

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 13, 2004**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of November 18, 2003 were approved with one grammatical correction to page one under Election of the Chair.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, Chair, announced the following appointments for calendar year 2004:

PA Vice Chair: Lorraine Brill
NJ Vice Chair: Warren Strumpfer
RTC Representative: Warren Strumpfer
RTC Alternate: Ernest Cohen

Mr. Winters stated that the December Board Retreat had been a worthwhile experience, although he would have appreciated a more transit-friendly location.

He also explained that it is necessary to move meeting agendas along more efficiently. He proposed that the RCC go back to the policy of discussing any agenda item for a ten-minute period. At the end of the ten minutes, the RCC would decide as a whole whether to dedicate more time to the issue. Ms. Snyder will bring a timer to the next RCC meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS AND 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 consider Ajay creshkoff's suggested changes. Copies of proposed changes were distributed and reviewed.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Pat Horrocks, seconded by Karen Friedman) to approve the attached RCC Mission Statement and Procedures of Operation.

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

Ranking of Transportation Enhancement (TE) Projects: Dennis Winters noted that

the RCC had been granted a voting representative on the TE Selection Committee. Warren Strumpfer, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that the list of 77 projects had been divided into 7 separate lists by county, and a representative was assigned to each list as follows:

Bucks County: Karen Friedman
Chester County: Linda Ingenthron
Delaware County: Ernest Cohen
Eastern Montgomery County: John Pawson
Western Montgomery County: Don Augustine
Philadelphia Streetscape Projects: John Boyle
Philadelphia Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects: Dennis Winters

Each representative had reviewed and prioritized his or her projects prior to the meeting. Don Augustine noted that it would have been helpful if the applications had included photography of the area. Ernest Cohen went to each site and took his own photos. Mr. Winters thanked those individuals who had contributed so much time to ranking the TE projects which were prioritized as follows:

1. Route 13 Pedestrian Bridge, Tullytown (Bucks County)
2. East Falls Reconnects to the River, Phase 1 (Philadelphia County)
3. Sadsbury Village Bike/ Ped Plan (Chester)
4. Lansdowne Bike/ Ped Path (Delaware)
5. Tookany Creek Pedestrian Walking Trail (Montgomery)
6. New Hanover Bike and Pedestrian Trail (Montgomery)
7. Bike/ Ped Ramp at South Street Bridge (Philadelphia)
8. Pottstown Pedestrian Underpass (Montgomery)
9. Coatesville Train Station Rehab (Chester)
10. Intermodal Transportation Improvements (Delaware)
11. Washington Crossing Gateway Park (Bucks)
12. Flourtown-Erdenheim Community Gateways (Montgomery)
13. State Route 340 Connector Sidewalk Project (Chester)
14. Industrial Heritage Highway/ East Coast Greenway Trail (Delaware)
15. Ridge Triangle Transit Park (Philadelphia)
16. 4th Street Pedestrian Bike and Streetscape Improvement (Montgomery)
17. Newtown Trail #2 (Bucks)
18. Bike/ Ped Enhancements at Ferry Terminal (Philadelphia)
19. Darby Historic Trolley (Delaware)
20. Park Road Trail (Chester)
21. Delaware Canal Tunnel (Bucks)

Mr. Winters explained that John Boyle had questioned the why the Bicycle Education and

Enhancement Program (BEEP) was not in the packet of projects to be reviewed last week. He believes that this project should be given serious consideration in place of the Ridge Triangle Transit Park (Philadelphia) listed at #15. The BEEP Project is estimated to cost \$411,000 with a 20% match. The project is an integrated in-school bicycle education and safety program that teaches 5th - 8th graders how to bike safely and legally. The program also includes basic cycling and repair skills. It complements learning in six academic areas, promotes physical fitness and environmental awareness, and enhances personal safety. Lorraine Brill noted that the Ridge Triangle Transit Park Project called for landscaping; she believed it could be funded elsewhere.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Karen Friedman) to endorse the above ranking of Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects with the Bicycle Education and Enhancement Program (BEEP) replacing the Ridge Triangle Transit Park Project at #15.

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

Mr. Winters will present this ranking at the TE Meeting scheduled for January 16, 2004.

Response to Septa Request for Data: John Pawson 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.)

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Warren Strumpfer) to recommend that the DVRPC Board forward the attached response to SEPTA's request for the analysis used in the RCC's evaluation of the agency's operating inefficiencies.

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

Future Speakers: Mr. Pawson recommended that the RCC invite Andrew Cassel, Inquirer reporter, to address the committee on the dispersion of Center City jobs. He explained that if the City is losing jobs, the SEPTA is losing revenue since commuters into the City are the prime source of revenue for the agency.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Miles Day) to invite Andrew

Cassel as a future speaker, and to ask the Transportation Subcommittee to formulate a list of invitees.

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

Discussion: The RCC discussed other potential speakers, including Tom Gurick, Board Chair, whom Ajay Creshkoff felt should address Board member perceptions about the RCC and improving the dialogue between the Board and RCC. An invitation will be extended to Commissioner Gurick for a future meeting.

TIP ACTION PA03-42a: US 202 Section 700 Wetland Mitigation, Bucks County:

Mr. Strumpfer reported that PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP with a \$7.3 million construction phase. This project provides for wetland replacement associated with Section 700 of Route 202 reconstruction. Originally programmed in the 2001 TIP for right-of-way and construction, the construction phase was never advanced or incorporated in the current TIP. The request is to program construction using \$800,000 federal highway funds/\$200,000 state match in FY04 and \$5.040 million federal highway funds/\$1.260 million state match in FY05. Sixteen acres of wetland in Chalfont Borough will be impacted by Section 700. Two acres of wetland are typically replaced for each acre of wetland impacted. In this case, a 225 acre parcel was purchased as part of this project in order to accommodate the required replacement of 28 acres of wetland. This large parcel provides an extensive buffer area around the wetland replacement area located near Kansas Road, Warminster Township along the Neshaminy Creek.

Discussion: The subcommittee had discussed PennDOT's poor record for restoring watersheds, and noted that the agency has withdrawn its wetland encroachment application for this project.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by) to recommend that the DVRPC Board table TIP Action PA03-42a until PennDOT resubmits the Section 404, US 202 wetland encroachment application, and until the agency proves that it can build a viable wetland replacement project.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-42b: PA 162 Embreeville Road, Bridge Replacement, Chester County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, PA 162 Embreeville Road, Bridge Replacement, to the TIP with a \$525,000 preliminary engineering phase in FY04 using state funds, and \$960,000 federal funds/\$240,000 Toll Credit match (\$1.2 million federal funds) for the FY04 construction phase. This bridge located in West Bradford Township was damaged by Hurricane Isabel and closed on September 15, 2003. Rising water from the hurricane caused a portion of the bridge deck to cave in. PENNDOT has implemented an emergency procedure to expedite quick replacement of the structure.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Pat Horrocks) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-42b, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The PA 162 Embreeville Road Bridge Replacement (MPMS #69947) will program a \$525,000 state funded preliminary engineering phase in FY04 and a \$960,000 federal funds/\$240,000 Toll Credit match (\$1.2 million of federal funds) construction phase in FY04.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-42c: Aquetong Road, Bridge Replacement, Bucks County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP with a \$400,000 final design phase in FY04 using \$400,000 state funds. This bridge is located in Solebury Township and was originally programmed using state maintenance funds. Due to severe weather conditions affecting state maintenance funds, several low cost bridge projects are being added to the TIP using a different variety of state funds.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Karen Friedman) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-42c, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The Aquetong Road, Bridge Replacement (MPMS #47406) will program a \$400,000 state funded final design phase in FY04.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-42d: Betzwood Bridge, Hoan Retrofit, Montgomery County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by

adding a new project into the TIP using \$421,00 of state funds. The Betzwood Bridge on Rt. 422 over the Schuylkill River in West Norriton and Upper Merion Townships has been identified by the federal government as in need of design alterations and repair due to the fact that it has “Hoan- like” details which have been determined to cause a bridge to fail over time. (Hoan refers to this type of bridge identified in Wisconsin.) Hoan-like bridges were “designed and constructed using non-redundant welded steel deck girders” and have deficiencies in their load bearing ability. PENNDOT proposes to program a \$30,000 utility phase in FY04 for the railroad work required, and a \$391,000 construction phase also in FY04. These emergency repairs will use 100% state funding. This request is similar to the one made this past fall for three other bridges in Montgomery County. The Betzwood Bridge is the 4th and final bridge identified in the DVRPC region as needing these repairs.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Creighton Rabs) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-42d, PENNDOT’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The Betzwood Bridge Hoan Retrofit (MPMS #69565) will program a \$30,000 utility phase and a \$391,000 construction phase, both in FY04 using state funds.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-42e: Kutztown Bridge over Molasses Creek, Culvert Replacement, Montgomery County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP with a \$275,000 final design phase in FY04 using state funds. This bridge is located in Upper Hanover Township and was originally programmed using state maintenance funds. Due to severe weather conditions affecting state maintenance funds, several low cost bridge projects are being added to the TIP using a different variety of state funds.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Creighton Rabs) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve PA03-42e, PENNDOT’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project.

The Kutztown Bridge over Molasses Creek Culvert Replacement (MPMS #50671) will program a \$275,000 state funded final design phase in FY04.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-42f: Green Valley Road Bridge Replacement, Chester County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP with a \$120,000 final design phase in FY04 using state funds. This bridge is located in Newlin Township and was originally programmed using state maintenance funds. Due to severe weather conditions affecting state maintenance funds, several low cost bridge projects are being added to the TIP using a different variety of state funds. Pat Horrocks pointed out that the gray areas shown on the map are in the wrong locations.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Pat Horrocks) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-42f, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The Green Valley Road Bridge Replacement (MPMS #50662) will program a \$120,000 state funded final design phase in FY04.

MOTION CARRIED (See Item J on voting record.)

TIP ACTION PA03-42g: US 422 Resurfacing, PA 29 to Township Line, Montgomery County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP using \$610,000 of state funds for a FY04 final design phase. This 4 mile section of Route 422 requires maintenance improvements in order to extend the life of the road and improve the riding surface of the highway. This section of roadway runs between Upper Providence and Limerick Townships. The roadway will be sealed to preserve joints and avoid freeze/thaw complications, and some guiderail and shoulder improvements will also be made.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Kare Friedman) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-42g, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The US 422 Resurfacing Project, PA 29 to Township Line (MPMS #51359) will program a \$610,000 state funded final design phase in FY04.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-42h: US 1 Resurfacing, PA 896 to PA 41, Chester County:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP using \$10.5 million of state funds for a FY04 construction phase. This 6 mile section of Route 1 in Chester County is between PA 896 and Route 41 and is adjacent (to the west) of the section on Route 1 that was approved for similar work in the fall of this year. Route 1 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 \$10.5 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.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Pat Horrocks) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-42h, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The US 1 Resurfacing Project, PA 896 to PA 41 (MPMS #69957) will program \$10.5 million of state funds for a construction phase in FY04.

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

TIP ACTION PA03-43: Center City Signal Improvement Project Phase 3, Philadelphia:

The City of Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY03-06 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP with a \$150,000 final design phase in FY04. The Center City Signal Improvement Project (CCSIP3) is the third and final phase of the city's efforts to install a computerized traffic signal system throughout Center City Philadelphia. Phase 3 will include improvements in the northeast and northwest quadrants of Center City. Phase 1 (MPMS #17579) of the project installed the system in the southwest quadrant of downtown Philadelphia. The second phase (MPMS #17655) will be let in the spring of 2004, and will expand the system into the southeast quadrant.

Discussion: Ajay Creshkoff questioned how RCC members can deal with the level of technical detail on the TIP maps without engineering backgrounds.

Some members have the expertise to explain such matters. Larry Shaeffer asked whether there has been a level of service improvement in the intersections that have been improved to date. Candace Snyder, DVRPC Public Affairs Director, will follow up with the City Streets Department to try to get a report on the other quadrants of the City where these improvements have been completed; City engineers could also be invited to report on the estimate of increase in the level of service.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Stumpfer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-43, The City of Philadelphia Streets Department's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The Center City Signal Improvement Project, Phase 3 (MPMS #70014) will program \$150,000 STP-STU funds for a final design phase in FY04.

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

DRAFT DVRPC FY 2005 WORK PROGRAM:

John Griffies, DVRPC Contracts Manager, outlined progress to date on DVRPC's FY 2005 Draft Work Program. He stated that the Work Program (PWP) consists of: (1) DVRPC's Regular Work Program, (2) Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP), and (3) Transit Support Program (TSP). It reflects the policy direction provided by the Board's Planning Work Program Committee and the input from member governments, operating agencies and other regional organizations.

The Work Program is now in the public comment phase. Copies of the document were distributed and placed on the DVRPC's web site. Mr. Griffies cited the RCC's active participation in the discussion of the Work Program's projects and priorities.

Discussion: Ajay Creshkoff stated that each year the RCC gets this document in the same format. He emphasized that there needs to be implementation information. In the next Work Program, he would like to see a description of how each project relates to the long-range plan. He questioned what progress has actually been made. Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director, pointed out that changes have been made in the format of the Work Program. Each project is tied to a goal statement that reflects the long-range plan. Mr. Seymour also stated that the Board had approved a project to update the Regional Indicators which would show progress in relation to the plan. Progress reports are submitted by each project manager to show movement toward objectives. Mr. Griffies stated that he would supply copies of the Quarterly Progress Report for RCC members next month.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Warren Stumpfer) to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the FY 2005 Planning Work Program, authorize the Executive Director to submit applications and documentation as may be required to fund the program and enter into, negotiate and execute all required contracts and

agreements by passing Resolution No. B-FY04-003. Further, approve the actions to amend or modify the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey and the FY 2003-2006 for Pennsylvania as required.

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

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (TCDI):

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director, explained that TCDI was created by DVRPC in 2002 to support local development and redevelopment efforts in the region's individual municipalities in order to implement municipal, county, state and regional planning objectives. The program provides a mechanism for these municipalities to undertake locally directed actions to improve their communities, which in turn implements their local and county comprehensive plans and supports the goals of the long-range plan. Mr. Seymour reviewed a recent assessment report which documents the status and implementation strategies for the 26 projects selected for funding in 2002. This assessment cited such success stories as Ardmore and Pottstown, and discussion ensued on lessons learned.

Mr. Seymour stated that there is now some question regarding: the timing of the program; the level of funding; and whether the program should provide additional funding to support implementation of these community activities. Staff is recommending that the TCDI program continue in the next fiscal year with funding available through the PA and NJ TIPs beginning in October, 2004.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Karen Friedman, seconded by John Nawn) to recommend that the DVRPC Board support the continuation of the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) on an annual basis. Funding should be maintained at the current levels of \$1 million in Pennsylvania and \$500,000 in New Jersey.

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

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROTOCOL:

Kendall Miller, DVRPC Manager of Public Involvement, defined Environmental Justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of religion, race or ethnicity, income or education level in environmental decision-making.

She stated that DVRPC's Environmental Justice Program promotes the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation and involvement, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities. DVRPC's Draft Environmental Justice Protocol is a guide that was created to assist employees with meeting DVRPC's goals. It will also be helpful to the agencies with whom we work in meeting Environmental Justice and Title VI mandates. Ms. Miller will present the Protocol to DVRPC's Board next week and, pending their approval, will take the document out for public comment when DVRPC's Public Participation Plan is opened for amendment in February, 2004. Following public review, the Protocol would be adopted as a policy by the Board and as an addendum to DVRPC's Public Participation Plan.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Creighton Rabs, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the Draft Environmental Justice Protocol and authorize its release as part of the Public Participation Plan's 45-day public comment period.

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ajay Creshkoff outlined the results of a Center City Residents' Association Member Survey that he had distributed. The findings focused on the parking policy. He stated that anyone with similar concerns should address them to the City Planning Commission.

The Chair noted that Warren Strumpfer and John Nawn will continue in their roles as the RCC's representatives to the TCDI Committee.

Larry Shaeffer noted some topics and speakers that he thought would be of interest, including the Hybrid Bus Project.

The RCC commended Jenny Ruth and John Coscia on the Inquirer article entitled "Taming a Regional Monster."