

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 15, 2007**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the July 17, 2007 RCC meeting were approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Warren Strumpfer, RCC Chair, reported on the following issues that were noted in the July Staff Summary of Board Responses:

*Central Camden County Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Master Plan:* The Board approved the FY 2008 Planning Work Program Amendment for the Central Camden County Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Master Plan, Camden County. In response to Mr. Strumpfer's question regarding expansion of this project to other municipalities, it was noted that this was not a county-wide plan, but if there were other issues outside of the municipalities included in the study, they would be passed on to the county for future consideration.

*LUTED:* He reported to the Board that he was unclear as to the parameters of the LUTED Economic Development survey that had been distributed in June, and had a problem with conceptualizing this process in relation to the 2030 long range planning process.

*FY09 Work Program Proposals:* Mr. Strumpfer announced to the Board that the RCC is working on proposals for the FY2009 DVRPC Work Program and have already submitted one relative to Intercity Train Service Between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

**STATE OF THE RCC – ADDING VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS:**

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director, Office of Public Affairs, outlined a number of proposed changes to the RCC's way of doing business. They include the following:

***EXPANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:***

It is imperative that DVRPC staff and RCC members work together to diversify and expand the committee's membership roster. With that goal in mind, staff had proposed a number of ways to accomplish this goal, including:

1. County appointments by Board members or organizational appointments;
2. A "bring a member" membership drive;
3. Expanded outreach to the Environmental Justice (EJ)/ Public Participation Partners' list (which was distributed to RCC members to review);
4. Identification of "key" non-profits or associations with which to do direct outreach/ partnerships;
5. It is mutually beneficial for RCC members to try to raise the profile of DVRPC - by inviting DVRPC staff to their organization's meetings, as well as exploring partnership opportunities.

***CHANGING THE RCC AGENDA AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:***

DVRPC staff is proposing changes to the length of the RCC's meetings, the order of their subcommittee meeting schedule, and the need to review all Board action items, as follows:

1. The RCC should consider the fact that the committee is not mandated to act on every Board action item. Staff is suggesting that Board action items be reviewed by a newly formed "Action Task Force" which will take the place of the current Transportation Subcommittee and which will meet at 10 a.m. prior to the RCC meeting. Anyone with issues regarding any of the listed action items must bring those issues to the Task Force meeting at which time discussion, staff input/presentations will take place, and recommendations on those selected action items will be made. These recommendations would be taken to the full RCC meeting and voted on. If there is an issue that warrants further discussion, it may then be a regular RCC agenda item. The Board agenda would still be released for public comment. The RCC does not have to make a recommendation for every action item presented before the Board. This change will allow time in the RCC meeting to address policy issues, to schedule speakers, and to hear from other organizations that may be partnering with the RCC. Streamlining the agenda would allow the RCC to be more effective by allowing extra time for the Committee to delve deeper into issues that members are most interested in. The full RCC meeting would last from 12 Noon to 2 p.m. A two-hour time limit on the full meeting is better suited to most individuals who come to the meetings over their lunch hours and makes better use of the RCC members' time.
2. The new format would allow for adequate time for the 2035 Task Force to meet immediately following the RCC meeting at 2:15 p.m. Ms. Snyder noted that this group needs to include EJ as a major issue in discussing 2035 goals.

An example of the new time schedule follows:

10 AM:	Action Task Force
12 PM:	Full RCC Meeting
2:15 PM:	2035 Subcommittee Meeting

***GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION:***

As a means of guiding discussion, Ms. Snyder asked members to think about the following questions:

1. Are there any specific projects that the RCC membership would like to undertake?
  - a. Position Papers
  - b. Policy development? Instead of making specific recommendations to specific action items, are there more universal recommendations that the RCC would like to focus on?
2. Are RCC members interested in sponsoring an evening lecture series focusing on regional issues with guest speakers?
3. Should DVRPC sponsor quarterly "listening sessions" that pull together citizens to voice concerns and to hear updates from DVRPC? These meetings and events would not replace the monthly RCC meetings, but would allow us to expand our outreach to individuals who may not be able to attend daytime meetings.
4. Should staff consider expanding the use of other correspondence (electronic or otherwise) to better serve individuals who may not be able to attend day time meetings.

The goal would be to create multiple opportunities for people to participate— in person, online, by correspondence

5. What does the RCC feel that DVRPC should do with outreach? What are the most important items that we should be focusing on with the public?

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE RCC:**

Ms. Snyder stressed the importance of EJ in all DVRPC process and suggested that the committee consider the following:

1. EJ issues are a regular part of RCC business, and all RCC members should be mindful of EJ issues when reviewing projects;
2. RCC members and those on the Public Participation/ EJ database may act as resources for staff in various projects;
3. EJ and Title VI issues are a regular part of DVRPC's Public Participation Plan;
4. In the Fall, DVRPC will be working on a *Planner's Methodology* for staff which covers EJ, Title VI and Public Participation;
5. Staff wants to help the RCC develop a checklist that is utilized when considering all action items and projects. This checklist would include crucial considerations regarding EJ, safety, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, air quality, etc.

*Discussion: RCC members concurred with the ideas mentioned above and noted several advantages to these ideas. The committee will have time to develop policy papers and to devote more time to their own issues. It was noted that this current process that we are embarking on can be an evolving process; if these recommendations don't work out, other suggestions will be sought. Members agreed that an expanded membership would be beneficial to all and that new members would be more likely to attend if meetings moved along on time and were shorter. There was discussion about how to make the RCC more accessible to new members, and the need to welcome all types of members – while there would be a focus on developing long term membership, "single-issue" individuals or organizations should also be welcomed. Dennis Winters noted that he would be happy to present the RCC to organizations and citizen groups that are targeted for RCC membership, to give a member's perspective. Bill Marston also echoed that the RCC members should be their own advocates in developing membership. John Pawson felt that moving the 2035 Task Force meetings to follow the RCC would be more practical. These changes will be put into place for September 18, 2007 and DVRPC staff will be notified of the change.*

**PROPOSALS FOR DRAFT FY 2009 DVRPC WORK PROGRAM:**

Various members submitted proposed ideas for the Draft FY09 Work Program. Each presented the highlights of these proposals. They included:

- Ajay Creshkoff: Environmental Justice Leadership Training
- Ajay Creshkoff: Multilevel Implementation Planning, Management and Performance
- Ernest Cohen: Thoughts on an Energy Emergency
- Hans van Naerssen: Short Haul Transportation: A Needs Analysis

In addition, Kathryn Garza submitted a proposal by email on "Walkable Wallingford". All proposals will be mailed to RCC members for further discussion at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. These proposals must be turned in immediately following that meeting for consideration at the September 27<sup>th</sup> Board Retreat.

*Discussion: Bill Marston suggested several sources for additional information regarding climate change and sustainability. They included the Council of Mayors which has signed Resolution 50, focusing on global warming, and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory which is part of the University Action Plan.*

#### **DRAFT DVRPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN:**

Jane Meconi, DVRPC Public Involvement Manager, presented the Draft DVRPC Public Participation Plan which had been mailed to RCC members. This document is an update of the 2004 version and must be re-adopted to comply with SAFETEA-LU, the most recent federal transportation bill. This bill also states that the public should be involved at an early stage in the development of the Plan.

Staff is asking that the RCC review the Draft Plan, and suggest changes prior to its release to the general public in October. The RCC will also have a chance to review the publication during the 45-day public comment period. Action to open the public comment period will come up in September. The RCC voiced interest in discussing how to create a more informed public and the public awareness process. Committee members asked that this subject be added to the agenda of the Action Task Force in September.

#### **DOTS & DASHES: PIECING TOGETHER TRANSIT'S FUTURE:**

Dr. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians, and a team of staff members, outlined the Dots and Dashes exercise which is designed to develop, implement and assess the priority of regional transit planning projects and to enhance the public outreach process through a unique communicative and consensus-building planning exercise.

The centerpiece of this outreach exercise involved groups of participants affixing game pieces ("dots and dashes") to identify preferred transit projects on a game board (DVRPC's regional Transit Score map). These "Dots and Dashes" identify various nodes and links selected as preferred regional transit investments. The budget is constrained with choices drawn from an itemized project menu and the participants at each table are required to reach a consensus on the submitted map of choices. Dots and Dashes will provide quantitative findings to identify and prioritize regional transportation projects, as well as qualitative findings that can inform DVRPC's near term and long range planning efforts. Priorities derived from this exercise will also be utilized in the Board mandated Regional Transit Vision Project.

Dots & Dashes is a significant component of public outreach related to DVRPC's long range planning efforts, and Commission staff is interested to get the game out to as many individuals as possible. If anyone is interested in having Dots & Dashes at your organization's next event, please call Jane Meconi at 215-238-2871 or e-mail: [jmeconi@dvrpc.org](mailto:jmeconi@dvrpc.org).

