

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
MAY 16, 2000**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of April 18, 2000 were approved as mailed.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Sue McNamara, RCC Chair, announced that a Pro Bike/Pro Walk Conference will be held September 5 - 8 at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel. Bike-to-Work Day will be June 2 and will leave from City Hall at 8 a.m. Ms. McNamara also announced that the CMAQ selection process has been completed. Five citizens sat on the committee, including Ed Duffy representing the Goods Movement Committee.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MODIFICATION 9941:

Dennis Winters, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, explained that TIP Amendment 9941, which encompasses the Transportation Enhancement (TE) high priority projects that were approved by the Board and DVRPC committees in February. The Pennsylvania Transportation Commission is expected to take action in mid May on all TE projects throughout the Commonwealth. The current action will place these projects on the TIP. A new listing of TE projects was distributed; this list includes both highway-funded and SEPTA and transit-funded projects. Winters explained that one late addition to the list is the Kensington and Tacony Rail with Trail project. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve amending the FY 2000 TIP to add 23 priority TE projects.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Illy Sobel) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Amendment 9941, the addition of 23 selected Transportation Enhancement projects to the FY 2000 TIP.

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

TIP AMENDMENT 9942:

Winters summarized TIP Amendment 9942, which is a request from DRPA. The Penn's Landing Corporation has been awarded discretionary funding for ferry operation on the Delaware River. A second ferry will be added within the next two years as another step in the economic development of the waterfront area.

This project needs to be added to the TIP and will not jeopardize any other TIP funding.

The subcommittee discussed the fact that this additional service will be in direct competition with the tram being built by DRPA, and questioned the financial status of the ferry. Individual groups and citizens were urged to seek out their legislators, asking them to specify earmarks more carefully. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Amendment 9942, the addition of the RiverLink Ferry System to the FY 2000 TIP but asks that DRPA supply ridership, finance, trend and schedule information for the ferry service. The subcommittee notes that this service will compete directly with the tram being built by DRPA.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Claudia Crane) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Amendment 9942, the addition of the RiverLink Ferry System project to the FY 2000 TIP but asks that DRPA supply in writing ridership, finance, trend, cost-benefit, intermodal connections and schedule information for the ferry service. The RCC notes that this service will compete directly with the tram being built by DRPA.

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

TIP AMENDMENT 9943:

Winters explained that TIP Amendment 9943 encompasses the Congestion Mobility and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects that have been prioritized following the recent competition. He pointed out that DVRPC had put out a call for applications for projects that would relieve congestion and reduce emissions. About 66 applications were received. A subcommittee, which included five citizen representatives, reviewed the applications and ranked them. A PennDOT model was used to assess air quality impacts for each project. Fifteen of the 66 applications were removed and put onto the draft FY 2001 TIP. A listing of the ranked projects was issued to the subcommittee, with the TIP projects listed on the reverse side. 28 projects are being recommended for CMAQ funding and are those listed above the line on the front of the sheet. These projects represent a variety of bicycle, transit public education projects and are spread throughout the region. Remaining dollars in the CMAQ pot, totaling slightly more than \$ 1 million, will go to the Bicycle line item.

The RCC discussed the Manayunk/City Avenue Circulator project which had asked for funding of three years of service. The CMAQ Committee had recommended funding for one year and asked that buses be leased rather than purchased to keep project costs down. Winters pointed out that the Circulator will provide commuters with a link to the business district. Jane Glenn felt that a city bus line could be extended to provide this service; however, SEPTA was not willing to do so at this time. Winters asked that the last line of the subcommittee's motion below be taken out of the RCC's action. he RCC also discussed the Cobb's Creek Bikeway, which had been

submitted by Chester County, and was approved for a second phase adding \$800,000 to the list.

The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Amendment 9943, DVRPC's request to (1) approve the 28 projects recommended as part of the Competitive CMAQ Program; (2) amend the FY 2000 TIP to include the 28 recommended projects under the Competitive CMAQ Program line item; and (3) add the remaining funds from the Competitive CMAQ Program line item to the existing Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item. The subcommittee also questions the City Special Services District's rationale in submitting the Manayunk/City Avenue Circulator project.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded Claudia Crane) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Amendment 9943, DVRPC's request to (1) approve the 28 projects recommended as part of the Competitive CMAQ Program; (2) amend the FY 2000 TIP to include the 28 recommended projects under the Competitive CMAQ Program line item; and (3) add the remaining funds from the Competitive CMAQ Program line item to the existing Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item.

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

FY 2001 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR TELECOMMUTING - THE GREEN COMMUTE:

Ron Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager of the Office of Air Quality Planning, stated that the Green Commute is a Clean Air Council project to improve the efficiency of the region's transportation network and the quality of the region's air by promoting telecommuting as an alternative to the traditional office commute. This is the second year of a three year project. CMAQ funding will provide \$120,000; a \$30,000 match will be supplied by the Clean Air Council. The program responds to the demand for voluntary emission reduction programs. The Clean Air Council will promote telecommuting by expanding the business partner/mentoring program, promoting the program in the media, sponsoring an annual event to promote telecommuting, updating educational materials for small businesses, publishing a newsletters and introducing telecommuting to the region's non-profit organizations. In the past year, the Council produced a Telecommuting Resource Guide for Small Business, as well as setting up a Resource Center that includes books, videos and guides.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Peggy Killmer, seconded by Bob Machler) to recommend that the DVRPC Board add Year 2 of the Clean Air Council's Green Commute Program to the FY 2001 Planning Work Program, to be funded with CMAQ dollars.

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

FY 2001 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR SHARE THE ROAD CAMPAIGN - PHASE I:

John Madera, DVRPC Transportation Planner, explained that the Share the Road Campaign (Phase I) will improve the safety, comfort and convenience of the bicycle mode of travel. The project will implement the education objectives of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan, adopted as part of the Year 2020 Long-Range Plan. A regional, coordinated public education campaign will be designed to reduce crash rates, increase the number of people who bicycle correctly, increase motorist expectation of bicyclists' presence and increase understanding among motorists, bicyclists and municipal officials of the purpose of bike lanes. DVRPC will manage and administer implementation of a regional media campaign targeting all road users. A special committee will be established to develop a regional strategy to evaluate and market existing programs. The RCC discussed licensing, the distribution of publications and education for children.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Darlene Messina) to recommend that the DVRPC Board modify the FY 2001 Planning Work Program to include the DVRPC Share the Road Project, funded with Transportation Enhancements dollars.

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

YEAR 2020 CORRIDOR STUDY: PENNSYLVANIA CORRIDOR - PHOENIXVILLE AREA:

Jerry Coyne, DVRPC Manager of the Office of Transportation Studies, pointed out that the action requested of the committee today is to realign the FY 2001 Planning Work Program.

Currently the Work Program includes two studies: one is budgeted at \$180,000 for the Phoenixville area; the second is the Pennsylvania Corridor Study, at a cost of \$120,000

which would examine multi-modal connections and land use issues over a broad area. This latter study would initiate a consolidated capital improvement plan across all modes and establish a working group of representatives from various municipalities to study and implement a plan. There is not enough funding to complete both studies so staff wants to merge the Phoenixville Study into the Pennsylvania Corridor Study. The scope of the project is not yet complete but Chester County Planning Commission will be included, and the study will include the impact of the Schuylkill Valley Metro, as well as highway, transit and traffic improvement impacts. Coyne explained that a Central Montgomery Transportation Study is also due to begin soon. Phoenixville is undergoing quite a bit of revitalization and both this borough and Upper Providence Township are listed as growth centers in the Year 2020 Long-Range Plan. The RCC discussed the renovation of downtown areas such as Jenkintown and Cheltenham; secondary traffic; and TMA and citizen involvement in the study.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Claudia Crane, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board include the Phoenixville Area in the FY 2001 Pennsylvania Corridor Study.

AMENDMENT (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Claudia Crane) to ask that the RCC be permitted to appoint a representative to sit on the Study Committee to promote citizen involvement.

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

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM VILLAGE DESIGN STUDY:

Patty Elkis, DVRPC Senior Regional Planner, and Karin Morris, Transportation Planner, began by explaining that Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is compact, mixed use, pedestrian friendly development surrounding a transit station. They often become or reinforce town centers, where people can meet and interact. Benefits of instituting TOD's along the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System would spur economic development and improve mobility and livability. The Rail Line will connect Trenton and Camden along 20 proposed stops. The Transit Village Design Study looks at four walk-up stations at Roebling, Burlington City, Delanco and Riverside. DVRPC selected these towns with the help of the county planner and NJ Transit; formed task forces in each community; performed field work on land uses and transit-oriented businesses; conducted a real estate market assessment; prepared a master plan; and recommended access improvements and funding options.

Ms. Elkis and Ms. Morris critiqued each community and reviewed lessons learned. The RCC discussed public involvement, bonus densities, the need for affordable housing, and

the connection of a good education system with housing.

REGIONAL JOB ACCESS REPORT:

Darlene Messina updated the committee on the Regional Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, and her task as a member of the committee to prioritize applicants. She pointed out that the major issue facing the committee was to determine who should receive a second year of funding when applicants had just begun the first year of project operations due to the FTA's slow transmittal of funds. Ms. Messina stated that she recommends that MTA-reverse commute grantees should be required to administer a standardized reverse-commute user survey.

Rich Bickel explained that quarterly reports from SEPTA and NJ Transit will be provided to DVRPC and will be made available to the DVRPC Board and committees. For FY 2001, Letter of Intent Guidelines state that applicants applying for continuing funding will be asked to submit evidence of rider or customer or employer surveys of satisfaction with service. Ms. Messina added that applicants should issue user surveys at the six-month interval after the start of all projects; only those who have used the service for at least three months should be included in the sampling. Ms. Messina will draft a user survey to be included with the RCC's minutes.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental/Legislative Subcommittee: Cathy Zukoski reported that she had attended the Green Communities Workshop and will place the workbook in the DVRPC Library for review.

Rules: No report.

Year 2025 Task Force: Ernest Cohen issued a subcommittee report and a paper on Fare Collection Systems for Public Transportation (see attached). The RCC discussed the need for a uniform pay system throughout the region. Ajay Creshkoff urged the Task Force to come back to the RCC with a distinct recommendation.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY METRO RESOLUTION:

John Pawson stated that he had walked and driven around Phoenixville and had learned that the borough wants an alternative rail route into the community (SEPTA has proposed two other routes for the Schuylkill Valley Metro). This alignment would take the Metro off the Reading line, entering the borough between Gay and Main streets, exiting north between Perkiomen Junction and Cromby.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Dennis Winters) stating that the RCC understands that there are three potential ultimate routes between Perkiomen Junction and Cromby (south of Royersford) for the Schuylkill Valley Metro project. In order to determine which route would be best for the region and its transportation system, the RCC recommends that an impartial study be done, identifying alternate construction costs, operating costs, travel time, passenger level, passenger revenue, cost recovery and other important factors. Such a study should not preclude the immediate start-up of service.

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

The RCC received an updated schedule of TIP Public Meetings as well as an Executive Summary of the FY 2001 TIP for Southwestern New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania.

NEXT RCC MEETING:

The RCC will meet on Tuesday, June 13, 2000.