

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2003**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of January 14, 2003 were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, Chair, reported that he and Patrick Starr had offered comments about DVRPC at a recent set of meetings held as part of the federal certification process for the MPO.

TIP ACTION PA03-10a:

Warren Strumpfer, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, explained SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP. Approved as a new TIP project last spring, this project provides for the installation of automatic vehicle locator devices, using Global Positioning Satellite technology, on SEPTA's Paratransit vehicles. The system does not currently have the efficient capability to locate vehicles that are misdirected, stuck in traffic or have broken down, which impacts service efficiency and reliability for SEPTA customers. The vehicle locator devices will interface with the existing system and will improve operations by transmitting the exact location of in-service Paratransit vehicles. This will provide real-time information to the control center for quick response to any service disruption. The request proposes the use of \$855,00 federal ITS earmark funds and a 50% local match.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-10a, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Automatic Vehicle Locators for Paratransit project (MPMS # 67666) back into the TIP. This amendment will program \$855,000 Federal ITS earmark funds/ \$855,000 Local Match in FY 2003.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-10b:

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP. Approved in a previous TIP at a higher funding level, this request is to program an FY03 project cost of \$450,000 (\$225,000 DEMO ITS earmark funds/\$90,000 5307/\$135,000 Local Match. This project will expand on the Pilot Automatic Vehicle Locator project (TIP #S081). The intent is to equip an additional 24 buses with AVL devices for use on two Center City to King of Prussia bus routes (124 and 125.) Real time schedule information kiosks will be installed at key passenger waiting areas along these routes.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-10b, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS project (MPMS # 66551) back into the TIP. This amendment will program \$225,000 Federal ITS earmark funds/\$90,000 5307/\$135,000 Local Match in FY 2003.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-11a:

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the 2003 Reflective Pavement Marker Program. Currently in design, this project will require an FY03 construction phase of \$380,000 specially earmarked STP funds. The markers are being designed to withstand snowplow action and will be installed on state and local roads in the region.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board TIP Action PA03-11a, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project, the Reflective Pavement Marker Program project (MPMS # 64634), into the TIP. This amendment will program \$380,000 specially earmarked STP funds for construction in FY 2003.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-11b:

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by

adding a FY03 right of way phase to the I-95 Delaware Expressway Interchange at PA 332 (Newtown-Yardley Rd.) project. Three parcels constituting just under 20 acres are required in order to complete the interchange improvement project which calls for construction of a new ramp from PA 332 eastbound to I-95 northbound. The project will also relocate the existing I-95 northbound off-ramp to PA 332. PennDOT's request would program \$1.850 million for ROW in FY03 (\$1.480 million DEMO/\$370,000 State). This modification also serves to acknowledge additional DEMO funds available for this project which are being used for the land acquisition and also to increase the FY06 construction phase by \$710,000 (\$60,000 DEMO/ \$650,000 State).

Discussion: Karen Friedman questioned the advisability of building a new ramp when the continued congestion on the Scudders Falls Bridge has not been addressed. Warren Strumpfer pointed out that this will relieve congestion on Route 322. Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC TIP Manager, stated that this is a safety and traffic flow issue.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-11b, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a FY 2003 right of way phase (\$1.480 million DEMO/\$370,000 State) and increasing the FY06 construction phase (\$60,000 DEMO/\$650,000 State) of the I-95 Interchange at PA 332 (MPMS #13518.) This modification also serves as a technical correction that acknowledges the correct level of DEMO funds available for this project. In addition, the RCC asks that design of this project be done properly to ensure safe bicycle and pedestrian access to the Lower Makefield Bicycle/Pedestrian Network.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-11c:

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Route 41 ITS Technology Deployment project back into the TIP with a \$1.5 million construction phase (Federal funds) in FY03. This project is phase 2 of a Safety and Enforcement Initiative enacted to better monitor and enforce heavy truck traffic through the area. Funds will be used for the purchase and installation of equipment, i.e., an advisory radio system, and devices for speed and traffic signal enforcement.

Discussion: Dee Durham and Linda Ingenthron provided differing insights into the various aspects of the Route 41 area.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Patrick Starr, seconded by Miles Day) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-11c, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Route 41 ITS Technology Deployment project (MPMS # 64360) back into the TIP. The amendment will program \$1.5 million HWY funds for construction in FY 2003.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-11d:

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming Betterment improvements on Route 63 from PA 113 to PA 29 with funds in FY03 for preliminary design (\$1.853 million HWY/\$463,000 Toll Credit) and FY05 for final design(\$1.355 million HWY/\$339,000 Toll Credit) using state toll credits as the state match. This restoration project for the approximately 10 miles of roadway through Lower and Upper Salford Townships will include milling, overlay, and shoulder work. The design phase includes costs for surveying and environmental clearance.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Karen Friedman) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-11d, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project, Betterment of Route 63 from PA 113 to PA 29 (MPMS # 50646.) This amendment will add a FY 2003 preliminary design phase (\$1.853 million HWY/\$463,000 Toll Credit Match) and a FY 2005 final design phase (\$1.355 million HWY/\$339,000 Toll Credit Match).

MOTION CARRIED (See Item F on voting record.)

TIP ACTION PA03-11e:

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Valley/Willow Road Bridge replacement project back into the TIP with a \$37,000 (\$29,000 State Bridge/\$8,000 Local) final design phase in FY03. The existing two lane bridge will be replaced in-kind.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-11e, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Valley/Willow Road (Bridge) project (MPMS #14272) back to into the TIP with an FY 2003 final design phase (\$29,000 State/\$8,000 Local Match).

MOTION CARRIED (See Item G on voting record.)

TIP ACTION PA03-12a:

The Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the 42nd Street Bridge project back into the TIP with a \$5.2 million construction phase in FY04 which will be advance constructed in FY03 (\$4.160 million Bridge/\$780,000 State/\$260,000 Local Match.) The project includes bridge deck replacement, guiderail improvements and related rehabilitation work. The arched bridge is located over Amtrak rail lines and will entail extensive coordination with that agency.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Linda Ingenthron) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action TIP Action PA03-12a, the Philadelphia Streets Department's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the 42nd Street Bridge project (MPMS # 17461) back into the TIP with an FY 2004 construction phase (\$4.160 million Bridge/\$780,000 State/\$260,000 Local Match) which will be advance constructed in FY 2003.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item H on voting record.)

TIP ACTION PA03-12b:

The Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Krewstown Road Bridge project back into the TIP with a \$400,000 preliminary engineering phase in FY04 (\$320,000 STU/\$80,000 Local Match.) The project has been on hold due to community opposition. The Krewstown Road Bridge is a very narrow bridge over the Pennypack Creek in Pennypack Park. The approach requires realignment to meet current standards and it is not suited for the traffic that passes over it on a daily basis. The City is requesting \$400,000 for a preliminary engineering phase to revisit and clarify the issues surrounding this project, including environmental and historic analyses of the bridge and the surrounding area. The goal is to have a finished project that addresses the sensitivities of the bridge, the surrounding environment and the community concerns, as well as provide a safe throughway for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Discussion: Lorraine Brill noted that this area is completely residential and all residents are opposed to changing the bridge. The community wants the bridge rehabilitated, better lighting, and a "No Thru Truck Traffic" sign installed. She provided RCC members with a map, noting that the bridge is in the middle of the park and has lanes that are 10-1/2 feet wide. On the north side of the bridge is historic Pennypack Church

and a cemetery. Many studies have been done but the results of those studies have not been released. Ms. Schoonmaker explained that this TIP Action will allow for a thorough evaluation of the best alternative and will allow the community to have input. She also explained that the City Streets Department has made a commitment that one alternative will be “rehab only” and that DVRPC will be informed of the public involvement process.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-12b, the Philadelphia Streets Department’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Krewstown Road Bridge project (MPMS # 16785) back into the TIP with an FY 2004 preliminary engineering phase (\$320,000 STU/\$80,000 Local Match). However, this approval is only granted as long as an alternative is included in this phase that examines rehabilitation only of the bridge and as long as early public involvement is included in the process. The RCC continues to oppose construction of a new bridge.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item I on voting record.)

TIP ACTION PA03-13:

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP using \$170,000 Public Land Highway Discretionary carryover DEMO funds for a study in FY03. The Route 113 Heritage Corridor is over 30 miles in length between the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County and PA Route 412 in Bucks County. With a heritage of farming and agricultural processing, the region’s current development trends, particularly in areas surrounding the Routes 422 and 309 Expressways, are exerting strong growth pressure. A Land Use/ Transportation Study will evaluate present infrastructure needs, pair them with historic aspects of the region, and craft progressive land use and community planning goals.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-13, Montgomery County’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project to the TIP, the Route 113 Heritage Corridor Study (MPMS # 65132.) This amendment will program \$170,000 specially earmarked Public Land Highway Discretionary funds in FY 2003. The RCC asks that this study include the appropriate historic and community groups in the public involvement phase.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item J on voting record.)

PROPOSAL RE: DVRPC POLICY ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT (TEA-21):

Warren Strumpfer presented a list of changes and additions to the Policy Paper from the Transportation Subcommittee. Members submitted additional comments and suggestions which are noted on the attached list of final changes to be presented to the DVRPC Board.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the DVRPC Board adopt the DVRPC Policy on Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Act with the changes listed on the attached sheet.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item K on voting record.)

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (TMA) AND MOBILITY ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (MAP) WORK PROGRAMS FOR FY 2004 IN PENNSYLVANIA:

Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, explained that PennDOT has annually funded Transportation Management Association (TMA) activities for selected TMAs since 1992. This program was developed to provide operating assistance to these public-private partnerships to support their travel demand management promotional work as a means to mitigate traffic congestion and improve regional air quality. This is an ongoing program, renewable annually. PennDOT requested that DVRPC assume joint oversight of work program development and execution in FY 2002.

There are currently five TMAs serving suburban areas in southeastern Pennsylvania: The Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Greater Valley Forge, and Partnership TMAs, and one which serves central Philadelphia. As part of their assistance grants, each suburban TMA undertakes generally similar work. The Central Philadelphia TMA's work program is tailored to the particular transportation needs of Center City. The individual Work Programs, in the attached packet, give a description of the work each of them plans to undertake if their application is approved. The work programs have been reviewed and approved by the respective County Planning Commission staffs, as well as DVRPC, and PennDOT staffs. The TMAs have applied for the maximum of \$160,000 each. The total application package totals \$960,000 (\$768,000 CMAQ, \$192,000 local match).

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the DVRPC Board approve and forward to PennDOT, for their approval, the FY 2004 Transportation Management Assistance Grant applications for a program total of \$960,000 (\$768,000 CMAQ, \$192,000 Contractor Match).

MOTION CARRIED (See Item L on voting record.)

Ms. Oaks then noted that the Mobility Alternatives Program (MAP) was initiated in 1995 in response to the need for measures to reduce highway congestion, including businesses, schools, and other organizations on a voluntary basis. There are currently five TMAs involved in MAP: The Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Greater Valley Forge, and Partnership TMAs, along with the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation and SEPTA. Efforts of the contractors are directed to highly congested corridors within their service areas. Work includes outreach to employers, assistance in developing Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies for employer use, promotion of the Share-A-Ride program, and participation in outreach for the Ozone Action Program.

MAP is largely a behavior modification effort to increase employers' awareness of the various TDM techniques available to them, and the benefits of participation in such activities. The success of the overall program is monitored by contractors' submission of quarterly performance reports, which show results of work toward reducing single-occupant autos. The individual Work Programs, in the attached packet, give a description of the work which will be undertaken in FY 2004.

The TMAs have applied for the maximum of \$67,450 each, The Mayor's Office for \$77,750, and SEPTA for \$150,000. The DVRPC portion of the contract totals \$251,000, which includes Administration, Share-A-Ride Operations, and Marketing efforts. The total application package totals \$816,000 (\$652,800 CMAQ, \$163,200 contractor match). This budget is the same as previous years.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Harry Hyde, seconded by Bob Machler) that the DVRPC Board approve and forward to PennDOT, for their approval, the FY 2004 Mobility Alternatives Program for a program total of \$816,000 (\$652,800 CMAQ, \$163,200 Contractor Match).

MOTION CARRIED (See Item M on voting record.)

PENNVEST APPLICATIONS:

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, reviewed four PennVest applications as follows:

Bucks County

- Borough of Quakertown - Request for \$3,408,280 Pennvest loan to replace or improve 35,430 lineal feet of existing sewer collection lines and 724 sewer laterals within the borough to reduce problems of inflow and infiltration.
- Borough of Quakertown - Request for \$5,974,300 Pennvest loan to replace 44,300 lineal feet of existing water mains, 584 laterals within the right-of-way, 69 hydrants and other miscellaneous work to provide drinking water within the borough.

Montgomery County

- Borough of Schwenksville - Request for \$80,000 Pennvest loan to install a stormwater conveyance system in the vicinity of Third Street and Maple Avenue to alleviate problems of flooding.
- The Upper Hanover Authority - Request for \$1,538,191 Pennvest loan to extend sewers from the existing treatment plant to the Village of Palm to serve existing homes with failing septic systems and to provide additional capacity for new commercial or industrial growth.

Mr. Seymour also noted that the program provides long-term loans through a revolving loan fund to municipalities, authorities and some private entities at below-market interest rates. Limited grant funds are also available. He went on to explain that the Upper Hanover Authority request is in an area that is mostly rural. A regional plan has been developed by a number of communities in this area; it identifies rural resource areas and areas for development.

Discussion: Larry Shaeffer questioned whether there was a water quality measure in the system being considered by Upper Hanover Township. State guidelines ask municipalities to include this in new or replacement systems. Barry Seymour pointed out that permits must be obtained from the state and that point it would be up to PaDEP to look into this provision.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the DVRPC Board approve the applications of the Borough of Quakertown for a loan in the amount of \$3,408,280 to replace or improve 35,430 lineal feet of existing sewer collection lines and 724 sewer laterals within the borough to reduce problems of inflow and infiltration; and a loan in the amount of \$5,974,300 to replace 44,300 lineal feet of existing water mains, 584 laterals within the right-of-way, 69 hydrants and other miscellaneous work to provide drinking water within the borough.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item N on voting record.)

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Bob Machler) that the DVRPC Board approve the Borough of Schwenksville's request for \$80,000 to install a stormwater conveyance system in the vicinity of Third Street and Maple Avenue to alleviate problems of flooding. However, the RCC recommends this approval on the basis that the Borough comply with state provisions for water quality treatment for storm water run-off for municipalities.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item O on voting record.)

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Warren Strumpfer) that the DVRPC Board approve Upper Hanover Authority's request for \$1,538,191 to extend sewers from the existing treatment plant to the Village of Palm to serve existing homes with failing septic systems, but that the conveyance systems be sized to only serve the areas of existing development and discourage the further extension of sewer service into the surrounding rural resource area.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item P on voting record.)

DVRPC FY 2003 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCE PLANNING SERVICES FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN NEW JERSEY:

Barry Seymour explained that many municipalities in New Jersey lack the professional staff to update their plans and ordinances or to develop new land use planning tools to protect and preserve their natural resources.

While a number of municipalities have moved forward to establish funding programs to purchase open space, some of these municipalities have not developed the comprehensive open space plans or natural resource inventories needed to guide their investment decisions. By developing open space plans, municipalities are also eligible to double their match funding for open space acquisition under the Green Acres Program.

DVRPC's program of Municipal Open Space and Natural Resource Planning Services will offer a market basket of services to municipalities in New Jersey, appropriate to their needs and conditions. Available services could include Municipal Assessment, Natural Resource Inventory, Open Space and Recreation Plan, or Conservation Element of a Master Plan. Municipalities would pay DVRPC directly for these services, with the costs partially offset through DVRPC's existing Open Space and Greenways Planning program.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Bob Machler, seconded by John Nawn) that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program to establish a program to offer Open Space and Natural Resource Planning Services to municipalities in New Jersey and authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with municipalities based on individual scopes of work to be determined.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item Q on voting record.)

MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

Ajay Creshkoff prepared a paper entitled "Measuring the Effectiveness of DVRPC Programs and Projects: Proposed Recommendations", dated February 26, 2003. There was not enough time to consider the paper (attached) at this meeting. It will be on the agenda of the March 18, 2003 RCC meeting. Mr. Creshkoff noted that this paper takes into account the elements contained in the January 31, 2003 draft policy paper on Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Act.