



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



Highlights of October 3, 2007 Legislative Sub-Committee Meeting

Attendees

Anderson, Rosemarie
Bettinger, Michael
Lawson, Matthew
Moore, Regina
Murphy, Kevin
Rossi, Cathy
Taubenberger, Matt

Organization

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
PA Senator Connie William's Office
Mercer County Planning Division
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
AAA Mid-Atlantic
PA State Representative George Kenney's Office

Introduction & Overview

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and briefly mentioned their relationship to the transportation safety community.

Kevin Murphy, Senior Transportation Planner welcomed everyone. Rosemarie Anderson, Manager of Office of Safety and Security Planning provided background and progress to date of the Regional Safety Task Force, and explained the genesis of the legislative subcommittee and its role in implementing the goals of the Regional Safety Action Plan.

Open Discussion:

The group held a lengthy discussion which dealt with various topics related to the importance of legislative issues in moving forward on actions which seek to reduce crashes in the region. Summarized below are the thoughts and comments that were generated.

Information exchange between legislators, the RSTF, and the public

- The type of information exchanged would specifically target safety-related best practices and proposed legislation targeted at reducing crashes and injuries
- One suggestion was to develop a service to Task Force and the public which provides a summary of safety-related legislative initiatives. This would be best accomplished by linking to the AAA Mid-Atlantic bill tracking service which is currently available.
- Consider providing information on pending safety-related legislation and highlight those bills that advance the goals of the Regional Safety Action Plan.

- Consider inviting legislators to make presentations to the Regional Safety Task Force (RSTF) on pending safety-related bills that they sponsored or co-sponsored. The invitation would go out to all legislators in the region from both states, in order to give equal opportunity to competing proposals.
- The group supported the idea of distributing to legislators DVRPC's reports that have a safety focus, or even a safety component as in the case of a corridor study.
- The group identified the need to showcase and promote all available programs that provide assistance to local governments on transportation safety issues. Two such programs are: 1) the state run Local Transportation Assistance Programs (LTAP), and 2) the local assistance services of Rutgers Transportation Safety Resource Center (TSRC) available to New Jersey municipalities.

DVRPC's legal limitation – lobbying legislation

- What are the RSTF's limitations regarding lobbying for legislative initiatives?
- Can the RSTF, and by extension the DVRPC, recommend ideas for new legislation to advance the goals of the Regional Safety Action Plan?

Next Steps

DVRPC will proceed to follow up on its role regarding lobbying for legislative initiatives. AAA agreed to report back to the committee at a subsequent meeting on the option of linking to the AAA Mid-Atlantic bill tracking service as a form of exchanging information.

REMINDER

The next RSTF Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 9:30 AM.