

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2001**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the RCC meeting of January 16, 2001 were approved as mailed. Lorraine Brill made one correction to her Work Program vote as listed on the voting record.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

Patrick Starr, RCC Chair, explained that one of his goals is to shorten RCC meetings. Mr. Starr stated that shortening the meetings is critical to achieving the RCC goal of expanding and diversifying its membership. He noted that he does not intend to cut out necessary discussions but to focus the committee on being more effective and defining priority issues. He will enlist the RCC's officers in this effort.

Mr. Starr nominated the following individuals for vice-chair positions:

Peggy Killmer- New Jersey Vice-Chair

Lorraine Brill- Pennsylvania Vice Chair

He also nominated Dennis Winters as the representative to the RTC and Warren Strumpfer as the alternate RTC representative and to serve on the RTC New Jersey Subcommittee. There being no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. The RCC voted to accept the slate listed above.

▶ **Environmental Justice Update:**

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director of Public Affairs, updated the RCC on the Commission's recent efforts on behalf of environmental justice. Ms. Snyder reported that DVRPC has invited representatives from 30 community organizations to serve on an environmental justice task force that will meet on February 28th. Patrick Starr and Shirley Loveless from the RCC will sit on this task force, which was designed to include representatives from minority, low-income, affordable housing, elderly, and disability groups. The RCC asked for additional details next month.

▶ **Recommended Actions from the Rules Subcommittee:**

Pat Horrocks, Rules Subcommittee Chair, reviewed current and proposed RCC procedures and asked the committee for input. Committee members suggested that Rule # 3 regarding the Nominating Committee meeting be changed.

There was a concern that the requirement of a meeting in a specific venue at a specific time was not made clear. Provided that a quorum is present at the scheduled meeting, several members asked that the revised rule not preclude a committee member from participating in the meeting via phone. The consensus agreed to take action on adopting the rules and procedures in March. (Item A regarding the Rules Subcommittee on the voting record is therefore listed as deferred.)

### **TIP ACTIONS:**

Charles Dougherty, Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reviewed the RCC's role in TIP actions and stated that either he or Judy Barnet will be attending future meetings to address TIP questions. Mr. Dougherty explained that members interested in transportation should attend the subcommittee meeting to explore issues in depth. He also explained that, in most cases, there is little room for debate about the technical side of projects already included in the TIP. The TIP actions that come before the RCC are mostly changes in schedule and cost.

Dennis Winters, Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee, reviewed the following actions:

**TIP ACTION PA0113:** PennDOT has requested seven changes, as listed below.

- ▶ US 202 Wetland Mitigation- Adding a right-of-way phase to FY01.
- ▶ South Street Bridges over 1-76 (WB), Schuylkill River & CSX- Adding the final design phase back into the TIP.
- ▶ Old York Bridge- Adding the construction phase back into the TIP.
- ▶ US 1, Business Signal Improvements- Adding the Preliminary Engineering phase back into the TIP.
- ▶ PA 309, Ft. Washington Expressway- Putting the final design phase back into the TIP.
- ▶ PA 309, Ft. Washington Expressway- Puts the final design phase back into the TIP.
- ▶ PA 309, Ft. Washington Expressway- Adding the final design phase back into the TIP.

### ***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA0113 (PennDOT Adjustment Package).

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

**TIP ACTION PA0115:** PennDOT has requested three modifications to the TIP. The adjustments meet fiscal constraints and are described below:

- ▶ Montgomery & Chester Counties, SR 202, Section 400 (404), US202: I76-252 Widening- An \$11, 527, 257 utility phase increase.
- ▶ Montgomery & Chester Counties, SR 202, Section 404: US202: I76-252 Widening- A \$9,710,000 construction low bid cost increase.
- ▶ Montgomery & Chester Counties, SR 202, Section 405: US202 from I-76 to Conrail Bridge- A \$26,020,000 cost increase.

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Finley Shapiro) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA0115 (US 202, Section 400, Montgomery and Chester Counties). The RCC notes that these modifications in turn delay and diminish projects that the RCC does not support, namely Section 700 of SR 202 and Blair Mill Road.

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

**NOTE:** For more detail, please see the attachment *US 202, Section 400 Explanation of Cost Increases*.

**TIP ACTION NJ0105:** DRPA has requested the addition of the Embankment Restoration/Erosion Control project to the TIP. The project is aimed at preventing erosion and preserving drainage control. DRPA has requested THAT \$1,000,000 in funds from the Rehabilitation of Linden Interlocking be reallocated to the Embankment project.

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Miles Day) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ0105 (Embankment Restoration/Erosion Control, DRPA).

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

**FY 2001 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT - TELEWORK PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMISSIONS TRADING:**

Dennis Winters explained that this is a DVRPC project to be carried out with the National Environmental Policy Institute (NEPI) as a means of testing the effectiveness of emissions trading incentives by encouraging employers to reduce worksite-related emissions through a telework program for employees. This is a Pennsylvania project.

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Finley Shapiro) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the FY 2001 Planning Work Program to include the Telework Pilot Program, noting the following reservations:

1. The committee is dubious of the validity of air emission trading for mobile sources;
2. The RCC believes that there is a need for more concise measurement of emission results through such techniques as odometer checks and GPS usage; and
3. The committee asks that a representative of the RCC be appointed to the pilot program advisory group.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PENNVEST)  
REQUESTS IN BUCKS, CHESTER, DELAWARE AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES:**

Patty Elkis, DVRPC Senior Regional Planner, reviewed PennVest requests. DVRPC staff and committees are asked to review these projects for consistency with long term regional plans. The applications include:

Bucks County

Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority -\$200,000 to provide an air cleaning device at the Kenwood Wastewater Pumping Station in Bristol to address a PA DEP Air Pollution Abatement Order.

Chester County

Borough of Avondale -\$135,000 to design an expanded wastewater treatment plant at Avondale to correct discharge violations and provide additional capacity.

Borough of Avondale -\$89,500 for replacement of the cover at the drinking water reservoir.

The Coventry Tea Room -\$51,201 to replace a malfunctioning septic system with a drip sewage disposal system at a restaurant in South Coventry Township.

Philadelphia Suburban Water Company -\$19,165,613 to upgrade the Ingrams Mill water treatment facility in East Bradford. This facility serves West Chester, East Goshen Township, and portions of East Bradford and Westtown.

Delaware County

Philadelphia Suburban Water Company -\$1,064,325 to renovate the Tinicum Booster Pump Station for drinking water service in support of the Liberty Transmission Main.

Philadelphia Suburban Water Company -\$2,605,000 to construct a water transmission main for drinking water in southern Delaware County in support of the existing and projected growth.

Montgomery County

Schwenksville Borough Authority -\$609,117 for improvements to the drinking water distribution system to increase water supply and system pressure in Lower Frederick.

The Upper Hanover Authority -\$1,996,503 to acquire and improve a wastewater treatment plant. The plant would serve several businesses and 60 homes with failing septic systems.

The RCC discussed the validity of a private non-utility business requesting funds, such as in the case of the Coventry Tea Room in Chester County. Patty Elkins will check as to whether this as occurred in the past.

**The following is PENNVEST's response to the Coventry Tea Room question:**

*Any owner/operator of wastewater system, or any owner/operator of a public water supply system is eligible for PENNVEST funds. All applicants (public/private) must meet the same project review criteria and be able to demonstrate an impact on Public Health, Safety, Environment and Economic Development. Part of the evaluation includes a review of alternatives. If a wastewater (or drinking water) system can consolidate or join another existing regional type system, we would like to support that type of effort.*

*PENNVEST has always requested input from the regional planning agencies. Within the last year we have also solicited input from the local/county planning agencies and agricultural preservation boards as well. We want to make sure that PENNVEST money is going to support projects that are in compliance with local/county land use initiatives. Please feel free to contact Vickie Johnson, the Project Specialist for your area, should you have further questions.*

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Kevin Smith) to recommend that the DVRPC Board authorize the Executive Director to send a letter notifying PENNVEST that the requests from Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties comply with the Year 2020 Long-Range Plan. In addition, the RCC requests more information on the Chester County Ingrams Mill project.

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

**JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM INITIATION OF PA FY 2001 AND NJ FY 2002 PROJECT REVIEW:**

Richard Bickel, DVRPC Associate Director of Regional Planning, explained that the FTA's

FY 2001 program guidance provided for previously approved Congressional earmarks and project applications. This decision means that there is no new FY 2001 funding for New Jersey. NJ TRANSIT's Job Access Coordinator has decided to continue with soliciting projects and proposals, but will evaluate them now for FY 2002 funding.

Mr. Bickel reported that as of the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, DVRPC had received letters of intent from applicants in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey for FY 2002 funding. Staff will evaluate each applicant's qualifications to undertake the proposed projects and examine them for consistency with *Access to Opportunities*, the adopted Job Access and Reverse Commute Transportation Plan.

Mr. Bickel stated that DVRPC's Board will take two actions; namely, to support the proposed projects as consistent with the Plan, and to authorize moving the proposals forward for funding. He asked that the RCC trust that staff has sufficient information in place next week to move these projects forward. Mr. Bickel stated that he would forward copies of the criteria to be included in the next RCC mailing. He also asked the RCC to appoint a representative from NJ and one from PA to sit on the Job Access Committee to rank projects in March. Patrick Starr appointed Darlene Messina (PA) and Peggy Killmer (NJ).

#### **RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY LAND USE PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Richard Bickel explained that Report #3, the Year 2025 Preliminary Land Use Plan, includes a long-range vision, goals, policies and recommended land uses. Both Report #3 and Report #4 (The Year 2025 Preliminary Transportation Plan) will be released in March as a means of moving the adoption process forward to meet an April deadline imposed by the Clean Air Act Amendments. This mandate stated that DVRPC must adopt a new transportation plan every three years. Upon the release of the documents, DVRPC will follow-up with public meetings during a 30-day public comment period. Additional charrettes will be scheduled for late summer as a means of gathering more public input before final adoption by the DVRPC Board in the fall. Mr. Starr asked for a more detailed presentation on the public outreach process, as well as the format of meetings, at the March meeting.

Mr. Bickel announced that DVRPC's Land Use and Development Committee will meet on March 1<sup>st</sup> to further discuss the plan and outreach. The RCC has a seat on this committee that is currently vacant; anyone interested in serving the Land Use Committee should contact Patrick Starr. Mr. Bickel also pointed out that the RCC could be instrumental in examining the philosophy of the proposed long-range plan, particularly through its Year 2025 Task Force.

#### **ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Pat Horrocks) to recommend that the DVRPC Board authorize staff to conduct public meetings and hold a 30-day public comment period on the Year 2025 Preliminary Land Use and Transportation Plans.

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

**RECOMMENDATION RE: YEAR 2025 TRANSPORTATION PLAN (PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT):**

Dennis Winters introduced a resolution that was prepared by John Pawson and is forwarded to the RCC by the Transportation Subcommittee. After some rewording the resolution was voted as follows.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to approve the following resolution and to forward it to the DVRPC Board:

***Resolution on DVRPC Year 2025 Preliminary Transportation Plan (The Public Transportation Element)***

The RCC has learned valuable lessons from the Direction 2020 Long-Range Plan and its implementation efforts that, in turn, are relevant to the development of the Year 2025 Plan.

1. The RCC welcomes and commends the work completed thus far on the draft of the Year 2025 Preliminary Transportation Plan.
2. We believe that a number of basic features of the draft public transportation element of the Preliminary Long-Range Plan should be changed. For example: Given this region's unusually complex rail passenger service in comparison to its shifting population, emphasis needs to be put on maintaining and improving the rail existing system.
3. There is the need for more differentiation in the costing of individual elements.
4. The plan needs to address the implications of encompassing the entire capital programs of providers such as SEPTA , PATCO, and NJ Transit, not just the traditional fixed-plant assets.

We look forward to working with staff in continuing development of the plan and we will have further comments on specific projects and studies.

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

2025 - Ernest Cohen announced that SSAP and Philadelphia Futurists will be holding a

seminar on the Future of Cities on February 27, 2001. Anyone interested in the event should pick up a flyer.

**RESOLUTION ON RCC PROMOTION OF SVM:**

Tom Cooper presented a resolution to make the Schuylkill Valley Metro (SVM) a priority project for the RCC. As a means of showing regional commitment to the project, he proposed a series of eight presentations at upcoming RCC meetings. The presentations would feature regional leaders such as SEPTA, Norfolk Southern, county commissioners, etc. Mr. Cooper suggested allotting 20 minutes to each speaker for his presentation with questions to follow.

Because of concern for time constraints, the committee came to the consensus that eight presentations would be too cumbersome.

The committee agreed that the concept could be put on a special project list for further consideration at another time.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Tom Cooper, seconded by Peter Javsicas) to approve the resolution to schedule a series of eight presentations at regular RCC meetings in 2001 as a means of focusing attention on the Schuylkill Valley Metro project.

***MOTION DEFEATED.*** (See Item I on voting record.)