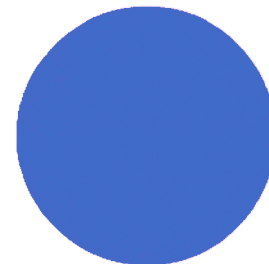


# ALERT! *October 2005*

**ALERT** is a monthly update on transportation and air quality planning activities in the Delaware Valley.



## **TRANSPORTATION - AIR QUALITY INITIATIVES**

### **Philly-Car-Share Announces New Discounted Rates**

Philly Car-Share, which operates a rapidly growing fleet of Toyota Priuses, Tacomas, Matrixes and Scion xBs, parked in dozens of neighborhood locations throughout the city, has announced new rates. Effective immediately, Philly CarShare is:

- Giving \$100 Free Driving Credits to any two Philadelphians who join together;
- Eliminating the Security Deposit, formerly \$350;
- Instituting a new Basic Rate for occasional drivers;
- Lowering Sunday Daily Rates: Sunday to Friday now costs only \$48/day including gas and insurance;
- Providing Insomniac Discounts: Six free hours between midnight and 8 am; any day;
- Allowing Trial Memberships: Take a 30-day test drive, with a money back guarantee.

Thousands of Philadelphia residents and businesses, including the City of Philadelphia, have joined Philly CarShare and report selling or avoiding the purchase of 1,400 vehicles. Members report saving about \$4,000 each compared to car ownership. Members can choose from a variety of vehicle types, which can be reserved online at [www.phillycarshare.com](http://www.phillycarshare.com)



October 14<sup>th</sup>

Greater Philadelphia  
Clean Cities Program  
Meeting

DVRPC Conference  
Center

October 17<sup>th</sup>

Philadelphia Diesel  
Difference Meeting

DVRPC Conference  
Center



## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Pennsylvania Announces Program to Streamline Air Plan Approvals**

A pilot program, which will run through June 30, 2006, will allow facilities to partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PennDEP) to streamline the air plan approval process. The air plan approvals outline how facilities will control emissions to insure compliance with state air quality regulations. Applicants will need to meet with DEP staff prior to submitting their application; are expected to submit administratively and technically complete applications; and respond to DEP requests for additional information in shortened timeframes.

PennDEP will expedite the review process by adding several new general permits; developing an Internet-based process for a Request for Determination; and speeding up the review process by hiring an additional air quality modeler to help with permit reviews. More information is available at the DEP's web site: [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) Keyword "Air Quality".



## **CONFORMITY**

### **US DOT Approves Conformity Determination for Pennsylvania Portion of Region**

The Pennsylvania Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration and Region III of the Federal Transit Administration in concurrence with Region III of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has made a determination that the Pennsylvania aspects of the DVRPC Destination 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), and are in accordance with the requirements specified in the Transportation Conformity Rule. The New Jersey Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration and Region II of the Federal Transit Administration have not yet made a determination for the New Jersey aspects of the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan, FY 2006 New Jersey Transportation Improvement Program and related conformity determination.

### **DVRPC begins PM 2.5 Conformity Analysis**

DVRPC has begun the Transportation Conformity Interagency Consultation process for determining conformity for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). This will be the first conformity determination for PM 2.5. Particle Pollution is the term for tiny drops of liquid or small particles of dust, metals and other material that float in the air. Some particles are large or dark enough to be seen as soot or smoke. Others are so small that they can only be detected with an electron microscope. Particle pollution comes from a variety of natural and man-made sources such as cars, power plants, and forest fires, making it a year round problem. EPA issued the PM2.5 standards in 1997 and designated areas as attainment or nonattainment with the standard in December 2004. Nonattainment areas must meet the standards by 2010. The DVRPC region is split into two different nonattainment areas. Mercer County is part of the North Jersey/New York/Connecticut nonattainment area while the rest of the DVRPC region plus New Castle County, Delaware make up the Philadelphia nonattainment area. Until State Implementation Plans and associated budgets are approved, DVRPC must coordinate all conformity activities and schedules with all other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) within each nonattainment area. US DOT must approve all PM 2.5 conformity determinations by April 5, 2006.



**OZONE  
ACTION**

## **OZONE ACTION**

### **10<sup>th</sup> Ozone Action Season Concludes**

The Air Quality Partnership of the Delaware Valley concluded the tenth Ozone Action season on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This summer saw a return of higher levels of ground-level ozone, which had decreased over the past few years as cool, rainy conditions were in force. The Partnership informs the public about the health effects of air pollution and ways individuals can help reduce pollution by taking simple, voluntary measures every day but particularly on days when pollution levels are unhealthy. Between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Air Quality Partnership forecast 20 Air Quality Action days in the region. Nineteen days exceeded federal health standards. Last year, zero red-level days were forecast and eight days reached the orange ozone level. Even though the ozone season has ended, the Air Quality Partnership will continue to issue a daily forecast for fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) throughout the year.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

DVRPC, 8th Floor  
190 N. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520

Phone 215.592.1800 Fax 215.592.9125 [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org)