

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 2004**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, responded to questions in February's minutes about funding for Transportation Management Associations. She noted that she issues a quarterly report with updated information, and made them available to interested members of the RCC. The minutes of the RCC meeting of February 17, 2004 were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Lorraine Brill, RCC Vice Chair, reported on a special meeting for the local railroad community hosted by DVRPC on March 11. The meeting was held in anticipation of a public hearing to be held by the Surface Transportation Board in Trenton on April 2, 2004. The meeting was an opportunity for shippers, receivers, short lines, ports and others to discuss the South Jersey/ Philadelphia Shared Asset Area and the Conrail Transaction.

DVRPC Marketing Video Presentation: Creating Tomorrow Today

Jenny Ruth, DVRPC Communications Manager, introduced DVRPC's newly-completed video entitled *Creating Tomorrow Today*. It will serve as an introduction to citizens throughout the region, informing them about DVRPC and how they can get involved in regional decision-making. It will also be used by Commission staff as a presentation piece at speaking engagements. The CD includes the 11-minute video as well as twenty "still pages", which provide more in-depth information on specific DVRPC projects and programs. DVRPC's Public Affairs staff will be forwarding the CD to more than 500 neighborhood organizations, special interest groups, citizens, and libraries throughout the region in the next few months.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) ACTIONS:

TIP Action PA03-48: East Coast Greenway/Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Across Route 13 (MPMS #65922), Bucks County

Warren Strumpfer reported that Bucks County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania. During a previous selection round of Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects, the Clean Air Council was selected to shepherd preliminary engineering activity of a to-be-determined project location along the designated route of the East Coast Greenway in Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties. After 15

months the Clean Air Council was not able to move ahead on a specific location or project. During this time period the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (DCNR) identified a priority location and preliminary engineering funds for a pedestrian overpass on US Route 13 in Tullytown Borough, Bucks County. The overpass project has strong local and county support and is a needed link for the completion of this section of the East Coast Greenway. The request is to change the sponsoring agency from the Clean Air Council to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. No additional funds are being requested for this project which is currently programmed with an ERC (Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Construction) phase using \$500,000 TE funds in FY04. The new project title will be "Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge across PA Route 13" and it will be programmed for construction in FY04.

Discussion: Ken Edmonds of East Coast Greenway provided additional background on the selection of this project. He noted that ECG had requested that this project move forward under the direction of DCNR because this section of the Greenway was the most viable and could begin quickly.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-48, Bucks County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by changing the sponsor of this project (MPMS #65922) from the Clean Air Council to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The title will also be changed from the East Coast Greenway to "Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Across Route 13" and a \$500,000 construction phase will be programmed in FY04.

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

TIP Action PA03-49: Market Street Gateway Phase 2, Delaware County (New Proposed Project)

Delaware County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP, the Market Street Gateway, Phase 2 project. This project would be added with a locally funded \$70,000 preliminary engineering phase in FY04. Comprised of three phases, the Gateway project is an overall economic development strategy to improve the "Gateway" area between Upper Darby and Philadelphia by implementing roadway and pedestrian improvements to Market Street (PA Route 3) from just west of the 69th Street Terminal to the Delaware/Philadelphia border. Upper Darby Township will fund the engineering work. Placing the project on the TIP at this time allows a PENNDOT project manager to be assigned to the project to assist in expediting the process. Construction on Phase 1 of this project began last year.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA03-49, Delaware County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The Market Street Gateway Phase 2 will program a \$70,000 locally funded preliminary engineering phase in FY04.

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

TIP Action NJ04-06a: Route 168 / 41 Runnemede Drainage, Route 41 to Sixth Avenue, Camden County (DB #95059)

NJDOT requested to modify the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by federalizing the Route 168 / 41 Runnemede Drainage, Route 41 to Sixth Avenue (DB #95059) and programming a \$4.570 million STP funded construction phase in FY04. This action removes the \$6.5 million state funded construction phases in FY04 (\$1.2 million) and FY05 (\$5.3 million).

Discussion: Warren Strumpfer read Elizabeth Schoonmaker's response to the transportation subcommittee questions, noting that any drainage grates installed for this project would be bicycle-friendly.

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ04-06a, NJDOT's request to modify the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by federalizing the Route 168 / 41 Runnemede Drainage project (DB #95059) and programming a \$4.570 million STP funded construction phase in FY04. Further remove the \$6.5 million state funded construction phases in FY04 (\$1.2 million) and FY05 (\$5.3 million).

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

TIP Action NJ04-06b: Local Safety Initiatives, New Proposed Project (DB #04314), Various New Jersey Counties

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2004-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project into the TIP, programming a construction phase in FY04 using \$150,000 STP Safety funds. A call for specific local projects which could be quickly and easily implemented as part of a new safety initiative went out in December of 2003 from NJDOT. Based on consultation with DVRPC staff and the New Jersey Subcommittee, DVRPC recommended four projects be considered for this program, and recently, two projects were selected by NJDOT:

- Safety Improvements to Cooper Street from Broadway (CR 551) to 8th Street, City of Camden
- Safety Program to Install Raised Pavement Markers, Gloucester County

The City of Camden improvement entails new road stripping and signal improvements and was based on priority recommendations from DVRPC staff that had been derived from completed corridor studies. Pavement marker installation was directly recommended as a priority program by county staff.

Discussion: Elizabeth Schoonmaker clarified that while the information that RCC members received in the mail included four potential projects for this program, since that time NJ DOT has selected the final two projects to receive funding. She also explained that although bicycle and pedestrian projects were not precluded from consideration for this money, none were quickly identifiable or able to move to construction by the end of this fiscal year. John Boyle reiterated his belief that more of an effort should be made to spend safety money on bicycle and pedestrian projects, especially considering that 12% of traffic fatalities are bicyclists or pedestrians.

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Sara Thurston) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ04-06b, NJDOT's request to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a new project. The Local Safety Initiatives (DB #04314) will program a \$150,000 construction phase in FY04 using STP-Safety funds.

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

TIP Action NJ04-06c: East Windsor - Bear Brook Bicycle Path (DB #98536), Mercer County

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2004-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding a project back into the TIP, programming a FY04 construction phase with \$217,000 specially earmarked DEMO funds. The East Windsor - Bear Brook Bicycle/Pedestrian Path project was previously included in the FY2001 TIP, but inadvertently omitted from the FY2004-2006 TIP for New Jersey. The mile long path will run along Bear Brook from Wiltshire Parkway, cross over the brook, and terminate at the Mercer County Hickory Branch County Library off of Route 130.

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by James Farny) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ04-06c, NJDOT's request to amend the

FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a project back into the TIP. The East Windsor - Bear Brook Bicycle Path (DB #98536) will program a \$217,000 DEMO funded construction phase in FY04.

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

TIP Action NJ04-07: IdleAire Advanced Travel Center Electrification (DB #D0404), Gloucester County

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2004-06 TIP for New Jersey by changing the scope to include a different location for installation of the truck idling system that was approved for funding under the recent round of competitive CMAQ projects. The intent of the IdleAire system is to eliminate unnecessary extended idling of long-haul diesel truck engines during mandated 8 hour rest periods for drivers and provides heat/air conditioning, electric power, phone, internet, etc., for an hourly fee to drivers so that they may turn off their engines while resting. This project was originally to be implemented by installing equipment for 70 parking spaces at a selected truck rest stop (Paulsboro Travel Center, I-295, exit 18A) in Gloucester County. Recent negotiations between DEP, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM, a consortium of air quality agencies), IdleAire and DVRPC, have resulted in a request to use the \$600,000 CMAQ funding to install the system at a location in Bordentown, Burlington County, near exit 7 of the New Jersey Turnpike, close to I-295, since another funding mechanism is available to fund the Paulsboro site. A penalty imposed on Eagle Point Refinery in Westville, NJ for air violations will provide \$1,000,000 which must be used for installing this truck stop electrification project in Paulsboro. This provides an opportunity for the region to install the system at a second location in Bordentown, Burlington County.

Discussion: Elizabeth Schoonmaker clarified that Paulsboro received funding from a different source, but will still have the equipment installed, while the Bordentown location will use the original CMAQ funds.

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Sara Thurston) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ04-07, NJDOT's request to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by changing the location of the IdleAire Advanced Travel Center Electrification project (DB #D0404) to Bordentown in Burlington County.

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

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FY 2003-2007 Airport Capital Program, DVRPC Regional Portion:

Reiner Pelzer, DVRPC Aviation Planner, summarized the newly implemented DVRPC process for project selection of airport grants. He noted that DVRPC will have an expanded role in capital programming. Regional priority projects will be incorporated into PENNDOT airport capital programming on an annual basis. DVRPC's goal is to ensure federal and state investment in our regional aviation system.

Discussion: Sara Thurston noted the difficulty of keeping smaller private airports afloat amid pressures from encroaching housing development. Reiner responded that the State of New Jersey is trying to purchase small reliever airports in order to keep these airports open. The committee discussed the importance of coordinating planning at all levels, to ensure that master plans allow room for smaller airports to exist and expand. Roger Moog noted that closing a small airport can have a significant impact on regional and national air travel, as short flights must then take up airspace at Philadelphia International.

JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM (JARC)

Richard Bickel, Deputy Director of Regional Planning, explained that \$85,000 from FY 2002 JARC funds is available for re-allocation. Three Transportation Management Associations (TMA) in the region— Partnership TMA in Montgomery County, Chester County TMA, and Delaware County TMA— submitted applications to receive a portion of this money, for the following projects:

Chester County TMA: \$39,925 to restore the Saturday schedule between Oxford and Longwood, and to expand weekday SCCOOT service.

Delaware County TMA: \$64,000 to maintain Quick Silver Shuttles in cooperation with four major employers in the region.

Partnership TMA: \$19, 000 to support Community Coaster Shuttle service.

Mr. Bickel reported that a special committee, included Don Augustine from the RCC, was appointed to determine funding. The committee will recommend to the DVRPC Board that Chester and Delaware Counties receive partial funding for their requests, and that Partnership TMA receive their full request, to total the \$85,000 available.

Discussion: Creighton Rabs questioned whether the Saturday service in Chester County would include service to West Chester. The committee also discussed using employer funds to match for these projects.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS AND REPORTS:

Transportation Subcommittee: Warren Strumpfer reported on hybrid-diesel locomotives (called “Green Goats”), and the success they’ve achieved in other areas of the country. Mr. Strumpfer introduced a resolution from the subcommittee to encourage SEPTA to test these Green Goats in the region.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by John Boyle) to recommend that the DVRPC Board and SEPTA to consider testing diesel-hybrid locomotives in the region, as such “Green Goat” technology could significantly reduce emissions, particularly in the commuter tunnel.

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

Jenny Ruth responded to the subcommittee’s questions about the use of the RCC’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Resolution. She reported that the resolution was initially intended to have “stock” language to include on Board motions relating to bike/ ped projects. When RCC members advocate for bicycle and pedestrian projects within their communities, they may include the fact that the RCC supports bicycle and pedestrian projects, and typically adds this resolution to actions.

Year 2025 Task Force: See attached report from Ernest Cohen.

OTHER BUSINESS:

New Jersey Transportation Enhancements Update: Jakob Malikkal, DVRPC Senior Planner, reported that a total of 43 projects submitted applications to receive TE funds in New Jersey. While DVRPC is not administering the New Jersey TE Program, staff was asked to score the projects. Staff will submit their scoring by April 15, 2004. On April 22, the scoring committee will meet to discuss projects, and will forward their selections to the Governor’s Office by April 26, 2004.

Swamp Road Update: Sue Herman reported that construction of the new culverts on Swamp Road is expected to be completed by Labor Day of this year. She also reported that PennDOT is investigating traffic calming measures along Lindenhurst and Stoopville Roads, including raised medians.

RiverLine and Pennsylvania Transit Funding discussion: Bill Faltermeyer gave a positive review of New Jersey’s recently-opened Riverline train. The committee discussed the legalities of using highway funds for transit projects in Pennsylvania. Creighton Rabs reported that current law states that PA gas tax funds may be used on highway projects only, and any change would require an amendment to the state Constitution. The committee agreed that the law should be changed.

Public Education Campaign for Good Land Use decisions: Sara Thurston began a discussion on the need for an educational campaign to increase public awareness of good land use. Committee members provided her with contacts to investigate the possibility further.

Roosevelt Boulevard/ Grant Avenue Construction: Joseph Powell, a Philadelphia citizen, reported on planned construction of a new shopping center at Roosevelt Boulevard and Grant Avenue. He noted that this area was designated in DVRPC's 2025 Plan as a "no growth" area, and expressed his dismay at the lack of support the long-range plan seems to receive from politicians.