DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of September 14, 2005

Location: DVRPC Offices, 8th Floor, 190 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Attendance:

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Tom Walker	Manager, Office of System Planning	DVRPC	twalker@dvrpc.org
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1. Introductions

The 56th meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group was called to order at 10:05 am by Ken Sipos, IREG Chair.

2. Minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2005

The minutes were approved without corrections or changes.

3. Presentations

Mary Bell, Principal Regional Planner, gave an overview of the UPlan model. The goal was to calibrate the model to match what we know actually happened from 1990 to 2000 so that we can then accurately predict what may happen based upon a number of growth scenarios. Changes need to be made to the model, which was originally designed to work with California development patterns, so that the model more accurately reflects the realities of our region. Also, modifications were needed to account for infill development, which is more prevelant in older, east coast areas.

Tom Walker, Manger, Office of System Planning, noted that Federal regulations mandate a feedback loop between transportation plans and land use. Traditional land use models give errionious aggregations without using travel simulation models. Since UPlan combines land use and our travel simulation models, this can be a great tool. DVRPC hired graduate students in California to calibrate the model for our region. The model is actually run at the county level since it is too big for ArcView to run for the entire DVRPC region. UPlan is easy to use with the analytical functions built into ArcView and it is fully integrated into TransPlan and Microsoft Office. In Mr. Walker's report, which describes in detail, the calibration methodology, there are summary tables of municipal-level data that was output by the model and imported into Excel. Potential uses of UPlan include transportation land use feedback, zoning build-out analysis, county-wide scenario planning, environmental impact analysis, building site identification. This year, DVRPC is going to do a zoning build-out analysis to see how it works and a transportation land use pilot project for one county. An FY 07 work program project is being proposed to establish a users group for UPlan.

Taghi Ozbeki, Manager, Office of Information Services, discussed recent activites of DVRPC's internal Information Technology (IT) Planning Committee. Prior to 1998, there was no strategy for IT investment. Because of this, efforts were done on a piecemeal basis, creating duplication of efforts and additional barriers to data sharing across departments. Coopers & Lybrand were retained in 1998 by DVRPC to make IT recommendations, which included: removing the mainframe, one PC per employee and upgrading our printer sharing to a true network environment based on NetWare and Windows for Workgroups 3.1.1, software version standardization, data collection at the enterprise level, and to centralize disparate GIS systems into a single department for quality control and elimination of redundant work. Remote access to email and calendering is the only recommendation not accomplished from the 1998 report. For the past few years, IT took a back seat to the impending office move. Now that we have settled in, Mr. Coscia established an internal IREG committee this summer, which has met 3 time so far, to address IT. Initially, we were charged with establishing a vision for IT. The next tasks included fact finding about installed equipment, critical areas to address and staff expertise and training needs. Currently, a subcommittee has been established to develop a strategic plan, utilizing existing in-house resources, which will identify critical (1 year) and strategic (3 year) IT goals. Some of the critical goals identified was: documenting metadata, automated backup management, onsite/offsite backup requirements, and including open-source solutions as part of our long-term strategy.

4.   Potential FY 2007 Work Program Projects

Members in attendance voted for potential DVRPC Work Program projects. From a selection of 10 ideas, the most popular project was Internet Mapping Development with 17 votes. Receiving 13 votes each, the following three projects were the next most popular: Global Positioning System (GPS) Equipment Acquisition and Training, eCommerce Development and Directory of the Delaware Valley.

5.   Census Updates

Since the Census Bureau was unable to attend, this item was tabled until next meeting.

6.   DVRPC Work Program Updates

a.   **Data Bulletins.**   Copies of the 2000-2004 Municipal, County, and Regional Population Estimates Data Bulletin (#81) were made available at the meeting.

b.   **2000 Regional Employment Centers.** This report is out in draft form to County Planning Commissions for comment and are due back in late September for final publishing in October.

c.   **Year 2005 Aerial Imagery Acquisition.** Imagery samples showing four distinct areas were received and displayed in the conference room to evaluate color saturation and contrast.

d.   **Truck and Bus Travel Report.** A report on Truck and Bus Travel in the region with extensive datasets has been published by DVRPC's Systems Planning unit and is available from the Map Sales counter.

NOTE: The remainder of DVRPC Work Program Updates are omitted due to a malfunction of the DVRPC Conference Room audio recording equiptment.

7.   Information Items

a.   MAC URISA Fall Meeting is on September 29, 2005 and will highlight presentations from DVRPC's technology staff.

b.   The PA State Data Center Conference is on September 20, 2005. The NJ State Data Center Conference will be held in December 2005.

c.   People interested in joining the newly formed Online GIS Subcommittee should contact Chris Pollard (cpollard@dvrpc.org).

d.   Tours of DVRPC's new facilities and demonstrations of functioning technology were given to IREG members after the meeting.

e.   The next IREG Meeting will take place on December 7, 2005 *(**NOTE:** This date was changed to the 14th since the NJ State Data Center moved it's conference to the 7th.)*

8.   Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

9.   New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

10.   Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. The Webmasters Subcommittee met at 1:00 pm.