

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

FISCAL YEAR 2015 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 2015 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, Small Starts, and Core Capacity 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 2015 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 2015 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 Capital Investment Program (New Starts, Small Starts, Core Capacity) Planning: FTA has established a series of regulations regarding development of major new capacity projects. Under MAP-21, a separate Alternatives Analysis (AA) study is no longer required, but the alternatives development, evaluation, and screening steps that have typically been completed as part of an AA in prior years are still required to be conducted as part of the NEPA process (during development of an EA or EIS/DEIS). The key outcome is a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which defines the project's proposed service plan and mode, thereby determining estimated capital costs, operating costs, ridership, and operating revenue. During environmental review and screening, the LPA is evaluated by FTA to determine whether or not the project should advance to 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 2015:

PROJECT NAME	MPMS / DB #	SPONSOR	LOCATION	CURRENT PHASE
BI-STATE				
I-95 Scudder Falls Bridge / road widening / interchange reconstruction	n/a	DRJTBC	Bucks and Mercer Counties	EA Completed; Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued
NEW JERSEY				
NJ Turnpike Widening, Exits 6 through 9	n/a	NJ Turnpike Authority	Burlington County, Mercer County, Middlesex County	Construction underway; completion expected by end of 2014
Glassboro-Camden Line	n/a	DRPA / NJ TRANSIT	City of Philadelphia, Gloucester County, Camden 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
Route 38 Smart Growth Initiative	n/a	Local lead Burlington County	Burlington County	N/A
NJ 102" Wide Large Truck Network	n/a	NJDOT	New Jersey	Up for re-adoption in 2014
Development of statewide freight performance measures	n/a	NJDOT	New Jersey	Underway

PROJECT NAME	MPMS / DB #	SPONSOR	LOCATION	CURRENT PHASE
PENNSYLVANIA				
PA Turnpike Northeast Extension: Mid-County to Lansdale widening	n/a	PA Turnpike Commission	Montgomery County	Construction underway
PA Turnpike Northeast Extension: Lansdale to Quakertown widening	n/a	PA Turnpike Commission	Bucks and Montgomery Counties	Design underway in 2015
PA Turnpike (East-West), PA 29 to Valley Forge	n/a	PA Turnpike Commission	Chester and Montgomery Counties	Scheduled to complete design in 2015
PA Turnpike (East-West), Downingtown to PA 29	n/a	PA Turnpike Commission	Chester County	Design underway in 2015
PA Turnpike (East-West), Morgantown to Downingtown	n/a	PA Turnpike Commission	Berks and Chester Counties	Design underway in 2015
PA Turnpike Mid-County to Bensalem	n/a	PA Turnpike Commission	Bucks and Montgomery Counties	Transportation Improvement Study
US Route 202 Section 100	15385	PENNDOT	Chester and Delaware Counties	Working with FHWA to formalize the EIS for the project
NHSL Extension to King of Prussia	n/a	SEPTA	Delaware and Montgomery Counties	Updated AA & DEIS underway
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: CON 70197: ROW 16703: CON
Quakertown Rail Restoration	n/a	TMA Bucks	Bucks County, Montgomery County	Phase I study complete; phase II of AA currently underway

PROJECT NAME	MPMS / DB #	SPONSOR	LOCATION	CURRENT PHASE
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
PA Long Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan	n/a	PennDOT	Pennsylvania	Interactive webinars are being conducted to provide information and hear comments.