

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2003**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of August 12, 2003 were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, Chair, announced for those who were not at the August meeting that Harry Hyde had passed away in late July. Bob Machler prepared a biography of Mr. Hyde's life; it is available on the sideboard. Also available are copies of the slides from the Bus Rapid Transit presentations given at the August meeting; an article written by Mr. Winters on the SEPTA Citizens Advisory Committee which appeared in the DVARP newsletter; and correspondence regarding Governor McGreevey's Blue Ribbon Committee and public meetings.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Dennis Winters asked for the results of the county caucuses for the Nominating Committee. The following individuals will serve as the 2003 Nominating Committee for Chair:

Philadelphia: John Boyle
Delaware County: Elaine Cohen
Chester County: Tom Cooper
Bucks County: Karen Friedman
Montgomery County: Bill Faltermayer
Camden County: Warren Strumpfer
Gloucester County: Sara Thurston

Karen Friedman will serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. For those who wish to volunteer for the position of chair or to nominate someone, Ms. Friedman's contact information is: Phone: 215-504-4335; Email: Karen39Friedman@aol.com.

The RCC then reviewed proposed committee meeting dates for 2004. A new list of dates was available, correcting January's date to January 13, and suggesting that the September 14 meeting date be changed because of a conflict with the RTC's date. The RCC decided to meet at Noon on September 15. The Transportation Subcommittee will meet at 10 a.m. on September 15 preceding the RCC meeting.

TIP ACTION PA03-33: ROUTE 202, SECTION 300 AND SECTION 400 TRANSIT-RELATED CONGESTION MITIGATION SYSTEM (CMS) STRATEGIES, CHESTER COUNTY (MPMS #14546):

Warren Strumpfer Transportation Subcommittee Chair, explained that Chester County has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY04 and FY05 construction phases of the Route 202 (Section 402) reconstruction project in order to fund the continuation of transit services instituted as part of the Congestion Mitigation System (CMS) Strategies. The request is for an additional \$700,000 in FY04 (\$560,000 federal highway funds/\$140,000 state match) and \$690,000 (\$552,000 federal highway funds/\$138,000 state match) in FY05. In order to ease congestion during the construction process, various transit services have been operating as the CMS for the Route 202 Section 400 project since 1999. Section 400 is now nearing completion, and the next section to be undertaken will be Section 300 which will also require transit CMS services. It is anticipated that Section 300 (and therefore the ensuing CMS transit services) will not get started for approximately two years. In order to provide “seamless” service, the county is requesting that the additional funding be provided to continue three of the CMS transit services (SEPTA’s Route 204 bus, SEPTA’s enhanced R5 service, and Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association subscription bus service) during this interim period between the completion of Section 400 through the beginning of construction of Route 202 Section 300.

Discussion: The RCC questioned whether transit service would continue after the project has been completed. It was noted that ridership is high enough to expand service to weekends.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-33, Chester County’s request to modify the FY 2003 - 2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY04 and FY05 construction phases of the Route 202 (Section 402) project (MPMS #14546) in order to fund transit-related Congestion Mitigation System (CMS) strategies. This project would program \$560,000 Federal Highway/\$140,000 state match in FY04 and \$552,000 Federal Highway/\$138,000 state match in FY05.

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

TIP ACTION NJ04-01: ROUTE 295 / ROUTE 38 MISSING MOVES, MT. LAUREL (DB #191A), BURLINGTON COUNTY:

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2004-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding the Route 295/38 Missing Moves project in Mt. Laurel (DB #191A) into the TIP with a \$2.5 million PD (Preliminary Design) phase in FY04 using federal Interstate Maintenance funds. The project is programmed in the Study and Development section in the 2004 TIP which will take affect at the beginning of the new federal fiscal year on October 1, 2003. Adding a FY04 preliminary design phase will enable the project to be advanced. The interchange at Route I-295 and Route 38 in Burlington County currently does not provide direct traffic movements between the two roadways. Close proximity to the New Jersey Turnpike complicates the design and construction issues for completing the interchange.

Discussion: Subcommittee members had questioned how Smart Growth fit into this scenario. They asked for an interim report on the project to detail how this project fits into Smart Growth.

(NOTE: NJDOT intends for the Smart Growth Plan to move in parallel with the preliminary design phase of the I-295/Route 38 Missing Moves interchange project. While it is recognized that substantial development has occurred in that area, the hope is to better manage and plan for continued development so that a new, costly interchange interchange would not fail due to increased congestion. The county will manage the Smart Growth Plan project.)

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Sara Thurston) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ04-01, NJDOT's request to amend the FY 2004 - 2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding the Route 295/38 Missing Moves project (DB #191A) into the TIP with a \$2.5 million preliminary design (PD) phase in FY04 using Interstate Maintenance funds.

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

RESPONSE TO SEPTA REQUEST FOR DATA:

Warren Strumpfer reported that John Pawson had presented his typed response to SEPTA's request for the analyses and data that went into the RCC's comments to the agency in July regarding numerous inefficiencies and proposed changes in SEPTA's operating system. (See attached.)

Mr. Pawson has also prepared an additional page that demonstrates shorter turn-around times which he would like to add to the previous statement.

Discussion: Ajay Creshkoff noted that he was overwhelmed by all of the data; other members agreed. The need to better market service was discussed. The RCC noted their desire for a presentation from SEPTA on marketing rail service at a future meeting.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Warren Strumpfer) to recommend that the DVRPC Board forward the RCC's attached analyses as the committee's response to SEPTA's request for the data used to compile the July recommendations. A delegation of RCC members would be willing to meet with SEPTA officials to discuss this data. The RCC also asks that SEPTA provide a representative to meet with the RCC at a future time to discuss present its plans for marketing rail service in the region.

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

DVRPC DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY:

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director of Public Affairs, explained that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has amended its Right-to-Know Law (PL390) with Act No. 2002-100, enacted June 29, 2002. New Jersey has enacted PL 2001c.404, an Open Public Records Act. DVRPC attorneys have decided that the Commission is not subject to the Pennsylvania act. The revised paper only deal with the New Jersey law. Ms. Snyder explained that she had been told, however, that the Commission would honor requests from Pennsylvania just as it would under the New Jersey policy. The Board will also consider the request to open a public comment period for the DVRPC Public Participation Plan which will have to be amended to include the Disclosure of Public Records Policy. The RCC questioned why this does not apply to Pennsylvania.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sara Thurston, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the Disclosure of Public Records Policy and open a public comment period to amend the DVRPC Public Participation Plan to include this statement. The RCC also urges the Board to adopt a similar policy for Pennsylvania.

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

DVRPC FY 2004 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: SMART GROWTH POLICY FOR

SEWER AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS (BUCKS, CHESTER, DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY, AND PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES):

Patty Elkis, DVRPC Manager, Office of Environmental Planning, explained that the Environmental Protection Agency's *Making Smart Growth Work: Community Innovations and Responses to Barriers* grant program has funded a study "Smart Growth Policy for Sewer and Water Infrastructure". The study area covers Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties in southeastern Pennsylvania and will be managed by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania.

Phase I of the project focused on sewer systems and growth patterns and was divided into 3 tasks over a one year time frame. DVRPC was subcontracted to perform 2 of the 3 tasks. Phase II of the study focuses on *water* systems and DVRPC will again be subcontracted to perform 2 of 3 tasks. The DVRPC analysis will provide a regional inventory of franchise and existing water service areas and their current permitted allocations, usage, and population served. DVRPC will also determine the degree of new housing constructed within existing water service areas, within newly expanded service areas, and within areas not served by public water. This study will help to relate development patterns to the availability of public water service.

Discussion: The RCC questioned whether such a study could be done in New Jersey. Ms. Elkis will try to find out whether the League of Municipalities or New Jersey futures could undertake such a study. Committee members also questioned whether the study tracks how many plants are exceeding their permitted level.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Karen Friedman, seconded by Sara Thurston) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the Smart Growth Policy for Sewer and Water Infrastructure Analysis project.

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

DVRPC FY 2004 WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE 113 HERITAGE CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION LAND USE STUDY, TINICUM TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY AND UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

Jacob Mallikal, DVRPC Project Implementation Coordinator, reported that the purpose of the Heritage Corridor Transportation Land Use Study is to assess existing conditions,

to define areas of the corridor which would be best served by context-sensitive design, to develop knowledge of future plans from local communities, to create future traffic forecasts, and to work with community leaders to develop appropriate transportation solutions and priorities. The concept of this study was developed through the PA 113 Heritage Corridor Partnership, a diverse group of local business, preservation, recreation and community leaders. The Partnership envisioned this study as a means to help them meet their goal of providing needed transportation improvements, while at the same time maintaining a “town and country” setting that is typical of the PA 113 corridor. The Regional Improvement Consortium (RIC), a member of the group, has accepted the role of leadership in the project development. The RIC has been chosen to receive a federal grant for the project and the DVRPC will administer these funds, with representatives from the Montgomery and Bucks County Planning Commissions assisting as core group members. Mr. Mallikal also noted that the goal of the project is to get municipal sponsors to embrace the recommendations of the study and to put them into action.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Jim Farny) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the PA 113 Heritage Corridor Transportation/Land Use Study.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item F on voting record.)

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS (TE) UPDATE:

Mr. Mallikal reported that three TE workshops were held with about 60 people in attendance. The Pennsylvania TE competitive process is being completed on-line. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2003, with funding to be awarded in May of 2004. Mr. Mallikal had sent emails to those on the RCC with available email addresses, notifying them of the available link through PennDOT’s web site. He is currently managing 56 projects, as outlined on the available handout.

MARITIME BRIEFING:

Ted Dahlburg, DVRPC Manager of the Office of Freight Planning, opened by stating that TEA-21 contains provisions for the MPO to deal with freight, including harnessing infrastructure, safely moving goods, and formalizing ties to the freight community. DVRPC created a Goods Movement Task Force ten years ago. Mr. Dahlburg outlined the history of the committee, potential studies, projects funded by CMAQ, and identified regional port facilities.

Mr. Dahlburg then introduced Dominic O'Brien, Marketing Representative for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA). Mr. O'Brien explained that PRPA owns six public cargo terminals on the Pennsylvania side of the river. The authority leases to private operators who work the docks. He then showed photos of Tioga Terminal, Packer Ave, and piers 78 - 80.

Some of the products coming through the port include automobiles, perishables, steel, petroleum, and cocoa. More than 60 million cases of fruit are handled on the PA and NJ sides. 81% of trade is imports, with only 19% being exported. Grants are available for small companies to encourage exporting.

Mr. O'Brien explained that break-bulk is the strongest type of cargo and is palletized like paper. Container cargo, though, is the direction in which the industry is moving. Philadelphia is the number one entry port for Australian meat; the number two steel port; and the number one cocoa port in the nation.

Mr. O'Brien addressed the issues of bridge height and dredging as a means of keeping the port competitive. He stated that the main river channel is 40 plus feet but needs to go to 45 feet. Baltimore's channel is already at 50 feet. Eventually Philadelphia will lose business to other ports if dredging is not done. PRPA, DRPA and the South Jersey Port Corporation are all in favor of dredging.

Mr. Dahlburg asked if the RCC would like to send a representative to the Goods Movement Task Force meetings. Tom Ferguson volunteered to attend. The next meeting is at 10 a.m. on October 8, 2003.

WHAT-IF SCENARIOS:

Jienki Synn, DVRPC Transportation Planner, stated that more than one year ago he had come to the RCC asking for their input on various scenarios. This is a Board Policy Committee-driven project that will feed into the Year 2030 Long-Range Plan. Phase I was a qualitative survey, followed by Phase II which is a quantitative evaluation. The study began with 12 scenarios which were combined to arrive at five; namely, Year 2025 Plan, recentralization, sprawl, in-migration and out-migration. Mr. Synn outlined various maps with findings based upon the scenarios, explaining travel time changes, speed changes, VMT comparisons, estimated accidents, land consumption and air quality.

DVRPC will build strategies and alliances with other groups in the region as well as citizens in order to enhance the scenarios and move the Year 2030 Plan forward. The final What-If Scenarios report will be available shortly. Copies of Mr. Synn's slides will be made available at the next meeting.

Discussion: RCC members questioned whether demographics will be used in this

analysis. It was noted that baby boomers moving back into centers as the year 2030 approaches should be examined. Aging, the availability of energy, and the trend to shop online are factors that should be considered. Ajay Creshkoff noted that the assumptions and the scenarios not used in the final consideration should be spelled out so that everyone can see what went into the rationale for the study.

DRAFT DVRPC FY 2005 WORK PROGRAM:

John Griffies, DVRPC Contracts Manager, outlined the schedule for the Draft DVRPC FY 2005 Work Program, stating that the first Work Program Committee meeting will be held on September 25, with voting on projects to take place in October. Mr. Griffies asked the RCC to prioritize its top five or six projects as soon as possible and submit these by October 9th.

The RCC is considering seven projects that it is promoting: Bus Rapid Transit on Route 55 Corridor in Gloucester County, Bus Service Improvement and Marketing Program, Study of Non-Traditional Funding Alternatives for Public Transportation Projects, Low Car Housing Workshop, Performance Indicators, East Coast Greenway Administration, and PIDN Rail Access Route Needs and Highway Connector Study. Dennis Winters and Warren Strumpfer will provide descriptions of the latter two projects.

The RCC authorized the Transportation Subcommittee to review and prioritize the projects submitted to date for the Draft DVRPC FY 2005 Work Program. In the October RCC packet, Ms. Snyder will include a complete listing of Work Program proposed projects, all RCC proposed projects, and will ask for anyone who wishes to have input to email or fax comments to her before the October 9 Transportation Subcommittee meeting. All RCC voting members have the right to attend any subcommittee meeting.

Ajay Creshkoff advised Mr. Griffies that projects proposed by the counties and other entities should answer the question of how the project fits into the Long-Range Plan.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rules Subcommittee: Pat Horrocks, Rules Subcommittee chair, stated that a meeting had been held prior to the RCC meeting to review the mission statement and to bring procedures up to date. Copies of proposed changes were distributed and reviewed. The draft mission statement and procedures of operation will be reformatted and mailed to all members for a vote in October. (See attached.)

25-Year Task Force: Ernest Cohen presented the following proposal that will be considered at the next Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

A proposal in consideration of the construction of additional railroad tunnels under

the Hudson River (across Manhattan and under the East River): The clearances involved should permit passage of both double-stack freight trains and the highest Amtrak equipment. We would expect that such freight and passenger services would include the Delaware Valley in their routings, thereby decreasing truck traffic.

NEW BUSINESS:

The reform of the SEPTA CAC will be listed as an item on the next RCC meeting agenda.

John Pawson introduced an article on the fuel cell locomotive that is being built by the Department of Defense. A copy of the article will be provided at the next RCC meeting.

John Boyle thanked all those who worked to save TE funding.