

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2000**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the RCC meeting of August 22, 2000 were approved with a clarification by Bob Machler to include the following: "Bob Machler, while expressing sympathy with the concerns of the ADA community expressed by the guest speakers, stated that high level platforms were not the only solution to the ADA problem. He also questioned why high level platforms were not included when SEPTA rebuilt the regional rail platforms at 49<sup>th</sup> Street and Torresdale."

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

RCC Chair, Sue McNamara, reported that the 11<sup>th</sup> annual International ProBike/ProWalk conference was well attended by a variety of groups and was an overall success. Ms. McNamara thanked DVRPC for its sponsorship of the conference and its PR work for the event. Ms. McNamara announced she will represent the RCC at a board workshop on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will focus on identifying high priority issues for consideration in DVRPC planning, work programs, and policies. Members of the RCC were reminded to begin thinking about and working on proposals for the DVRPC Work Program.

The RCC reviewed and approved the proposed committee meeting dates for 2001.

Peggy Killmer reminded RCC members to carefully look for public meeting notices in papers, pointing out an overlooked NJ DOT notice that ran in a cluster of ads unrelated to public meetings. The North Jersey MPO held a separate meeting at the same time.

**FY 2001 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR YEAR 2020 CORRIDOR STUDY IN NEW JERSEY:**

Michael Boyer, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, stated that DVRPC recommends the US 30 (Berlin to Camden) Corridor to receive NJ DOT corridor planning funding. The US 30 Corridor is a multi-modal corridor with excellent existing PATCO service as well as NJ Transit to Atlantic City; they are viable alternatives to highway travel. NJ DOT will provide data to update the Pavement, Bridge and Safety Management Systems. The Bicycle Compatibility Index component of the CMS model will also be updated with data specific to the corridor. A sidewalk inventory will be conducted within a one-half mile radius of selected PATCO stations.

DVRPC will identify problem locations within the corridor, as well as conduct a CMS evaluation. Both DVRPC and NJ DOT CMS models will be utilized in this endeavor. DVRPC will do an environmental justice evaluation and identify sensitivities. The Commission will also implement a public involvement process for all population groups with the assistance of a task force of local officials.

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

***MOTION*** (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Dennis Winters) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the FY 2001 Work Program to assign \$55,000 from New Jersey Corridor Planning to the US 30 Corridor Study. The RCC recommends that the project be expanded to include the remainder of the corridor to Atlantic City and include early participation of the general public.

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

**FY 2001 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR NEW JERSEY WATERSHED PLANNING:**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, stated that DVRPC recommends entering into a contract to prepare a watershed plan for Watershed Management Area 20, the Crosswicks Creek Watershed. The watershed extends along the Delaware from just south of Trenton in Mercer County to Burlington City in Burlington County and inland to incorporate parts of Monmouth and Ocean counties. The planning is designed to identify local concerns; establish a long term vision for the watershed; analyze threats to water quality; identify both short and long term actions, including space acquisition priorities to protect water quality; and if needed, work with NJ DEP to prepare total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). DVRPC will collaborate on the project with the Regional Planning Partnership, the group responsible for planning in Monmouth County. The project is expected to take four years. The initial contract for the first two years is budgeted at \$400,000.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the FY 2001 Work Program and authorize staff to submit an application to EPA to undertake a watershed planning study for Area 20, the Crosswicks Creek Watershed.

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

**FY 2001 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR BURLINGTON COUNTY ROUTE 130 ZONING BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS:**

Barry Seymour stated that Burlington County has requested that DVRPC undertake a zoning build-out analysis of 12 municipalities along the corridor to calculate the potential for future development under current zoning. This serves as a valuable analytical tool for municipalities. Seymour explained the county is looking to revise local zoning ordinances to support appropriate future development. DVRPC would produce GIS maps and presentation materials. Burlington County would provide \$15,000 for the project.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Peggy Killmer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the FY 2001 Work Program to include the Burlington County Route 130 Zoning Build-out Analysis.

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

**FY 2001 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR CITY AVENUE - MANAYUNK CIRCULATOR, REGIONAL BICYCLE MOBILITY MAP, MANAYUNK TRAVEL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, AND CLEAN FUELED FLEETS REBATE PROGRAM:**

Dr. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Director for Transportation Planning, explained the four PennDOT-funded projects DVRPC has been asked to administer. The City Avenue Special Service District will operate a shuttle bus system along City Avenue between 76<sup>th</sup> street and Manayunk. The Bicycle Coalition will oversee the creation of a Regional Bicycle Mobility Map, a companion to the Philadelphia map, for use by bicyclists in the region. The Clean Air Council will promote a Manayunk Travel Awareness Campaign to reduce auto traffic in Manayunk by encouraging the use of alternative modes of travel. Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities will promote the Clean Fueled Fleets Rebate program. Dr. Shanis explained that the projects must be on the Planning Work Program in order for DVRPC to enter into a contract with PennDOT.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Illy Sobel) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the FY 2001 Work Program to include the City Ave. - Manayunk Circulator, Regional Bicycle Mobility Map, Manayunk Travel Awareness Campaign and Clean Fueled Fleets Rebate Program.

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

**PENNVEST FUNDING APPLICATION IN CHESTER COUNTY:**

Barry Seymour explained that DVRPC has been asked to review a PennVest application from Philadelphia Suburban Water Company to replace the deteriorated North Wayne Water Tank No. 1 with a new tank of the same size. The project addresses drinking water quality concerns in now developed and future growth areas and is consistent with Direction 2020. Seymour stated that the project, in Tredyffrin Township, is similar to and located at the same site as the project approved by the DVRPC Board in June, 2000.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Cathy Zukoski) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the PennVest application for Philadelphia Suburban Water Company to replace North Wayne Water Tank No. 1.

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

**PROPOSED UPPER DUBLIN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (TDD):**

Dr. Shanis explained the components of a Transportation Development District (TDD) proposed for the Fort Washington Industrial Park Area in Upper Dublin Township. He noted that Upper Dublin has formed the district and retained consulting traffic engineers. Upper Dublin has outlined plans for widening Pinetown Road; installing intelligent traffic signals at busy intersections; implementing a comprehensive directional sign program in Ft. Washington Office Park; upgrading pavement, curves and lighting on Commerce, Delaware and Virginia Drives; installing 14 transit shelters; installing ADA sidewalk ramps; and providing pedestrian signals and installing utility pole hardware interconnect along Pennsylvania Avenue. No federal funds are required for this project.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board endorse Upper Dublin Township's creation of a Transportation Development District in the Fort Washington Industrial Park.

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

**AMENDMENT TO DVRPC 2020 PLAN FOR SCHUKYLL VALLEY METRORAIL:**

Dr. Shanis stated that DVRPC received notification in July from SEPTA that its Board of

Directors had voted to adopt *MetroRail* (Alternative 6) as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Schuylkill Valley Metro (SVM). SEPTA requested that DVRPC amend its Year 2020 Land Use and Transportation Plan to include this project. To amend the long-range plan, DVRPC opened a 30-day comment period and held a public meeting on September 6, 2000 in King of Prussia, PA. A summary of the public comments was distributed to the RCC. Candace Snyder stated that approximately 80 citizens had attended the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and that comments were largely in favor of transit in this corridor. Many residents cited the need for rail service sooner than the seven years projected for completion of *MetroRail*.

DVRPC staff has found positive consistency for *MetroRail* with the Year 2020 Plan. Dr. Shanis explained that a preferred alternative is needed to run the air quality conformity analysis. Dennis Winters stated his concern that regional planners are accepting this alternative without seeing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Dr. Shanis stated that the DEIS cannot move forward until the project is on the region's Long-Range Plan. He also pointed out that the Draft Year 2025 Transportation Plan will be available for review within the next three months.

Ms. Snyder referred the RCC to the Transportation Subcommittee's highlights for details of the full discussion. The Transportation Subcommittee recommends that the RCC enthusiastically endorse the concept of providing rail passenger service over the full distance between Center-City Philadelphia and Center-City Reading and vicinity.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board enthusiastically endorse the concept of providing rail passenger service over the full distance between Center-City Philadelphia and Center-City Reading and vicinity.

***AMENDMENT*** (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Dennis Winters) to state that the RCC believes that it is desirable to provide rail service to this corridor much earlier than the projected seven-year completion date; namely, within one year.

***AMENDMENT*** (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by John Pawson) to state that the RCC feels rail service from Philadelphia to Quakertown and Allentown/Bethlehem (the former Reading Railroad route) should be added to the long-range plan, in light of the addition of rail service in the Philadelphia-Reading corridor.

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

## **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT 9950:**

Dennis Winters, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that TIP Amendment 9950 is a request from PennDOT to adjust a series of projects because of readiness and scope changes within the fiscal constraints of the TIP. These projects include: I-95; JFK Blvd.; Lower Merion Traffic Signal System; 202, Section 721 and PA 611 Bypass; PA 1 - Passyunk Ave.; and various reimbursement costs to counties due to Hurricane Floyd flood damage. Dennis Winters stated that he had voted against the Section 721 of 202 project at the RTC meeting. The RCC has gone on record against the expansion of Route 202 in Sections 700 and 300.

Larry Shaeffer distributed a paper entitled "Selected Notes on the Proposed US 202 Expressway" which was prepared by Buckingham Township. He questioned DVRPC's credibility stating that the Commission has repeatedly stonewalled the public and has manipulated traffic counts in a number of communities. He stated that he wants to bring Buckingham Township officials to the next RCC meeting to provide a power point presentation on their side of the US 202 issue.

Candace Snyder stated that this is out of line considering that a lawsuit is still pending. It is not appropriate to present these materials when DVRPC is not free to comment on its side of the issue. Buckingham Township's attorney and representative attended the July Board meeting and asked for a meeting with Board members; the Board declined this meeting and refused to discuss the issue. The RCC does not have the prerogative to get into this issue at this time. Sue McNamara questioned if this issue was worth this amount of scrutiny considering that it could weaken the RCC's credibility and is not a project that the committee can impact. Dennis Winters offered to host a meeting with Buckingham Township outside of DVRPC's offices and asked that the RCC mailing list be forwarded to him. Shaeffer stated that the DVRPC Board is uninformed of the real issues and wanted the paper attached to the RCC's minutes and sent to the Board.

**(NOTE:** John Coscia, DVRPC Executive Director, reviewed these minutes and this request and felt it inappropriate to include the paper with the Board mailing. He clarified that the RCC does not have the prerogative to review issues that regard personnel matters, contracts or cases in litigation. If the RCC's mission is not clear, as determined by the Board, he will explain it more succinctly to the RCC in a memo or at the next RCC meeting.)

The Transportation Subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Amendment 9950, PennDOT's request to (1) program an additional \$2 million for the preliminary engineering phase of I-95, Frankford Creek to Orthodox St.; (2) program an additional

\$20 million for the construction phase of I-95, Allegheny Ave. to Levick St.; (3) program

additional costs for the Lower Merion Township Signal System; (4) program reimbursement costs for Passyunk Ave.; and (5) program reimbursement costs for various counties for flood damage. However, the RCC has gone on record in the past opposing the expansion of Section 700 of Route 202, and reiterates this opposition. Therefore, funding should not be programmed for right-of-way acquisition at this time.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Cathy Zukoski) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Amendment 9950, PennDOT's request to (1) program an additional \$2 million for the preliminary engineering phase of I-95, Frankford Creek to Orthodox St.; (2) program an additional \$20 million for the construction phase of I-95, Allegheny Ave. to Levick St.; (3) program additional costs for the Lower Merion Township Signal System; (4) program reimbursement costs for Passyunk Ave.; and (5) program reimbursement costs for various counties for flood damage. However, the RCC has gone on record in the past opposing the expansion of Section 700 of Route 202, and reiterates this opposition. Therefore, funding should not be programmed for right-of-way acquisition at this time.

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

**REGIONAL AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

Ron Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager, Office of Air Quality Planning, explained that federal law stated that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations or delay timely attainment of national air quality standards. He reviewed the conformity demonstration checklist and State Implementation Plan (SIP) budget. A Transportation Conformity Workshop, to be hosted by FHWA and DVRPC staff, has been scheduled for the RCC from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on the day of the next RCC meeting, October 17, in the conference room. The RCC meeting would then begin at 12:45 p.m. A separate mailer will detail this meeting; those interested should RSVP. Members of the RTC have also been invited.

**FIRST GENERATION SUBURBS CASE STUDY: PUTTING PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE:**

Mary Bell, DVRPC Senior Regional Planner, has completed a study that focuses on analyzing historic, demographic, and economic information to form a basis for potential revitalization strategies for municipalities encompassed by the William Penn School District.

The presentation outlined recommendations to meet the challenges of loss of population

and jobs; increasing school enrollment; a relatively low percentage of residents with college degrees; and a low median household income. The municipalities also must be mindful of aging housing stock and infrastructure; the predominance of residential land uses; a high percentage of renter-occupied units; and a lack of vacant, developable land. The report recommends inter-municipal collaboration on strategies to increase the effectiveness of service deliveries, reduce costs, and increase their political clout.

Ms. Bell reported that municipal officials should review local comprehensive plans and revise them, collaborating as necessary, to support existing businesses, attract employers, and support in-fill residential development where appropriate. The school district is advised to review their curriculum and policies for opportunities to increase student achievement, improve college and job preparatory programs, and expand continuing education opportunities for adults. Ms. Bell stressed the importance of increasing resident participation in Borough Council meetings and decision-making processes. The RCC requested a presentation on location efficient mortgages (LEM).

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***Environmental/Legislative Subcommittee:*** Cathy Zukoski, Subcommittee Chair, questioned whether staff has reviewed the RCC's recommendations regarding NEPA rulemaking and when staff will be submitting DVRPC's comments. Ms. Snyder replied that she will check into this.

***Rules:*** No report.

***Year 2025 Task Force:*** Ernest Cohen stated that his group is working on a report on the SVM.

***Transportation:*** Dennis Winters questioned when the appropriate time is to review the Draft 2025 Transportation Plan. The committee agreed that it wants early input to this document. Winters announced that the SEPTA CAC has available seats in all counties. Interested individuals should contact him.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The RCC noted the letters received from SEPTA and Norfolk Southern relative to the SVM. The Transportation Subcommittee will discuss this in more detail. Copies of this correspondence and Tom Cooper's amendment will be included with the next RCC mailing. John Pawson clarified a number of issues from the August meeting with SEPTA, particularly noting rolling stock and platforms.