

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 2003**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of September 16, 2003 were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, Chair, drew the committee's attention to the Board Response to the RCC's recommendations from September. He also advised that the RCC's comments regarding SEPTA were similar to DVARP's stated position, and that the board had noted their similarities.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

In the interest of time, the adoption of the Rules Subcommittee changes to the Mission Statement and Procedures of Operation were tabled until November.

TIP ACTION PA03-36: \$15 MILLION "FLEX" OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS TO SEPTA FOR OPERATING BUDGET RELIEF, REGIONWIDE (NEW PROJECT, #69529):

Ernest Cohen, Transportation Subcommittee Co-Chair, explained that SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by "flexing" \$15 million of FHWA monies to the FTA in order for the funds to be used by SEPTA to partially close the \$41 million funding shortfall in the Authority's Fiscal Year 2004 Operating Budget. "Flexible funding", one of the hallmarks of ISTEA and TEA-21 federal legislation, enables state and local governments and transportation operators to agree on carefully constructed interagency fund transfers between FHWA and the FTA. The goal is to allow flexibility and encourage an intermodal approach to meeting a region's transportation needs. The act of transferring the funds from one agency to the other is referred to as "flexing." During the recent budget crisis, SEPTA had proposed to cut service and raise fares, but was able to postpone those actions while trying to secure funding. SEPTA's request would program \$15 million federal highway/\$3.750 million SEPTA Match in FY04 which would subsequently be flexed and used for operating expenses. After consultation and cooperation between SEPTA and PENNDOT, PENNDOT has identified funding resources and actions that will maintain fiscal constraint without causing delays.

Discussion: The RCC discussed the planned use for the funding.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the Board approve TIP Action PA03-36, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2003 - 2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by flexing \$15 million of FHWA monies to the FTA in order for the funds to be used by SEPTA to partially close the \$41 million funding shortfall in the Authority's Fiscal Year 2004 Operating Budget. The RCC reiterates its opinion that SEPTA should not discontinue or convert lines, should effect operational efficiencies instead, and should work to eliminate revenue dilutions in its fare policy.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-37a: I-476 BRIDGES OVER GULPH ROAD AND SCHUYLKILL RIVER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (NEW PROJECT, MPMS #69336):

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP using \$1.116 million of state funds. Three structures on I-476 in Montgomery County have been identified by the federal government as in need of design alterations and repair due to the fact that they have "Hoan-like" details which have been determined to cause a bridge to fail over time. Two of the bridges are over Gulph Creek at Balligomingo Road (both northbound and southbound I-476) and the third is over the Schuylkill River. (Hoan refers to this type of bridge identified in Wisconsin.) Hoan-like bridges were designed and constructed using non-redundant welded steel deck girders. PENNDOT proposes to program a \$216,000 preliminary engineering phase and a \$900,000 construction phase. These emergency repairs will use 100% state funding.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-37a, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 - 2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, I-476 Bridges over Gulph Creek and the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County, using \$1.116 million of state funds.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-37b: US 1 RESURFACING, PA 472 TO PA 896, CHESTER COUNTY:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP using \$10 million of state funds for a FY04 construction phase. This 5 mile section of Route 1 in Chester County is between PA 472 and PA 896

and is scheduled for reconstruction 5-7 years from now. Design of the reconstruction project will take approximately 5 years, and in the meantime the roadway is in extremely poor condition and needs repair. PENNDOT has identified \$10 million of state funds that can be used to resurface the roadway as a means of extending the life of the road until the reconstruction project begins. Resurfacing is scheduled for the spring of 2004.

Discussion: Linda Ingenthron expressed support for this project.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Miles Day) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-37b, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 - 2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, US 1 Resurfacing, PA 472 to PA 896 in Chester County, using \$10 million of state funds for a FY04 construction phase.

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

PENNVEST BRISTOL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY:

Cathy Zukoski, Environmental Subcommittee Chair, explained that Bristol Township has requested a \$5,500,000 PennVEST loan to install sanitary sewers, force mains and pump stations and for construction improvements to the Authority Administrative Building.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Cathy Zukoski, seconded by Miles Day) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve Bristol Township's PennVEST Application for a \$5,500,000 loan.

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

PENNVEST BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE:

The Borough of East Greenville has requested a \$5,232,700 PennVEST loan to improve the waterworks impoundment dam, construct a new water storage tank, upgrade and repair the water filter plant, improve the water distribution system and construct a maintenance building for the water system.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Cathy Zukoski, seconded by Miles Day) to recommend that the

DVRPC Board approve East Greenville Borough's PennVEST application for a \$5,232,700 loan.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item E on voting record)

PENNVEST MOLLY'S COUNTRY KENNELS, INC.:

Molly's Country Kennels, Inc in Worcester Township, has requested a \$259,130 PennVEST loan to construct a duplex grinder pumping station to service the Kennel and construct 2,500 linear feet of force main to connect to a regional treatment facility.

Discussion: The Committee noted that the force main should only be as big as it needs to be to serve the kennel. Andy Saul noted that composting would be preferable. He also began a discussion on whether this showed preference to this kennel over possible competitors. The committee also discussed what the funds labeled as "other" would be used for.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Cathy Zukoski, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the Molly's Country Kennels, Inc. PennVEST application for a \$259,130 loan, with the stipulation that the force main should not be any larger than what is required to accommodate the kennel. The committee also noted that the township should list the projects that are entailed in the \$51,600 that falls in the "other" category.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item F on voting record)

DVRPC FY 2004 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: FAA NORTHEAST REGIONAL AIR SERVICE DEMAND STUDY:

Roger Moog, DVRPC Manager of Aviation, explained that the purpose of this study is to define the unconstrained potential air passenger and commercial flight demand for the small commercial service airports whose market areas surround the New York metropolitan area. All three major New York airports (John F. Kennedy (JFK), Newark International (EWR), Laguardia (LGA) have traffic demand exceeding existing capacity and no potential to increase operating capacity through physical expansion. Surrounding airports including Trenton Mercer, Lehigh Valley International, and Atlantic City in the DVRPC study area have excess unused capacity.

DVRPC has contracted with FAA to provide management services to a subcontracted consultant who will survey passengers, define market areas, and identify unconstrained possible future demand at the three small commercial service airports. In phase II of the

study, yet to be programmed airport constraints, community impacts, airspace limitations, airport expansion and airline service modifications options will be considered. Ultimately, creating a shift of passenger demand to underutilized airports closer to ground origin is the objective.

Discussion: The RCC discussed the exact parameters of the study, including whether it would address airfare issues, ground congestion, air traffic patterns, and transit access to the airports. Though not all will be studied in phase one, many will be addressed in later stages.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Miles Day) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the FAA Northeast Regional Air Service Demand Study.

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

DVRPC FY 2004 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: SOUTH JERSEY PORT INLAND DISTRIBUTION NETWORK (PIDN) STUDY-PHASE II:

Ted Dahlberg, DVRPC Manager of Freight Planning, reported that in Phase I of the South Jersey Port Inland Distribution Network (SJ PIDN) study, five prospective sites were screened for their appropriateness for PIDN development. One site in southern Camden was identified as the most suitable for potential at this time. The purpose of Phase II of this study is to further define the development of a PIDN site in South Jersey. Phase II will lead to the development of an Action/Business Plan that will more concretely specify the requirements necessary for the establishment of a SJ PIDN, with the Camden/ Gloucester City area as the focus of current SJ PIDN service development; Salem will continue to be reviewed as a possible secondary SJ PIDN service location in the future. Additionally, the study will identify the economic and environmental benefits afforded by a SJ PIDN site. The products of the study will assist decision makers in evaluating the merits of supporting SJ PIDN development.

Discussion: The RCC discussed how the PIDN would affect Philadelphia Ports and the social and environmental impacts of developing the network. The committee also addressed points raised by Warren Strumpfer in the Transportation Subcommittee report about highway safety and rail crossings. After lengthy discussion, the committee determined that these points were addressed in the RTC's revision of the amendment. Ted Dahlberg also offered to follow up with Mr. Strumpfer directly to address his concerns.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Creighton Rabs) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the South Jersey Port Inland Distribution Network Study, Phase II project.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item H on voting record.)

DVRPC FY 2004 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: ECOMMUTE TELEWORK PILOT PROGRAM, PHASE III:

Stacy Bartels, DVRPC Manager of Marketing and Commuter Services, reported that in recognition of traffic congestion and its resultant air pollution as one of the most pressing environmental problems, GETF, with funding and direction from EPA, is completing a study of telework's potential for improving air quality through an incentive-based approach. It was determined in program development that an emissions trading program should be designed to encourage private participation through market incentives. To address these concerns, Congress enacted legislation that would allow for pilot programs in five metropolitan areas to test this emissions trading program; Philadelphia is one of those areas.

DVRPC will continue to administer this program in its final phase for the Pennsylvania portion of the DVRPC region. Much of the final outreach and training efforts will be handled by a telework specialist, contracted by DVRPC. DVRPC and its contractor will also review and summarize data from participating employers.

Discussion: The RCC discussed employers' incentives for participating in the program, as well as how emissions are tracked and banked for sale or trade to other regions.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Bob Machler) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the ecommute Telework Pilot Program, Phase III project.

MOTION CARRIED (see Item I on voting record)

DVRPC FY 2004 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: EWING TOWNSHIP TRANSIT ORIENTED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, MERCER COUNTY:

Karen Cilurso, DVRPC Regional Planner, reported that the West Trenton area of Ewing Township in Mercer County is served by the SEPTA West Trenton station and has been identified by the township and the New Jersey State Plan as a potential "Village Center".

With the recent closing of the General Motors plant and the Naval Warfare Center, there is now more than 100 acres of land adjacent to the village, the train station, and the Mercer County airport.

Potential expansion of transit service through this area could provide a new connection to northern New Jersey and New York City as well as Philadelphia. This area now has the potential to become a significant transit center, and a new focal point as a center for Ewing Township.

The proposed project would engage a consultant to develop a Master Plan for transit-oriented development and redevelopment in the area of the West Trenton Train Station area in Ewing Township, Mercer County. The project would prepare a community needs assessment, market analysis, physical site evaluation and master plan for the area with an implementation agenda for local, county, state, regional and private sector action. DVRPC would issue the RFP and oversee the contract, with technical oversight by Ewing Township and Mercer County.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Bob Machler) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the Ewing Township Transit Oriented Redevelopment Plan.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item J on voting record)

DVRPC FY 2004 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT: DELAWARE RIVER JOINT TOLL BRIDGE COMMISSION (DRJTBC) SCUDDER FALLS BRIDGE WIDENING TRAFFIC STUDY:

Dr. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, reported that in FY 2001 the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC) initiated a project to perform a transportation planning study (Southerly Crossings Corridor Study) to address the multi-modal transportation needs, including additional river crossing capacity, between the southern end of Duck Island (Mercer County, NJ) and Washington Crossing (Bucks County, PA). That effort identified Scudder Falls Bridge widening as a highly ranked alternative in need of design level transportation data and preliminary scoping and feasibility assessment. Recently, the DRJTBC retained a consultant (DMJM+HARRIS) to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental analysis for the proposed widening of the Scudder Falls Bridge and other I-95 improvements. These improvements are between PA 332 (Newtown Yardley Road) in Bucks County, PA and CR 579 (Bear Tavern Road) in Mercer County, NJ. For this work, DRJTBC and its consultants will require DVRPC to provide projected daily and peak hour traffic volumes for the I-95 mainline, interchange ramps, and other selected roadways. DVRPC will provide

DMJM+HARRIS with traffic forecasts and other modeling services.

It is estimated that the cost to provide these services will be \$85,000 and will be completed within the current fiscal year. Board approval of DVRPC participation in this study is needed before staff enters into an agreement with DRJTBC.

Discussion: The RCC discussed the scope of this study, and advocated accommodations for non-motorized vehicles. John Pawson noted the close proximity of the CSX Railroad bridge that the R3 train uses to cross the river, and asked that the location of that bridge be noted in the description. The RCC also expressed interest in keeping informed of this study's progress.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Creighton Rabs, seconded by Karen Friedman) to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program to include the Scudders Falls Bridge Widening Traffic Study, with special consideration for accommodating bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The RCC also requests that a presentation of the final report be given to the committee, to allow continued involvement with this project.

MOTION CARRIED. (See item K on voting record)

ENDORSEMENT OF DVRPC FY 2005 WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES:

Dennis Winters called the committee's attention to the Work Program Priorities that had been identified by the Transportation Subcommittee. He reported that the DVRPC Work Program Committee met on October 9, 2003, and none of the RCC projects made the final list of funded projects.

Discussion: The RCC discussed which projects had been funded. Ernest Cohen suggested that the RCC officially endorse their list of priorities, even though the funding decisions had already been made.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to approve the following list of priorities for DVRPC's FY 2005 Work Program:

Transit Service Improvements and Marketing Program; Bicycle Travel Survey; Non-Traditional Public Transit Funding Alternatives; Rail Restoration Study; and Assistance in Development of East Coast Greenway.

MOTION CARRIED (see item L on voting record)

PLANNING AT THE EDGE PRESENTATION:

Rich Bickel, DVRPC Deputy Director of Regional Planning, presented the results of DVRPC's Planning at the Edge study. Although DVRPC is only officially responsible for the nine counties in the Delaware Valley region, planning issues don't stop at county lines. Eight of DVRPC's counties (all but Philadelphia) share boundaries with areas governed by other planning organizations. While DVRPC authority extends outside the region for a few functional planning activities, such as Air Quality and Aviation Management, no standard framework exists for communication and coordination with adjacent regions on most issues.

To facilitate communication and coordination across boundary lines, the DVRPC Board supported the inclusion of the *Planning at the Edge* project in the Fiscal Year 2003 Work Program. Over the past several months, DVRPC staff has facilitated outreach meetings with other agencies, analyzed pertinent demographic, development and travel trends and has formed a Study Advisory Committee to identify issues and to review study products. A full report, including successful case studies of cross-boundary coordination in Central New Jersey and the New Castle County, Delaware area, as well as proposed communication approaches to address cross-boundary issues, is expected to be released by the end of the current fiscal year.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Transportation Subcommittee: Ernest Cohen reported the subcommittee would address some issues regarding the Hudson River Tunnels at the next meeting. Lorraine Brill noted that this may be of interest to the DVRPC Goods Movement Committee.

Nominating Committee: Karen Friedman reported that the committee would have more to announce next month, but wanted to advise the RCC that there is no representation from Mercer or Burlington Counties.

OLD BUSINESS:

Quality of Life Indicators: Ajay Creshkoff reported on a conference he had attended that sought to identify Quality of Life factors in the region. He noted that he had put DVRPC staff in touch with the group that organized the conference. He advised that the committee stay abreast of the group's progress.

Discussion of SEPTA's Citizen Advisory Committee: Dennis Winters distributed an article that appeared in the Delaware County Daily Times regarding expired terms of many members of SEPTA's Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Winters explained that the 3-term,

6-year limit is not just the Committee's rule, it is State Law. He encouraged the committee to write to Delaware County about this offense.

Elaine Cohen reported that Harry Hyde's Memorial Service was very moving. She also reported that the 14th Annual Sustainable Society Conference would be held on November 16 at the University of Pennsylvania.