

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 16, 2002**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the RCC meeting of March 19, 2002 were approved as mailed.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Patrick Starr announced that Illy Sobel had passed away on April 7, 2002 and called for a moment of silence.

Mr. Starr asked Dennis Winters to review the actions taken by the DVRPC Board on March 28, 2002. Mr. Winters had attended the Board meeting in Mr. Starr's absence. Mr. Winters commented on the Board's response to the RCC's comments on Regional Rail Car Acquisition, the Schuylkill Valley Metro resolution and the resolution on Year 2025 Plan Linkages and Desired Goal/Outcomes. Ajay Creshkoff questioned the note on the Staff Summary that stated that DVRPC staff will take his resolution on Linkages under advisement when the Board minutes stated that staff would work with the RCC to implement the recommendations in the resolution. (**NOTE:** In checking the board tape, Mr. Coscia stated that DVRPC staff will take these suggestions under advisement and will consider implementing them into the Plan.) Mr. Creshkoff asked that a meeting be scheduled with staff to discuss the implications of linking the Work Program and the Long-Range Plan. Mr. Starr will set up a meeting at 11 a.m. prior to the May 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting with DVRPC staff and the following RCC members who expressed interest: Ajay Creshkoff, Warren Strumpfer, Ernest Cohen and any other members that are interested.

**TIP ACTION NJ02-10 (MERCER COUNTY):**

Dennis Winters, RCC Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for New Jersey for the Delaware River Pedestrian/Bike Path project by increasing FY02 and FY03 funding by \$1.1 million. As part of the Route 29 tunnel project, the current alignment for the path is adjacent to the municipal water treatment plant. Due to security concerns raised by the events of September 11, the City of Trenton wants NJDOT to examine a new alignment for this project. New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has also asked NJDOT to extend the existing limits. The request is to add \$600,000 to the FY02 FSD phase, and \$500,000 to the FY03 Design phase, using CMAQ funds in both instances. Both the right of way and design phases for the project will be deferred one year, with a \$100,000 increase included in the FY03 right of way phase.

The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Action NJ02-10. The RCC

should also request that NJDOT consider the need for a connection between the path and the East Coast Greenway, and also ask that the agency come back to the RCC to inform them of the final alignment chosen.

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ02-10, Mercer County's request to amend the FY 2002 - 2004 New Jersey TIP for the Delaware River Pedestrian/Bike Path project by increasing FY02 and FY03 funding by \$1.1 million. The RCC requests that NJDOT consider the need for a connection between the path and the East Coast Greenway, and also asks that the agency come back to the RCC to inform them of the final alignment chosen.

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

**TIP ACTION PA01-65 (PHILADELPHIA):**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for Pennsylvania for the I-95, Bleigh Ave. to Academy Road, project by increasing the FY02 funding by \$5.6 million, programming an additional \$2.2 million (\$1.980 CMAQ/\$220,000 State) in the construction phase, and adding a utility phase of \$3.4 million (\$3.060 million Fed Bridge/\$340,000 State). PennDOT also requests a net increase of \$18,000,000 in FY 04 for a variety of construction cost increases, including measures for maintenance and safety, increased estimates, and Construction Inspection costs. It is also proposed to change the match scenario from an 80/20 Federal/State split to 90/10 for the Bridge and Highway funds currently programmed.

The subcommittee discussed concerns about variable message signs causing further congestion on area highways. Mr. Winters stated his belief that CMAQ funds could be put to better use. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Action PA01-65.

*Discussion: The RCC discussed the use of CMAQ funds for ITS and other signalization projects. Sue Tancredi stated that projects are slotted into categories, using up available CMAQ funding. Lorraine Brill stated that a certain amount of CMAQ dollars need to be used each year or they will be lost. In any case, the competitive CMAQ pot remains the same. The committee questioned the annual amount of CMAQ funds.*

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Miles Day) to recommend that

the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA01-65, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 Pennsylvania TIP for the I-95, Bleigh Ave. to Academy Road, project by increasing the FY02 funding by \$5.6 million, programming an additional \$2.2 million in the construction phase, and adding a utility phase of \$3.4 million. The RCC also requests that appropriate DVRPC staff make a presentation to the committee regarding available CMAQ funding and the goals of the program. In addition, the committee wished to express its concern about the tendency to use CMAQ funds for ITS projects.

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

#### **AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE THE DRAFT TIPS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Federal law and planning regulations require the development of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order for the metropolitan region to be eligible to receive federal transportation funds. The creation of the TIP is to be done by the MPO in cooperation with the state and transit operators, and must provide opportunity for input and comment by the public. A 30-day comment period must be conducted prior to a formal action to adopt the TIP.

Every other year DVRPC develops a TIP that covers both state portions of the region (the New Jersey portion is done every year). Work began in November 2001 on the development of the FY 2003-2005 TIP for the New Jersey portion of the region and the FY 2003-2006 TIP for the Pennsylvania portion of the region. The New Jersey and Pennsylvania Subcommittees of the RTC, under the direction of the DVRPC staff, have been working on a draft TIP that meets the requirements of the federal laws and regulations, including those concerning financial constraint and air quality. In addition, DVRPC and PennDOT held a public meeting in the fall to gather input for the PA transportation program, while DVRPC conducted outreach through its Problem Identification and Prioritization project to gather input for the Study and Development Program portion of the NJ transportation program. PennDOT has requested that DVRPC adopt the TIP no later than the June Board meeting date so that the Pennsylvania portion can be approved by the State Transportation Commission at its July meeting.

Staff and the RTC Subcommittees are now prepared to release a draft TIP document to the public and other agencies for review and comment. The draft document will be available for public review by May 6th, with the public comment period running through June 5th. Following this 30-day public comment period, staff and the Subcommittees will review the comments received and the RTC and RCC will prepare recommendations to the Board for adoption of the final TIP.

The subcommittee recommends that the RCC authorize the release of the draft TIPs for the New Jersey and Pennsylvania portions of the Delaware Valley for public comment.

*Discussion: The RCC's Transportation Subcommittee will meet in May to review the New Jersey and Pennsylvania TIPs and will come to the May 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting with recommendations. Anyone with comments should attend this subcommittee meeting. Complete TIP packets will be mailed to those on the subcommittee and to those RCC members requesting them.*

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board authorize staff to open a 30-day comment period for the purpose of gathering public and agency comments on the draft Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) for the New Jersey and Pennsylvania portions of the Delaware Valley.

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

**FY 2003 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR STATEWIDE GIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

John Griffies, DVRPC Contracts Manager, reported that this project enables DVRPC to issue and administer a contract to the Cooperative Extension GIS Program of Penn State University to provide technical training and support services for the MPO/LDDs of PENNDOT's Pennsylvania Planning Partnership related to geographic information systems (GIS). This effort will be guided by the Planning Partners GIS Work Group. The training will consist of three phases: Introductory In-Class sessions, Advanced In-Class sessions, and Continuing Support. This training will focus on using ArcView GIS 8.x to manipulate and perform analyses using PENNDOT GIS datasets, and will offer hands-on use of classroom computers for each attendee using actual PENNDOT data. The contract will be for 12 months, commencing July 1, 2002. Mr. Griffies also explained that this serves as a pass-through of funds to Penn State.

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Bill Marston, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve amending the DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program to include project 3-47-150, Statewide GIS Technical Assistance - PennDOT, in the amount of \$65,000.

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

**FY 2003 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT FOR ASSESSMENT OF LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS FOR THE ROUTE 413/513 CORRIDOR:**

Robert Dean, DEVRP Regional Planner, explained that the four small boroughs (Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Penn-del and Hulmeville) that comprise the Route 413 and 513 corridor in southeastern Bucks County, intersected by US Route 1 and Route 1 Business, are examples of first generation suburbs surrounded by the larger and still growing Middletown Township. These communities share a common transportation corridor that serves private automobile, trucks and bus traffic. The corridor is congested and experiences traffic and vehicular conflicts, exacerbated by the four central business districts clustered along the highways. Working closely with county planners, SEPTA, PennDOT District 6-0, local officials and the public, DVRPC would identify and map corridor issues and problems; develop goals and objectives; define the array of potential modal solutions; and the scope and scale of proposed improvement projects. In addition to the transportation issues, the study will also look at first generation suburb land use and economic revitalization issues, with the goal of integrating and coordinating corridor recommendations.

The project will strive to enhance regional, county and local land use patterns, mobility and accessibility within the defined corridor, while implementing the region's adopted Year 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan. The proposed project will also strive to demonstrate the role of the region's MPO in the neutral evaluation of corridor issues and problems and in the development of locally accepted land use/transportation solutions.

*Discussion: The committee discussed the need for signage as well as a connection to the East Coast Greenway. (NOTE: In a subsequent email, Ken Edmonds clarified that the 413/513 corridor is not in the East Coast Greenway corridor. He would like to see shoulders on any road improvements for safer bicycle and auto travel. Route 413 enters Bristol where a connection to the East Coast Greenway could be made. A suggested land use alternative would be a greenway along the Neshaminy Creek to the Delaware River where a connection to the East Coast Greenway could be made.)*

In addition, the committee had a number of questions for which Ms. Snyder will seek answers; namely, has an architectural firm been chosen; is I-95 tied into this project; and are traffic calming techniques being considered?

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Dennis Winters, seconded by Warren Strumpfer) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve amending the DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program to include project 3-53-150, Assessment of Land Use and Transportation Solutions for the Route 413/513 corridor in southeastern Bucks County in the amount of \$75,000. The RCC also encourages the consideration of traffic calming measures and of linkages to the East Coast Greenway.

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

**RECOMMENDATION TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE HORIZONS YEAR**

## **2025 PLAN UPDATE:**

Ron Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager of the Office of Air Quality Planning, reported that on April 26, 2001 the DVRPC Board adopted the Year 2025 Land Use, Transportation and Aviation Plan. At the time of adoption, it was noted that work on the Plan would continue and that the Plan may need to be modified or amended at a later date.

Since that time, staff has continued to amend and revise the Year 2025 Plan: 1) In the fall of 2001, five Town Meetings were held throughout the region to engage the public and draw additional information and direction for the Plan; 2) New long-range population forecasts were completed and adopted by the DVRPC Board in February 2002 and a revised air quality analysis was completed; 3) Additional policies were added to the Plan to reflect the new national homeland security policies since September 11; 4) The Transportation and Community Development Initiative was adopted by the DVRPC Board in December 2001 as a new implementation direction for the Plan; 5) Several new proposed planning study projects were identified for inclusion in the Plan; and 6) A new implementation and action strategy chapter was developed for the Plan. In addition, Montgomery County has asked that three widening projects (US 202 from Main Street to Allendale Road; I-76 Schuylkill Expressway from I-476 to US 202; and US 422 from US 202 to the Limerick Interchange) be removed from the Plan.

Collectively, these changes to the Plan as adopted in April 2001 serve to create a revised and amended Plan which the DVRPC Board will be asked to adopt as a new Year 2025 Plan, replacing that adopted in April 2001. In order to proceed to that final plan, a 30-day public hearing period and three public meetings will be held May 6 to June 5, 2002.

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

***MOTION*** (by Don Augustine, seconded by Finley Shapiro) to recommend that the DVRPC Board authorize staff to open a 30-day public comment period and conduct public meetings on the amended and updated Year 2025 Plan Use and Transportation Plan.

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

## **JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM (JARC):**

Karen Cilurso, DVRPC Regional Planner, reported that following project solicitations for the JARC Competitive Grant Program in early January, 2002, DVRPC received nine Letters of Intent from Pennsylvania applicants by the February 19<sup>th</sup> deadline. Following

staff review of the submissions, the Board acted on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and found that: (1) all of the proposed projects were consistent with DVRPC's adopted Job Access Plan; (2) all of the potential applicants were qualified to undertake the services proposed; and (3) each applicant should continue to work with SEPTA to complete the full application process. The Board also authorized the formation of a Special Committee for Pennsylvania to act on their behalf to review and prioritize the proposed projects for funding.

DVRPC convened the Special Committee (composed of city, county, public transit agency, Regional Citizens Committee and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development representatives) on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The outcome was deferred until the April Board meeting to await the release of the FTA's Federal Register notice for the FY 2002/2003 program. The FTA guidance was published in the *Federal Register* on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and indicates that the FTA may consider additional new projects in FY 2003. Consequently, in consultation with SEPTA, it was agreed to proceed with the FY 2002 project recommendations in April and to reconvene the Special Committee in May to make Pennsylvania project recommendations for FY 2003.

*Discussion: The committee discussed the Ways to Work Program. Ms. Cilurso will return in May to report on 2003 priority listing or projects.*

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Transportation Subcommittee: Dennis Winters reported that a meeting will be held on the Cross County Connection on April 18 in Treddyfrin Township; a \$400,000 PATCO study; the future of the Octarara Rail Line; and a Segway Fact Sheet. In addition, Mr. Winters stated that planners are overlooking CMS commitments such as in the case of NJ 55, Deptford Center Road. The RCC, therefore, requests that DVRPC staff make a presentation in May or June regarding what CMS commitments are on the books; how commitments are honored; and whose responsibility it is to check these commitments?

Year 2025 Task Force: Ernest Cohen, task force chair, reported that his subcommittee has selected the name "The 25 Year Subcommittee" for future reference. He noted his concern about petroleum consumption and submitted a resolution to be forwarded to the Board and to be included in the RCC's TIP comments next month.

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

***MOTION*** (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Warren Strumpfer) to forward the following resolution to the DVRPC Board for consideration:

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. World petroleum production is expected to peak in this decade and then decline; and
2. The United States imports more than half of the petroleum we consume; and

3. Much of this petroleum is produced in politically unstable nations; and
4. These imports are a major drain on the balance of payments; and
5. The United States consumes the lion's share of petroleum, but has only a small fraction of world's reserves.

**THEREFORE:**

All transportation and land use plans should be evaluated with regard to their effects on petroleum consumption. This should include both immediate effects and long-range effects caused by changes in land use and transportation patterns, and the balance for each project.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Patrick Starr proposed a presentation at the May RCC meeting on Commuter Choice, a series of incentives an employer can offer to employees encouraging the use of transit. The presentation would be made by Environmental Defense. The committee agreed. The program ties into TransitChek; DVRPC MAP staff will be invited to hear the presentation.