933:

Winters explained that TIP Amendment 9933, which was submitted by SEPTA, is a request to tap funds from the \$5 million in CMAQ funding programmed in FY 2000 for regional park and ride projects. To date, approximately \$1.1 million of these funds has been drawn down for two parking projects: the Cornwells Heights Park and Ride Project and the South Gulph Park and Ride Project. SEPTA is now requesting \$3.9 million that would provide design and construction funding for four expansion projects: the R2 - Warminster Station; the R2 West Trenton - Forest Hills Station; the R5 Lansdale/Doylestown - Fort Washington Station; and the R7 Trenton - Holmesburg Junction Station. The North Wales Station project will not be included in this TIP Amendment. The park and ride set-aside would be eliminated with this draw-down but would be re-funded in the next fiscal year.

John Pawson had an objection at the subcommittee; he stated that SEPTA should disperse the parking spaces throughout many of its lots, rather than enlarging only a few by many spaces. At the subcommittee meeting, Judy Barnet, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, had responded that Warminster is over-subscribed now. Some of the projects listed above are designed to mitigate the I-95 and PA 309 construction projects that will begin later this year. SEPTA is indeed examining the needs at all of their lots. The subcommittee recommends approval of TIP Amendment 9933.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Peggy Killmer) to recommend that the Board approve TIP Amendment 9933, SEPTA's request to amend the TIP by adding four parking improvement projects, drawing funds from the Regional Park and Ride Program placeholder.

AMENDMENT (by John Pawson, seconded by Jane Glenn) to note in the RCC's comment to the Board that the committee believes that a larger number of parking lot expansions with smaller numbers of additional spaces would have less impact on neighborhoods and would draw more commuters to more transit stations.

MOTION CARRIED, AS AMENDED. (See Item C on voting record.)

TIP AMENDMENT 9934:

Winters then outlined TIP Amendment 9934, which has been forwarded by Delaware County, is a request for bicycle lanes and sidewalks for the Aston Bike Loop. The project would utilize CMAQ funding from TIP project #0565, Bicycle Mobility Improvements. Ms. Barnet reported that the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) approved the project contingent upon Delaware County removing the sidewalks from the request. This particular funding line item is for bicycle construction only. These sidewalks are not part of the path. The reduction of the project should also reduce the cost. In the proposed project, three state roads would be outfitted with bicycle lanes. The lanes would connect the township building, community center, schools, recreation facilities, shopping centers, and residential areas. The subcommittee recommends approval of TIP Amendment 9934, with the elimination of sidewalks from the project. Delaware County has already removed the sidewalks from the project description.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Jane Glenn) to recommend that the Board approve TIP Amendment 9934, Delaware County's request to add a bicycle project to the TIP, drawing funds from the Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item D on voting record.)

PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (TE) PROGRAM AND TIP AMENDMENT 9935:

John Madera, DVRPC Transportation Planner, discussed the two lists that had been provided to the RCC related to Transportation Enhancements (TE). The first, longer list includes those projects that will be recommended for funding from the TE post of money. The shorter list of projects are those that will be recommended for funding from statewide dollars.

Madera explained that TE funds are received on a regional basis to make the process more regionally equitable. This region's sub-allocation is @ \$8.4 million. SEPTA has an obligation to spend 10% of its federal funds on similar projects, and will add this amount to the Pennsylvania TE funds for the sake of a more consistent process. A selection committee composed of the Pennsylvania counties, RTC and Pennsylvania Subcommittee, District Office of PennDOT, and DVRPC Staff provided an overall perspective. Individually, the counties ranked their priorities; and PennDOT scored their own. Madera blended this together and normalized the scores statistically. He also examined the RCC's recommendations regarding specific projects.

Madera outlined the breakdown of projects by county, as well as by category (bicycle/pedestrian, safety and education, landscaping, etc.). He stated that the prioritized

projects will be presented to the DVRPC Board on February 24, and once approved, will be forwarded to Harrisburg. PennDOT will probably not alter the list. However, the short list of projects for statewide funding will be put up against statewide competition for the dollars.

The RCC discussed specific projects. Illy Sobel questioned whether the Streetscape project would link the main street with transit in Media. Madera answered that Sobel's concerns should be addressed to Delaware County when the specific design phase is being discussed. The RCC questioned the Quakertown Train Station renovation, noting that commuter rail service does not connect here. Madera stated that this is intended to stabilize the building which had been ravaged by fire, and will be a bus depot when completed.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to recommend that the Board approve the list of projects submitted for the FY 2000 Transportation Enhancements Program and forward them to the PennDOT Statewide Transportation Enhancements Committee.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item E on voting record.)

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the Board approve TIP Amendment 9935, the addition of 23 Transportation Enhancement projects to the Pennsylvania TIP.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item F on voting record.)

PENNVEST FUNDING REQUESTS FOR BUCKS, CHESTER AND DELAWARE COUNTIES:

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, informed the committee that these requests are project proposals from PENNVEST for water and sewer infrastructure updates or expansions. Projects are forwarded to DVRPC for a review of consistency with the Year 2020 Plan, prior to review by the PENNVEST Board. At this time, six projects have been forwarded. They include:

Bucks County

- ▶ Plumstead Township: Request for \$280,380 for storm water management controls in the vicinity of Stony Lane and Dyerstown;
- ▶ Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority: Request for \$823,327 to upgrade the Art Carney Pump Station to reduce the risk of overflow and

flooding and wastewater discharge.

Chester County

- ▶ Philadelphia Suburban Water Company: Request for \$791,483 to replace the Fern Hill water storage tank in West Goshen Township;
- ▶ Philadelphia Suburban Water Company: Request for \$415,250 to construct a new 480,000 gallon standpipe tank to provide additional water storage in West Bradford Township;
- ▶ Philadelphia Suburban Water Company: Request for \$920,802 for rehabilitation and improvements to the Pickering Dam in Schuylkill Township.

Delaware County

- ▶ Upper Chichester Township: Request for \$559,000 for improvements and extension of the storm water collection system at various locations throughout the township.

Seymour stated that the project areas in the applications are identified in the Year 2020 Plan as either currently developed or as future growth areas appropriate for infrastructure extensions.

Peggy Killmer questioned why DVRPC looks at these issues but not at watershed management on a regional basis. Seymour answered that DVRPC gets involved in watershed issues when invited. Several have been completed in New Jersey and DVRPC will probably be doing the Lower Delaware River Watershed Plan. Pennsylvania is only now starting to fund watershed plans. Ms. Killmer also questioned the types of remediation being proposed in the Bucks County projects. Seymour noted that these details have not been provided.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Jane Glenn) to recommend that the Board authorize the Executive Director to issue a letter notifying PENNVEST of consistency with the Year 2020 Plan. However, the RCC sees a contradiction between DVRPC's review of PENNVEST funding requests, which generally involve or affect the watershed, and the Commission's lack of interest in involving itself in regional watershed planning, such as in the case of Venice Island.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item G on voting record.)

DISCUSSION ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ISSUE:

The RCC continued to discuss watershed management. Darlene Messina noted that it is fitting that the RCC request a review of watershed management because it has regional impact. The committee reviewed its motion that was sent to the Board in January; namely, that DVRPC direct staff to develop a Watershed Study Plan, utilizing other regional partners, and possibly drawing funding from a project such as "Growing Greener." Such a plan is needed to ensure that the Year 2025 Long-Range Plan excludes floodplain from infill development, such as the recent decisions regarding Venice Island development. The RCC also asked that the Board respond in writing to the Venice Island issue, specifically that watershed management is not a regional issue, and to the decision by the City of Philadelphia to place residential units in a floodway. The RCC feels that John Coscia's response that Venice Island is a City of Philadelphia land use and zoning issue, not a regional issue, is not an acceptable answer. The committee feels it is DVRPC's responsibility, whether the city approaches the Commission or not.

Barry Seymour stated that DVRPC has done watershed planning since the 1970's when it was originally designated as a 208 agency. The Commission also manages the TriCounty Water Quality Board in New Jersey, and has done many local plans when invited in by the county or municipality. However, there has not been an issue to review with Venice Island because it doesn't involve federal or state funds and the City of Philadelphia has not asked DVRPC for an opinion.

Bill Rafsky stated that the Environmental/Legislative Subcommittee has a recommendation relating to DVRPC's responsibility to deal with this issue along with its other duties.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Cathy Zukoski, seconded by Bill Rafsky) to recommend that DVRPC undertake comprehensive watershed planning and management as a regional issue, and identify floodplains in the Year 2025 Long-Range Plan as a means of restricting development in those areas. The RCC also asks that DVRPC review and adopt the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC's) regulations as criteria for land use in the flood fringe and as a guide in making transportation decisions.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item H on voting record.)

The committee then discussed the forthcoming statistical change in definition of metropolitan areas, noting that it will not change the parameters of planning.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY METRO PROPOSAL:

John Pawson presented a paper on the Schuylkill Valley Metro, on behalf of the Year 2025

Task Force. Because the task force was not happy with SEPTA and the progress of their consultant's major investment study (MIS), Pawson and task force members have written a more realistic version of alternative 2D. Their recommendation calls for taking care of essential service now by providing 30-minute peak and one-hour off-peak trains to Pottstown. A small amount of service would be provided initially to Berks County. The RCC discussed the fine points of the report, as well as sharing trackage, and the need to build up ridership gradually. Pawson stated that the recommendations would make Port Kennedy a hub of service, in addition to Norristown. The expansion of Route 100 to King of Prussia would be determined separately. Pawson also explained the six maps shown in his paper, noting that the last alternative is the "core proposal" and is a less expensive alternative to "D." Lorraine Brill had suggested removing the last two sentences of conclusion #8, and that revised text is being presented. (A copy of the proposal is attached with the core proposal conclusions outlined separately.) The Transportation Subcommittee recommends that the RCC adopt the core proposal, with the changes noted above, for presentation to the DVRPC Board. The RCC agreed with the immediate need for this project.

Pawson pointed out that SEPTA's consultant was to study additional issues, but those have not been presented, and numerous public meetings have been deferred. Pawson also explained that the SEPTA consultant's definition of Port Kennedy is ½ mile east of the real location. The issue of transit into the King of Prussia Mall was also discussed.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Ernest Cohen) to transmit the Schuylkill Valley Metro Proposal to the DVRPC Board for its consideration.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item I on voting record.)

NEW JERSEY JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE GRANT PROGRAM AND APPLICATION PROCESS:

Jeff Butler, DVRPC Regional Planner, updated the RCC on the NJ Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, noting that, as of January 17, 2000, DVRPC had received four letters of intent from the New Jersey counties. The intent of the program is to design welfare to work and reverse commute mobility strategies and projects. Butler reviewed the specific proposals, clarifying that shuttles are being offered in various areas at off-peak hours. On January 18th, DVRPC screened the letters for consistency and recommended that they be approved to submit full applications.

Since then, applications have been received and the Board Policy Committee reviewed them and asked the counties to reduce their funding requests from \$750,000 to \$670,000. On January 27th, the DVRPC Board approved the applicants. Staff has coordinated with

the applicants to move up the submission date to February 14th. The Board Committee will meet on February 22nd to prioritize the projects and these will then be submitted to the DVRPC Board on February 24th. Submittal to the Federal Transit Administration will follow.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental/Legislative Subcommittee: Cathy Zukoski, subcommittee chair, announced that a zoning hearing will be held on Venice Island at 1 p.m. on March 13th at 1515 Arch Street. She urged RCC members to attend. She also discussed the need to set up a meeting with Representative Stiles of Bucks County, the Governor's Office and home builders to talk about land use planning. In addition, she asked that DVRPC staff provide an update on the Year 2000 Census at the March RCC meeting.

Year 2025 Task Force: Ernest Cohen stated that the task force is reviewing the issue of pedestrian access.

Rules Subcommittee: Pat Horrocks, newly elected subcommittee chair, stated that the subcommittee had discussed whether the RTC representative and the Transportation Subcommittee chair should be one and the same person. The subcommittee continues to recommend that the Transportation Subcommittee elect its own chair.

Housing: Bill Rafsky reported that the Housing Committee had not met since his last report.

Central Jersey Transportation Forum: Peggy Killmer reported that the Central Jersey Transportation Forum was a commitment of the Millstone Bypass MIS. The Forum has met five times to discuss transportation issues such as east-west access, systemwide planning, transit and alternative modes, and land use issues. Approximately 50 individuals represent the municipalities, counties, private sector interests, and agencies. The last meeting included the results of traffic modeling by URS Greiner.

Transportation Subcommittee: Dennis Winters stated that hybrid buses had been declared cleaner than natural gas in a recent article. The article cited New York City's purchase of these buses, and stated that only Tempe, AZ and Boston were using them. Winters questioned SEPTA's program to purchase hybrid buses, and asked that John Nielson of SEPTA be invited to the next RCC meeting to update the committee on this program.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Illy Sobel reported that everyone involved thus far in the Route 202 corridor issue is

interested in high quality express bus service. Delaware is interested as well, but has not spoken with SEPTA. Sobel stated that he will go to the SEPTA Board and ask them to reach out to Delaware to initiate this discussion.

Harry Hyde announced that EPA will hold Green Communities Meetings on March 28th and 29th in Philadelphia. Anyone interested in attending should contact EPA's Susan McDowell at 215-814-2739.

Sue McNamara announced the Livable Communities Forum on February 17th at the Franklin Plaza.

Peggy Killmer distributed a copy of the Raritan Basin Commission report.