

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## FISCAL YEAR 2014 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

### CHAPTER SIX

#### OTHER MAJOR PLANNING PROJECTS IN THE DVRPC REGION

Major transportation planning activities that receive funding from sources other than through DVRPC have been placed in Chapter Six-A of the FY 2014 Planning Work Program.

Transportation planning studies funded from other sources may include: Corridor, Subarea, and Interchange Studies; Study and Development Program; Feasibility Studies; Transportation Investment Studies; Environmental Impact Statements; and Categorical Exclusion (CE) Projects and Federal Transit Administration New Starts Planning Projects.

Additionally, transportation projects of regional significance that have official web pages are linked from the DVRPC web site:

<http://www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/RegionallySignificantProjects/>

**Corridor, Subarea, and Interchange Studies:** These are projects that may be funded and advanced by other agencies during FY 2014 and may require coordination with DVRPC. Projects in this category may include traffic/transit analyses, access improvements, or operational improvement studies. Additional corridor and area studies are also proposed by DVRPC for supplemental funding.

**Study and Development Program (Concept Development - CD and Feasibility Assessment - FA):** This represents the first stages in New Jersey DOT's project development process, where data is collected, public input is obtained, and potential conceptual improvements are defined and evaluated. In this phase, policy and strategic direction is established, the problem statement is packaged, and the project scope developed. The study and development (S&D) stage includes the transportation analysis required to identify needs from the state, regional, and local community perspectives. The entire S&D Program is included in the New Jersey TIP document.

**Feasibility Study:** This type of planning study examines the potential of alternative modal facilities in relation to the characteristics, needs, and goals of the area. The environmental assessment or pre-engineering work associated with the feasibility study is generally done at the "fatal flaw" level.

**Transportation Investment Study (TIS):** TIS projects are generally performed by the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation. These detailed studies are required for regionally significant transportation projects, and whenever there is a

need to develop information about likely impacts and consequences of alternative transportation investment strategies at the corridor or subarea level.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Environmental Assessment (EA):** An EIS is a document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prepared for projects that are expected to use federal funds for implementation and that have been deemed to have the potential for significant environmental impacts. An EIS provides information on the alternatives considered and associated impacts. A draft document (DEIS) is prepared with input from affected local, state, regional, and federal agencies, as well as the general public. The DEIS is circulated to the public and review agencies for comments, which are considered and incorporated into the final document (FEIS). The approval of the FEIS is called a Record of Decision and is required to be published in the Federal Register. A number of EISs will be undertaken or continued in FY 2014 by the appropriate project sponsor. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a lower level investigation similar to an EIS.

**Categorical Exclusion (CE):** A categorical exclusion is a designation provided to a project deemed not to have a significant or controversial effect on the human or natural environment and therefore not required to conduct an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. A categorical exclusion evaluation (CEE) is still a rigorous scan for project effects involving preliminary engineering activities to identify these effects and determine measures to avoid, minimize, and, where necessary, mitigate the effects. Agency review and concurrence is necessary throughout, and public meetings may be required.

**Preliminary Design (PD):** At this planning stage, local project sponsors refine the design of the locally preferred alternative to the extent necessary to complete the NEPA process, taking into consideration all reasonable design options.

**Preliminary Engineering (PE):** Preliminary engineering results in estimates of project costs, benefits, and impacts for which there is a much higher degree of confidence. The PE effort demonstrates the technical capability of the project sponsor to advance the project, and commitments of local funding sources should be firmed up (if not previously committed).

**Federal Transit Administration New Starts Planning:** FTA has established a series of regulations regarding development of New Start projects. Because a DEIS is required to advance an Alternatives Analysis, they are sometimes combined into a single document, an AA/DEIS. The AA required by TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU was formerly referred to as a Major Investment Study (MIS) under ISTEA. The end result of an AA or AA/DEIS is a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which defines the proposed service plan and mode, thereby determining the estimated capital costs, operating costs, ridership, and operating revenue. The AA or AA/DEIS is submitted to FTA for evaluation and determination on whether or not to allow the project to enter the Preliminary Engineering phase.

*Not all projects listed in Chapter Six have been endorsed by the DVRPC Board; therefore, inclusion does not guarantee either funding or imply approval of the DVRPC Board.*

### **OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS: PROJECTS FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES**

The following transportation planning projects may be advanced by agencies other than DVRPC during FY 2014:

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>MPMS / DB #</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CURRENT PHASE</b>
<b>BI-STATE</b>				
I-95 Scudder Falls Bridge / road widening / interchange reconstruction	n/a	DRJTBC	Bucks and Mercer Counties	EA Completed
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>				
NJ Turnpike Widening, Exits 6 through 9	n/a	NJ Turnpike Authority	Burlington County, Mercer County, Middlesex County	TIS
Glassboro-Camden Line	n/a	DRPA / NJ TRANSIT	City of Philadelphia, Gloucester County, Cumberland County	EIS Under Way
Route 55/42/676 Bus Rapid Transit	n/a	NJ TRANSIT	City of Philadelphia, Camden County, Gloucester County	EA underway
US Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study	n/a	NJ TRANSIT	Mercer and Middlesex Counties	FA completed, elements of project advancing
Route 29 Trenton Boulevard Study	N/A	Trenton City & CCDC	Trenton City, Mercer County	FA complete; turned over to Trenton City

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>MPMS / DB #</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CURRENT PHASE</b>
Route 38 Smart Growth Initiative	n/a	Local lead Burlington County	Burlington County	N/A
NJ Marine Highway	n/a	NJDOT	New Jersey	Underway
NJ 102" Wide Large Truck Network	n/a	NJDOT	New Jersey	Underway
Comprehensive Statewide Freight Plan Update	n/a	NJDOT	New Jersey	Anticipated start-up
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>				
US Route 202 Section 100	15385	PENNDOT	Chester and Delaware Counties	Working with FHWA to close-out the EIS for the project
NHSL Extension to King of Prussia	n/a	SEPTA	Delaware and Montgomery Counties	Updated AA & DEIS to commence
US 422 River Crossing Complex	Multiple inc. 66952, 64796, 70197, 16703	PENNDOT/ VFNHP/ Montgomery County	In and around Valley Forge National Historical Park (PA 23 at US 422, US 422 from US 202 to PA 363, PA 363 at US 422, and North Gulph Rd. at park gateway)	66952: FD 64796: ROW 70197: ROW 16703: ROW
Quakertown Rail Restoration	n/a	TMA Bucks	Bucks County, Montgomery County	Phase I study complete; phase II of AA currently underway
Route 23 Relocation	48172	Upper Merion Twp.	US 202 to US 422, Montgomery County	PE
Southeastern Pennsylvania Emergency Transportation Plan	n/a	PEMA	Southeastern Pennsylvania	CD

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>MPMS / DB #</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CURRENT PHASE</b>
PHL, Class B Airspace re-design	n/a	FAA	City of Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties in PA; Burlington, Gloucester, Camden, Salem Counties in NJ; and New Castle County in DE	Draft re-design is complete
PA Long Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan	n/a	PennDOT	Pennsylvania	Plan development is currently underway