

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17, 2003**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the RCC meeting of May 13, 2003 were approved as mailed.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Dennis Winters, Chair, announced that Jack Claffey and Michael Ontko had retired and thanked them for their dedication in dealing with the RCC.

He also updated the committee on a meeting held between Dr. Don Shanis, Barry Seymour, Ajay Creshkoff and himself to discuss the measurement criteria that the RCC has requested.

In addition, Mr. Winters pointed out that blank FY 2005 Work Program forms were on the sideboard; they should be submitted with proposed projects to the Public Affairs Office prior to August 1, 2003. He also reported on proposed recruitment efforts for the RCC; the Annual Dinner; and speakers for the July 15<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting. He asked that members with suggestions for speakers for future meetings contact him, and that the committee determine in the near future whether it will meet in August.

He also reviewed the Board action taken in May, noting that Jacob Mallikal will provide a quarterly update to the committee as a result of the RCC's request to be updated on bicycle/pedestrian projects that are not progressing on schedule. In addition, PennDOT replied to the questions raised regarding the I-76 project in South Philadelphia. Mr. Winters drew members' attention to the last page of the Staff Summary of Board Responses for May. John Nacchio, who had raised the questions originally, stated that various community organizations do not recall any meetings held with PennDOT.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Karen Friedman) to ask PennDOT to supply the minutes, community groups invited and attendance lists for the three meetings held regarding the I-76 project in South Philadelphia.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by John Nacchio, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to request that PennDOT provide an update regarding overhead signage for this project; there is the need for context sensitive design when providing for signage in this area.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**TIP ACTION PA03-27 SECTION 5310 CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS:**

Warren Strumpfer, RCC Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming funds for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Program (formerly Section 16(b)(2)), which provides capital assistance to private nonprofit corporations that provide transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Every year PENNDOT coordinates an application process for this program and this year has selected 6 agencies in the DVRPC region to program a total of \$1,077,300 for the purchase of 19 vehicles. Six agencies will receive funding in the DVRPC region.

*Discussion: Committee members questioned whether PennDOT actively promoted the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and hybrids. Joe Daversa, who will speak to the RCC in July and who oversees the 5319 program, should be able to answer this question.*

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Sara Thurston) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-27, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) by adding funds into the TIP for the FTA's Section 5310 Program (MPMS #62150). This amendment will program a total of \$1.077 million (\$861,840 Section 5310 funds/\$215,460 Local Match) in FY03.

In addition, the RCC believes that each applicant should have to undergo a consultation with the Clean Cities Program informing them of the benefits of alternative fuel vehicles, and that each application should be accompanied by a letter confirming that this consultation has occurred.

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

**TIP ACTION PA03-28a - DOWNINGTOWN PEDESTRIAN/BIKEWAY:**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by removing this project which is currently programmed with \$472,000 TE funds in FY04. The Borough is unable to complete this project which was selected as a Transportation Enhancement project, and has requested to withdraw from the process as there have been severe staff cuts in the Borough.

*Discussion: DVRPC staff pointed out that they track TE funding and that sometimes there are cost increases for which these unused dollars can be used.*

*John Boyle pointed out that using these dollars for poorly managed projects points to a flawed process. Five or more bicycle/pedestrian projects have been dropped recently. He stated that PennDOT ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of 50 in TE project implementation and they rank last in funding reimbursement.*

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-28a, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) by deleting the Downingtown Pedestrian/Bikeway project (MPMS #65902) from the TIP, with the recommendation that the de-obligated dollars go back into the competitive TE pot and consideration be given to other bicycle/pedestrian project(s) as replacement(s).

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

**TIP ACTION PA03-28b - CAYUGA STREET BRIDGE:**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by removing this project. The City of Philadelphia has elected to cancel this bridge removal project as it was determined that the sufficiency rating of the bridge is better than originally stated. The project is currently programmed with a FY04 right-of-way phase (\$80,000 Bridge/\$15,000 State/\$5,000 Local Match) and an FY05 construction phase (\$1.6 million Bridge/\$300,000 State/\$100,000 Local Match).

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-28b, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) by deleting the Cayuga Street Bridge project (MPMS #17722) from the TIP.

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

**TIP ACTION NJ03-10: CAMDEN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER ACCESS STUDY, PENNSAUKEN:**

Camden County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project into the TIP, the Camden County Civic Center Access Study. The request is to use \$800,000 from the DVRPC Local Scoping line item (DB #X80B ) to begin assessing the need for improvements to local roads and highway access modifications in the surrounding areas of the site of the proposed Civic Center

in Pennsauken in the vicinity of NJ Routes 73, 90, 130, and County Route 644 and Haddonfield Road.

*Discussion: At the subcommittee meeting, Lorraine Brill clarified that the Civic Center will be used primarily as a sports arena. The planned site for the Center is the current location of the Pennsauken Mart. Discussion focused on why the Center was not planned for the Camden Waterfront, or in a location near transit. Warren Strumpfer also voiced concerns about whether this was in fact "Smart Growth." He also noted that the planners are in negotiations to relocate the Pennsauken Mart, and that no final decisions would be made for at least one year. The subcommittee requested a more detailed map or aerial photo of the region for the June RCC meeting which was provided by staff. Mr. Strumpfer noted that he met with the Director of the Camden County Improvement District. He pointed out that the center is in compliance with the New Jersey Smart Growth Plan. Pennsauken has asked that this location be considered. The transit issue is being addressed.*

**ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:**

**MOTION** (by Warren Strumpfer, Andy Saul) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ03-10, Camden County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for NJ (FY2003-2005) by adding a new project into the TIP, the Camden County Civic Center Access Study, Pennsauken (DB #03340 ). The RCC recommends that the study include consideration of transit access to the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Line and the Atlantic City Line, as well as bicycle and pedestrian connections to neighboring communities.

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

**TIP ACTION NJ03-11: BUS RAPID TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:**

DVRPC is requesting, on behalf of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, to amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project into the TIP, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Alternatives Analysis. The analysis is the first step in determining whether BRT would be a viable alternative for relieving congestion and enhancing mobility in the Route 1 corridor area including Lawrence, West Windsor, Princeton, Plainsboro and South Brunswick Townships. It will be a multi agency effort undertaken by NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and DVRPC, with NJ TRANSIT taking the lead. All agencies will contribute funding to the total project cost of \$916,000. This request is to draw down \$260,145 STP-STU funds from the DVRPC Future Projects line item (DB #D026 ) to fund DVRPC's contribution to this project of which \$151,800 would be used by DVRPC for the Public Involvement, Scoping and Agency Coordination component, with the balance (\$108,345) to be contributed to financing the other tasks in

the study (e.g. alignment, land use, travel demand, and environmental issues).

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Pawson) that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ03-11, DVRPC's request on behalf of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, to amend the FY 2003 TIP for NJ (FY2003-2005) by adding a new project into the TIP, the Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis. The project will be programmed with \$260,145 STP-STU funds which will be drawn down from the DVRPC Future Projects line item, DB #D026, for an FY03 PLS (Planning Study) phase. The RCC suggests that a similar study be considered for Gloucester County.

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

**DVRPC FY 2004 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: BUS RAPID TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:**

Dr. Don Shanis, DVRPC Acting Assistant Executive Director, Transportation Planning, reported that through the studies of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, it was determined that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) may be viable in the study region and could provide a needed option to the single occupant vehicle. BRT was incorporated in the Forum's Action Plan as part of a four pronged approach to enhancing mobility and relieving congestion. The primary study area consists of Lawrence Township, West Windsor Township, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, Plainsboro Township and South Brunswick Township in the US 1 corridor.

Sponsorship of the study will be a multi-agency effort – New Jersey Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. NJ Transit will be the lead agency with DVRPC undertaking Public Involvement, Scoping and Agency Coordination.

Public involvement and agency coordination are integral components of the study. At the conclusion of the study a report is produced and a public hearing held. The public outreach program will meet all state and federal requirements concerning public involvement. The outreach program will engage stakeholders in useful dialogue on how to make BRT work in the community and will educate the public regarding the study's purpose, benefits and effects. This will be conducted with the assistance of a consultant.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Warren Strumpfer) to recommend

that the DVRPC Board amend the FY 2004 Planning Work Program to include the

Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis.

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

**ANNUAL SELF-CERTIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS:**

Dr. Shanis explained that the original federal transportation bill - ISTEA - and Metropolitan Planning Requirements dated October 28, 1993 require that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) annually certify to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration that its transportation planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements. Dr. Shanis reviewed the draft resolution and noted that representatives of FHWA and FTA had reviewed DVRPC in February and had recently issued an exemplary draft certification. This in-person review takes place every three years.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

**MOTION** (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt Resolution No. B-FY03-xxx certifying that the DVRPC transportation planning process is in conformance with federal regulations implementing TEA-21, the Clean Air Act Amendments, and other federal legislation.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE DVRPC FY 2004 TIP FOR NEW JERSEY:**

The FY 2004-2006 TIP for the New Jersey portion of the DVRPC region contains nearly 200 projects totaling \$911 million for phases to be advanced during the next three years, including \$434 million on projects primarily addressing the highway system and \$477 million per year on transit projects for DRPA/PATCO and NJ TRANSIT. The New Jersey TIP averages over \$300 million per year for transportation projects.

Many of partner agencies contributed responses to the comments received. Comments from these agencies, responses and the recommended changes to the Draft have been provided for the committee's review.

Adoption at the June meeting will permit the inclusion of the DVRPC TIP, along with the TIPs from the other two MPOs, in the New Jersey Statewide TIP (STIP) for timely submission of that document by NJDOT to the federal funding agencies for approval. Warren Strumpfer noted that he will study the Summary of Public Comments and Agency Response and will report his comments at the July Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the FY 2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey as the region's official selection of transportation projects for federal funding, by passing Resolution B-FY03-006.

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

**TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION:**

The subcommittee discussed the Spring Mountain Road Bridge (TIP PA03-28c) TIP project, which is being handled through Administrative Action. Discussion focused on the ability of the current bridge to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that consideration be given to including bicycle and pedestrian facilities per AASHTO guidelines on the Spring Mountain Road Bridge because of its close proximity to the Perkiomen Trail and Spring Mountain Ski Area.

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

**PENNVEST FUNDING REQUESTS IN CHESTER AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES:**

Cathy Zukoski, Environmental/Legislative Subcommittee Chair, pointed out that PENNVEST has forwarded two applications to DVRPC for review for consistency with the regional plan as follows:

Chester County:

Borough of Avondale - Request for \$3,400,000 Pennvest loan to upgrade and expand the existing treatment plant which serves the Borough of Avondale, and some customers in New Garden Township. The upgrade would eliminate problems of overload and achieve compliance with the NPDES permit effluent limits. Expansion would be from 0.3 MGD to 0.5 MGD.

Montgomery County:

Pennsylvania Suburban Water Company - Request for \$883,025 Pennvest loan to construct facilities at the existing Meyers Tract water treatment facility to

remove arsenic from the drinking water currently supplied to Perkiomen Township and Schwenksville Borough. Currently raw water arsenic levels exceed the recommended EPA and DEP guidelines.

The projects in Avondale and Schwenksville serve to alleviate existing problems and are in areas already developed or identified as Future Growth Areas as designated in the DVRPC Year 2025 Plan. As such, these projects are consistent with the goals and policies of the regional plan.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Cathy Zukoski, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the application of the Borough of Avondale, requesting a \$3,400,000 Pennvest loan to upgrade and expand the existing treatment plant which serves the Borough of Avondale, and some customers in New Garden Township.

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

***MOTION*** (by Cathy Zukoski, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the application of the Pennsylvania Suburban Water Company, requesting a \$883,025 Pennvest loan to construct facilities at the existing Meyers Tract water treatment facility to remove arsenic from the drinking water currently supplied to Perkiomen Township and Schwenksville Borough.

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:**

25 Year Task Force: Ernest Cohen proposed a motion, which Cathy Zukoski, seconded, to recommend a reorganization of SEPTA. It was noted that this is not specific enough to move forward; therefore, the motion was tabled. A more carefully worded motion may be presented next month.

**STAFF PRESENTATION - RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT IN CENTERS:**

Heather Kump, DVRPC Regional Economic Development Policy Planner, reported on the second year of a two-phase study, highlighting case studies and success stories in Doylestown, Burlington City, Downingtown, and Camden. She pointed out examples of market rate and new construction and historic rehab. She also stated that each of these projects was a good example of private-public partnerships.

*Discussion: The RCC discussed the need to locate such residential developments*

*close to commercial needs. Ms. Kump pointed out that Phase I dealt with community issues such as this. A sense of place is important in these projects.*