

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

Present: Warren Strumpfer (Chair), Finley Shapiro, Kamil Siddiqi, Bill Marston, Ernest Cohen, Elaine Cohen, Bob Machler, John Pawson, Lorraine Brill, Bridget Chadwick, Bill Faltermayer, Ajay Creshkopff, Aissia Richardson, Cheryl Tumola, Roxane Shinn, Eugene Cipriani, John Burkhardt, Patricia Horrocks, Linda Ingenthron, Tim Kelly, Kathryn Garza, Jeannine Missaoui, Tom Cooper, Pat Mulligan, Catherine Zukoski, John Boyle (citizens); Gastonia Anderson, Ryan Gallagher, Mike Boyer, Ted Dahlburg, Joseph Hacker, Josh Rocks, Candy Snyder, Jane Meconi (staff)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 15, 2008 RCC meeting were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

At the July Board meeting, Mr. Strumpfer reported that the RCC had heard a presentation from Joung H. Lee, Senior Analyst for Transportation Finance and Business Development, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), entitled: Funding and Policy Challenges Facing the National Surface Transportation Program.

In addition, he also noted that the RCC approved a motion regarding NJ Transit reinstating its 1-800 customer service line, and that all regional transit agencies have toll-free numbers that operate 4 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Strumpfer also requested updates on the Seamless Transit project (a presentation will be given to the RCC in October) as well as 2035 LRP project selection update. He also addressed the Safe Routes to School program in New Jersey and addressed the issue related to locations of new school construction, and how these locations relate to transit. Mr. Strumpfer also attended the New Jersey Safety Symposium, which brought together transportation professionals, elected officials, law enforcement and non-profit organizations to discuss drunk driving, teen driving, and other safety concerns.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Nomination of RCC Chair, 2009

The Nominating Committee was appointed and includes the following members:

Bucks County:	Sue Herman
Chester County:	John Burkhardt
Delaware County:	Cheryl Tumola

Montgomery County: John Pawson
Philadelphia: Aissia Richardson
Burlington County: John Boyle
Camden County: Warren Strumpfer

There were no representatives to serve from Gloucester or Mercer counties.

The Nominating Committee will set a time to meet in October to discuss the selection of Chair for calendar year 2009. The report of the Nominating Committee will be given and an election held at the November RCC meeting.

Reappointment of RCC representatives to DVRPC Committees

RTC (alternate): Tom Cooper

TCDI: PA- Bridget Chadwick
NJ- Patrick Mulligan

CMP: Lorraine Brill
Cheryl Tumola (alternate)

Planning at the Edge: Kathryn Garza
Eugene Cipriani (alternate)

Safe Routes to School/ TE: Aissia Richardson

CHSTP: NJ- Warren Strumpfer
PA- Dennis Winters
Patrick Mulligan (alternate)

Land Use: Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Goods Movement: Ernest Cohen

Aviation: Dennis Winters

RTAC: Warren Strumpfer
Lorraine Brill

Central Jersey: To be determined

Calendar Year 2009 RCC Meeting Dates

The 2009 meeting dates for the RCC were approved as mailed.

RTC REPORT:

Lorraine Brill noted that the RTC reviewed the same action items that are on the RCC agenda and approved all action items. The RTC also heard a presentation regarding airport planning for the future. Mr. Strumpfer noted that there is some information on this month's Air Quality Action newsletter regarding the U.S. District Court of Appeals vacating the Clean Air Interstate rule. Mr. Strumpfer has been in contact with Sean Greene, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, in regard to this issue.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:

Lorraine Brill attended the most recent RTAC meeting, where members reviewed ongoing projects and developed FY 2010 Work Program proposals. Ms. Brill also attended the last CMP meeting, where a listing of congested roads was updated and priorities were set. She also noted that a State Bike/Ped committee is to be formed.

DVRPC BOARD AGENDA ITEMS:

The items below are agenda items for the DVRPC Board. As per the new RCC format, a "consent agenda" format is in place, meaning that the RCC does not have to address every agenda item before them.

PA09-01: Conshohocken Road Bridges over Mittal Steel - Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #16237), Montgomery County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Conshohocken Road Bridges over Industrial Tract - Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #16237) back into the FY2009 TIP as a Transition List project and programming \$13 million in Act 44 funds in FY09 for construction, therefore increasing the total project cost by \$6 million from previous estimates. This action would become effective October 1, 2008, as the first amendment to the recently adopted FY2009 TIP for PA.

Construction for this project is programmed in the FY2007 TIP for \$7 million; however, the funding was not obligated due to the late availability of the PS&E package. The \$6 million increase is due to increased steel, concrete and mobilization costs, as well as the addition of sinkhole repair items, a third retaining wall, and utility relocations as part of the construction estimate. This project includes the replacement of two structurally deficient bridges carrying Conshohocken Road over the industrial railroad tracks of Mittal Steel and associated roadway work in Plymouth Township. Three retaining walls, approach roadway work, and utility relocations will also be included in the project.

Both existing structures are currently weight restricted to 15 tons for standard trucks and 24 tons for tractor trailers and are in need of immediate replacement. No bicycle or pedestrian facilities will be included in this project.

This project is also a companion project to Elm Street over Reading Railroad and Plymouth Creek Bridge Project (MPMS# 16191), which is currently in design. The Elm Street Bridge is in danger of being posted, but can't advance to construction until the two Conshohocken Road bridges are replaced.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

The RCC recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA09-01, PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Conshohocken Road Bridges over Mittal Steel - Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #16237) back into the FY2009 TIP and programming construction in FY09 (\$13,000,000 Act 44) for the replacement of two bridges. The RCC is concerned about cost escalation of these projects, and requests that cost increases are spelled out specifically in TIP documents. The RCC also recommends that the bridge shoulders remain/be preserved and accommodate bicycle/pedestrian uses.

PA09-02: Germantown Avenue Roadway Reconstruction (South) at Ashmead (MPMS #48191), Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Germantown Avenue Roadway Reconstruction (South) at Ashmead (MPMS #48191) back into the FY2009 TIP, as a Transition List project, revising the project limits and scope, and programming \$12.5 million for final design and construction, a total project increase of \$7.3 million from previous estimates. Funding will be programmed for the previously obligated final design phase in FY09 \$250,000 (\$200,000 FED HWY/\$50,000 State) and construction in FY09 (\$6,548,000 STP/\$0 Toll credit match) and FY10 (\$5,800,000 STP/\$0 Toll credit match) as part of the FY2009 TIP. This action would become effective October 1, 2008, as the second amendment to the recently adopted FY2009 TIP for PA.

This project is programmed for construction in the FY2007 TIP (\$5.2 million); however, the funding has not been obligated. The project increase is due to the expansion of the scope of the project, as well as an outdated estimate. Also contributing to the cost increase are increased asphalt and concrete costs, installation of a new water main, and a compressed time schedule.

This project's original scope included the reconstruction of Germantown Avenue from Ashmead Street to a point south of School lane, including drainage improvements, replacement of the existing SEPTA trolley track facilities, new curbing, sidewalks, street lighting, trees, utilities, and streetscape improvements.

The revised project scope now includes the addition of a separate roadway section of Germantown Avenue from High Street to Walnut Lane and related water and sewer plans for the city of Philadelphia Water Department. The revised project also includes roadway improvements and improvement of the north bound track area, removal of granite blocks, removal of SEPTA tracks and replacement with new SEPTA T-rails and concrete. Both the north and south bound improvements include new sidewalks, new street lighting, new trees, and streetscape improvements.

This project is also a companion project to Germantown Avenue North Section (MPMS# 57899) which is under construction. Reconstruction of the southern section of Germantown Avenue would complete the entire Germantown Avenue reconstruction; thus improving the socioeconomic condition of the neighborhood surrounding this project. This project has undergone intense coordination with SEPTA, general public, elected officials, and special interest groups. SEPTA will be responsible for track inspection.

The funding for Germantown Avenue Roadway Reconstruction (South) (MPMS# 48191) has been provided by the Highway (MPMS #79927) and Bridge (MPMS # 79929) Reserve line items as well as the available funding from the South Street over Schuylkill River Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS# 17724) in the FY2009 TIP, as the construction funding for this project was obligated under the FY2007 TIP.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

The RCC recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA09-02, PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Germantown Avenue Roadway Reconstruction (South) at Ashmead (MPMS #48191) back into the FY2009 TIP; revising the project limits and scope. Funding will be programmed for final design in FY09 (\$200,000 FED HWY/\$50,000 State) and construction in FY09 (\$6,548,000 STP/\$0 Toll credit match) and FY10 (\$5,800,000 STP/\$0 Toll credit match). The RCC also recommends the addition of bicycle racks as part of Germantown Avenue streetscape improvements, and to expedite the restoration of trolley service on Germantown Avenue.

DVRPC FY 2009 Planning Work Program Amendment: South Street Bridge / I 76 Ramp Study

The City of Philadelphia is embarking on a project to replace the South Street Bridge, a structurally deficient bridge over the Schuylkill River and I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway) linking Center City Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania / West Philadelphia. The bridge structure currently includes ramps to and from I-76, although their design is lacking by today's standards (accel / decel length and left lane exit / merge). Attempts to ameliorate some of the ramp problems may infringe on the improved bicycle / pedestrian accommodations which are integral to the design of the new structure.

Because of this, the public has recommended that the bridge be reconstructed without the ramps. As alternative ramps exist which may or may not accommodate traffic movement, the City of Philadelphia has asked DVRPC to study traffic impacts on the roadway network if the new bridge were not to be connected to I-76.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

The RCC recommends that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2009 Planning Work Program to include the South Street Bridge / I-76 Ramp Study. The RCC supports the public process surrounding the South Street Bridge reconstruction, and recommends to ensure that implications of public and alternate transportation are investigated during the reconstruction process. The RCC also recommends inclusion of better signage to alleviate potential traffic issues.

DVRPC FY 2009 Planning Work Program Amendment: Bridgewater Road Extension Traffic Study, Delaware County

The “PENNDOT Alternative Facility Tests” work program project enables DVRPC to conduct special travel demand analyses and traffic studies for PENNDOT. PENNDOT is evaluating alternatives for the extension of Bridgewater Road from its terminus in the Bridgewater Industrial Park to either PA 452 or US 322 in Delaware County. This project will provide traffic data and forecasts that are needed to evaluate the benefits and impacts of the various alternatives that are proposed for Bridgewater Road.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

The RCC recommends that the DVRPC Board amend the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2009 Planning Work Program to include the Bridgewater Road Extension Traffic Study. The RCC also recommends the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian counts in the study area as part of the modeling process.

Approval of DVRPC Recommended Projects for the Federal Safe Routes to School (FSRTS) Program

PennDOT has allocated \$12.6 million in Federal Safe Routes to School (FSRS) funds statewide for the current 2008 cycle. Unlike the Safe Routes to School Program administered by DVRPC, the Federal Safe Routes to School Program will be administered by PennDOT Central Office. They will be performing the application scoring and selection of projects statewide for the program. In order to ensure that regional input is considered, they asked DVRPC to provide a list of recommended projects for their consideration during the scoring and selection process. PennDOT recommended that the list consist of 2 projects from each county in a tiered format, with a first and second project identified for each county.

The 23 applications received for our region were sent to the members of the RTC Transportation Subcommittee for review along with the score sheet that PennDOT proposes to utilize for their scoring and selection process. The members reviewed the applications and based upon their recommendations the 10 projects were selected.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

The RCC recommends that the DVRPC Board approve and direct staff to forward to PennDOT the ten DVRPC recommended 2008 Federal Safe Routes to School projects for our region.

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Funding Requests in Bucks County

PENNVEST is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania managed by a 13-member Board of Directors and chaired by the Governor, which provides funding for drinking water, wastewater treatment, stormwater management and brownfield assessments and remediation projects. The Program provides long-term loans through a revolving loan fund to municipalities, authorities and some private entities at below-market interest rates. PENNVEST has forwarded one application to DVRPC for review for consistency with the regional plan as follows:

Bucks County

- Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority (NBCMA) - Harvest Acres

Project: the NBCMA is requesting a PENNVEST loan of \$818,224 to extend sanitary sewer lines 4,522 feet to serve up to 41 homes in the Harvest Acres subdivision area. There are at least 21 malfunctioning on-lot systems in this area that are degrading the water quality in the Little Neshaminy Creek, and a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection order has been issued. The Harvest Acres gravity sewer extension flows into an existing pump station known as Manchester Farms on the north side of the project area. The pump station was originally designed to accommodate the flows from this subdivision, but would need system upgrades and new permits to handle future increased flows.

This project serves to remedy an existing water quality problem due to malfunctioning septic systems in the Harvest Acres subdivision, and is consistent with the 2030 Plan policy "To improve the surface water quality of all watersheds through the achievement of target water quality goals." However, the project is within an area designed as Rural Conservation Lands on the 2030 Land Use Plan map and as the Bucks County Agricultural Heritage Area on the 2030 Conservation Focus Areas map. Although the malfunctioning septic systems need to be addressed, it is important to not expand the proposed sewer line extensions into DVRPC's Plan area designated for conservation. To document the municipal utility authority's intentions, the NBCMA Executive Director

has issued a letter stating that the capacity of the Manchester Farms pump station will serve as the limiting factor for future flows from this area.

Because this project serves to alleviate an existing problem for existing homes and is not expected to generate additional growth in the designated conservation area, the project is consistent with the goals and policies of Destination 2030, the Year 2030 Plan for the Delaware Valley.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

The RCC recommends that the DVRPC Board authorize the Executive Director to send a letter notifying PENNVEST that the funding application request for the *Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority (NBCMA) - Harvest Acres Project* is consistent with the Destination 2030 Plan.

STAFF UPDATE: FY 2009 TIP FOR NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA OVERVIEW:

Gastonia Anderson, DVRPC Transportation, Capital Programs, presented an overview and results of this year's TIP process. As a reminder, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is required by federal legislation and is the short term expression of the Long Range Plan. It lists all regional significant transportation projects and those projects seeking federal funds. The TIP runs for a four-year period, and is updated once a year in New Jersey and every other year in Pennsylvania. The TIP development process is a joint effort between DVRPC, Counties/Cities, DOT's, Transit Operators, and Citizen Representatives

For New Jersey, there are 91 Highway projects totaling \$867 million, 11 DRPA/PATCO projects totaling \$66 million, 39 NJ TRANSIT projects totaling \$722 million and 65 Study & Development Program projects. For Pennsylvania, there are 457 Highway projects totaling \$2.073 Billion and 42 Transit projects totaling \$1.952 Billion. Highlights of the TIP include bridge repair (In PA, new "Act 44 Funds" ("916") primarily for structurally deficient bridges and roadway reconstruction and there is the PA Governor mandate: Upgrade 1000 bridges in 3 years), and NJDOT has a new \$25 million statewide line item for Local Bridges. In PA, I-95 Projects appear in both the "regional" TIP and the Statewide IMP. \$25 million has been allocated for the Chester Valley Trail and funding is included for SEPTA fare collection improvements and Broad Street subway stations.

STAFF UPDATE: UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DVRPC CONNECTIONS 2035 LONG-RANGE PLAN:

Mike Boyer, DVRPC Manager, Office of Long-range Planning, updated the RCC on items related to the planning process for the newest iteration of the Long-Range Plan. Several tasks have been completed over the past few months:
An online public survey was completed in early 2008, and a document entitled *Tracking*

Progress has recently been completed; it offers a benchmark as to how recommendations from the DVRPC 2030 Long-Range Plan are being implemented. Mr. Boyer also noted that a newsletter, entitled LINK, will be distributed in the coming weeks to update stakeholders on development of the Long-Range Plan.

In September, a series of focus groups were held with municipal officials, developers and the general public to ascertain findings for goal and policy development, as well as to learn what drives people's land use and transportation decisions, as well as potential barriers to implementation. Starting in mid-October, there will be a series of 9 county public workshops to gather more information, and to focus on challenges: to create a regional funding stream of \$100 M per year for transportation improvements; grow the region's 100 development centers; build a more energy-efficient economy as we reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50%; and protect 500,000 acres of open space, natural areas and farmland. The LRP is scheduled to be adopted in June 2009.

Discussion: Kathryn Garza asked about wellness issues and how they would affect/impact the LRP. Mr. Boyer noted that some health based-factors may be implemented into the LRP, such as air quality and pollution, and obesity rates. Ajay Creshkoff noted that the aging population of the Delaware Valley will only increase in the coming years and that these demographics need to be especially investigated in the plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

FY 2010 Work Program: John Griffies, DVRPC Contracts Manager, presented an overview of the schedule for the development of the FY 2010 DVRPC Planning Work Program, which was included in this month's RCC mailing. The RCC may submit work program proposals to be reviewed by the Board at September Board Retreat, scheduled for September 25.

RCC members were asked to submit FY 2010 Work Program Proposals. These items were discussed at the September 16 Action Task Force meeting, as well as the main RCC meeting, and are attached to these minutes.

FY 2010 Work Program Transit Support Program (TSP) and Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP) Call for Special Studies: Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, noted that eligible member governments were being asked to submit work programs for consideration under the above program. Funding is available in New Jersey for both programs, and in Pennsylvania only for TSP. Completed submissions are due to DVRPC by October 20, 200 for review and approval. The package of special studies will be an action item for the November RTC, RCC and Board.

October 15, 2008 Freight Plan Showcase: Ted Dahlburg, DVRPC Manager, Office of

Freight Planning, invited RCC members to attend the Freight Plan Showcase on October 15, 2008, from 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM. The DVRPC Freight Plan Showcase will explore the various facets of the region's freight network and services in an engaging format. Showcase stations will include various transportation professionals who will discuss their part in the freight supply chain in the region. Lunch will also be available for attendees.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

A status of the Scudders Fall Bridge was requested.

RCC members discussed inviting Harold Finnegan to discuss Peak Oil at an upcoming meeting.

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