

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

Present: Aissia Richardson (Chair) John Johnson, John Nacchio, Kia Linder, Cheryl Tumola, Tom McHugh, Cathy Zukoski, Juanita Lewis Hatton, Mike Dennis, Bill Comer, Carol Butler, Jerry Lutin, John Butler, Jon Frey, Andy Sharpe, Bob Machler, David Hojsak, Larry Menkes, Lorraine Brill, Bridget Chadwick, William Faltermayer, John Pawson, Dennis Winters, Jim Richardson, Linda Ingenthron, Pat Horrocks, Colleen Scullin, John Burkhardt, Ray Rauanheimo, Christina McLean, Susanne Whitehead, Ernest Cohen, Elaine Cohen (citizens); Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Keith Hartington, Sarah Oaks (staff); Tom Gurick (guest)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 18, 2011 RCC meeting were approved as mailed.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Aissia Richardson had no formal report as the January 2011 Board meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Candace Snyder noted that two actions from the January Board agenda were approved by internet vote, as they were time sensitive: (1) Transportation Conformity and (2) TIP Action NJ10-51: Restriping Program and Line Reflectivity Management System. All other Board actions from January will be addressed at the February 24 Board meeting

RTC REPORT:

Jim Richardson submitted the attached report.

REPORTS FROM RCC REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER COMMITTEES:

Dennis Winters attended a Regional Safety Task Force meeting, which focused on senior mobility. Mr. Winters noted that Ray Rauanheimo was a panelist and was very informative.

Lorraine Brill attended a Congestion Management Process (CMP) Committee meeting which focused on criteria development and individual county investigations.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Aissia Richardson presented some changes to the RCC meeting format that were the result of an RCC Executive Committee meeting (which includes Vice-Chairs Jim Richardson and Pat Mulligan). Ms. Richardson noted that the current procedures of the RCC have been ineffective, and in order to meet federal guidelines for diversity, broaden discussion topics, and for RCC work to more closely impact DVRPC plans and programs, the following changes will be instituted starting at the March 2011 RCC meeting:

1. The Work Program Task Force will not meet until May; at that time, it will be tasked with preparing ideas and proposals for the FY 2013 DVRPC Planning Work Program.

2. Membership in the Action Task Force will be by appointment, with proportional representation from each of the nine counties in the DVRPC region.

3. The Long-Range Planning Task Force will be put on hiatus until fall 2011, when work will begin on the 2040 Regional Long-Range Plan. Membership will be by appointment, with proportional representation from each of the nine counties in the DVRPC region.

4. A Transportation Funding Task Force will be appointed and will meet following the Action Task Force.

5. The current list serve that a number of members share has now had the RCC and DVRPC affiliation removed. This was intended as a private discourse between RCC members. Some individuals have copied non-members, allowing these individuals to change the tone and purpose of the dialogue. It is now up to each member to decide if he or she wishes to remain on this independent list serve.

6. PA-TEC was asked to remove proprietary DVRPC information from its website because some of the Commission's work has been misconstrued and is now portrayed as if it is in its original format, which it is not. PA-TEC did not respond to this request in the meeting.

While some members were supportive of these changes, other members felt that their ability to participate in the planning process and the potential for new ideas to be presented to DVRPC Board and staff was being curtailed as a result of these changes. The need for new membership was also discussed, including a request to investigate conference calling options for those who cannot attend meetings at DVRPC's offices. Tom Gurick was introduced as a consultant hired by DVRPC to explore new ways to ensure more participation from New Jersey.

STAFF PRESENTATION: NEW JERSEY INTERSTATE PARTIAL INTERCHANGE NEEDS STUDY

Note: The Powerpoint presented at the RCC meeting is available online at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=RCC>.

Keith Hartington, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, presented the New Jersey Interstate Partial Interchange Needs Study. The Federal Highway Administration has identified partial interchanges as a federal planning emphasis area. In New Jersey, there are 68 partial interchanges throughout the state. This study is statewide, and is in collaboration with New Jersey DOT, all three MPOs serving New Jersey (DVRPC, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which serves all New Jersey counties north of Mercer County, and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, which serves southern New Jersey), New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

There are several adverse impacts related to partial interchanges, including: safety issues, stress on the local road network, increased VMT (vehicle miles traveled) and traffic congestion, inefficient highway operations, freight connectivity, environmental impacts, and overall regional mobility. The study's objectives are to define and inventory all partial interchanges in the state, develop a screening inventory methodology for quantitative evaluation, collect data, evaluate and finalize screening methodology, and then develop a prioritized interchange list. The screening process investigated congestion and cross road functional class at the interchange, as well as traffic safety, freight activity, and surrounding land uses.

A preliminary screening results list has been developed, and additional work will be undertaken by NJDOT for the top priority locations. This additional work will include regional travel demand modeling, environmental screening, and a comprehensive traffic safety analysis. Next steps for DVRPC include advancing the regional program for partial interchanges, meeting with the counties and other planning partners, defining study interchanges, and to coordinating the partial interchange studies for DVRPC's region. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2012.

Discussion: There were several questions related to bicycle and pedestrian safety on the local or county roads that are part of these interchanges. Mr. Hartington noted that vehicular crashes were investigated in the screening process, but noted that additional detailed analysis of safety issues will continue in the next part of the study. Pedestrian safety is a priority under New Jersey Complete Streets guidelines. Some RCC members questioned the history of partial interchanges, and asked if the reasons that these interchanges were built as partial interchanges would impact the current analysis.

INFORMATION ITEM: TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AND MOBILITY ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2012 WORK SCOPES

DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner Sarah Oaks called for comments regarding the Transportation Management Association Assistance Grant Program and Mobility Alternatives Program work scopes. Each year, PennDOT invites Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) to apply for funding under the TMA Assistance Grant Program. There are six TMAs in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Each TMA service area is different and each of the scopes cover different items. In addition, DVRPC makes available grants for work under the Mobility Alternatives Program. Scopes for both programs have been submitted. Amended final scopes will be presented to the RCC at the March 2011 meeting. Comments regarding the presented scopes are due by Friday, February 18. Both programs are funded under CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program) and require a 20% match.

Discussion: RCC members requested presentations from the TMAs to learn more about the programs of these organizations. In response to a question about project evaluation, Ms. Oaks noted that the TMAs submit monthly progress reports. Ms. Oaks also reported that a survey is underway to see the effectiveness of the MAP message. A report will be available in early Fiscal Year 2012.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Action Task Force: The Action Task Force (ATF) met prior to the RCC meeting and developed RCC recommendations for Board Action Items (attached).

Note: Board Action Items are not voted on at the primary RCC meeting. As per RCC format, a consent agenda format is in place for the Action Task Force, meaning that RCC members do not have to address every agenda item by traditional Robert's Rules voting procedure.

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Capital Programs, presented an overview of the federalization of TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) project funding. Federalizing a project is the result of the addition of federal funding to a project. Departments of

transportation (DOTs) utilize this process at different times, and for various reasons, depending on how best to manage their funding as well as project schedules. DOTs have the discretion to federalize a project in any phase of a project, and the addition of federal oversight can sometimes positively impact the timing of a project. As part of a Memorandum of Understanding that guides TIP action review, all projects that are to be federalized have to be reviewed by the DVRPC Board, although the change of funding does not significantly impact a project overall and is primarily administrative in nature.

Long-Range Plan Task Force: Members discussed a concept coined incremental multi-route extension of service (IMRE), which would include extensions of service in developed areas on many lines in all suburban counties that could be implemented quickly.

Work Program Task Force: No Work Program Task Force meeting was held this month. Meetings will resume in May.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Aissia Richardson announced that Juanita Lewis Hatton's son has just published a book of poetry.

Andy Sharpe attended the launch of the DVRPC Food Systems Plan and Grant Announcement ceremony at Reading Terminal Market on February 10.

Candace Snyder announced that Eileen Gallagher, DVRPC Resource Librarian, will be retiring this month.

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Summary of RTC Meeting 2.8.11 – Jim Richardson, RCC Representative

The committee voted in favor of recommending approval of all actions by the DVRPC Board.

RTC saw two presentations:

NJ DOT worked with NJIT, Rutgers University and NJ MPOs to complete a needs analysis for assessing interstate highway interchange projects. This program developed a model for prioritizing these expensive projects. Various criteria were included in the decision process, including volume/congestion, land-use, freight traffic and more.

DVRPC has been a pioneer nationally in developing a Travel Improvement Model (TIM). This is a tool for planners looking at appropriate investments in transportation infrastructure based on current and anticipated future conditions.

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RCC ACTION TASK FORCE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

PRESENT: Dennis Winters, Jim Richardson, Larry Menkes, Lorraine Brill, Jerry Lutin, Bridget Chadwick, Jon Frey, Susanne Whitehead, Bill Faltermayer, Bob Machler, Andy Sharpe, Tom McHugh, John Pawson, Aissia Richardson (citizens); Jane Meconi, Gastonia Anderson, Elizabeth Schoonmaker (staff)

Note: Board Action Items are not voted on at the primary RCC meeting. As per RCC format, a consent agenda format is in place for the Action Task Force, meaning that RCC members do not have to address every agenda item by traditional Robert's Rules voting procedure.

NJ10-52: Mercer County Signal Project, CR 533 (DB #D0702), Mercer County

Comment for DVRPC Board:

The RCC Action Task Force recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action NJ10-52, Mercer County's request to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP for New Jersey by adding a graduate Study and Development project to the TIP, Mercer County Signal Project, CR 533 (DB# D0702), and programming final design in FY11 (\$500,000 STP-STU) and construction in FY13 (\$3,500,000 STP-STU). Further, the Action Task Force further recommends that New Jersey DOT employ a bicycle/pedestrian checklist, similar to that of PennDOT, when developing projects.

Discussion: Questions were asked regarding pedestrian safety on the roadway, and if any safety improvements for pedestrians are proposed.

PA11-17: London Track Bridge Over White Clay Creek Bridge Replacement (MPMS #80060), Chester County

Comment for DVRPC Board:

The RCC Action Task Force recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA11-17, PennDOT's request to modify the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a final design phase to the London Track Bridge Over White Clay Creek Bridge Replacement (MPMS# 80060), and programming (\$500,000 Act 44) in FY11.

Discussion: Members requested that the bicycle/pedestrian checklist be provided in the TIP packet, as it was for PA11-18.

PA11-18: Rickert Road Bridge Over Morris Run Creek Bridge Replacement (CB #21) (MPMS #13296), Bucks County

Comment for DVRPC Board:

The RCC Action Task Force recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA11-18, PennDOT's request to modify the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by federalizing the project, Ricket Road Bridge Over Morris Run Creek Bridge Replacement (MPMS# 13296), and switching a

portion (\$36,000 State/\$9,000 Local) of the right of way phase funding from state and local funds to federal bridge funds (\$45,000 Bridge). Programming will be reflected as follows: (\$45,000 Bridge/\$9,000 State/\$2,000 Local). The Action Task Force commends the utilization of the bicycle/pedestrian checklist, but further notes that shared roadways are not adequate for pedestrian safety.

PA11-19: Debt Service (MPMS #60275), SEPTA

Comment for DVRPC Board:

The RCC Action Task Force recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA11-19, PennDOT's request to modify the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the project scope of Debt Service (MPMS# 60275), to include the Silverliner V Railcars and Wayne Junction Intermodal Facility Rehabilitation project. As a result of this action, funding for Debt Service will be increased by \$85.109 million (over a 5 year period) and will be programmed as follows: FY11 (\$16,011,000 FTA Section 5309/\$3,874,000 State/\$129,000 Local); FY12 (\$13,680,000 FTA Section 5309/\$3,309,000 State/\$112,000 Local); FY13 (\$13,680,000 FTA Section 5309/\$3,309,000 State/\$112,000 Local); FY14 (\$13,680,000 FTA Section 5309/\$3,309,000 State/\$112,000 Local); and LFY (FY15) (\$13,680,000 FTA Section 5309/\$112,000 Local). Further, notation of funding the Silverliner cars will be removed from the Capital Asset Lease Program (MPMS #59966).

PA11-20: Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Bus Purchase (MPMS #92304), SEPTA

Comment for DVRPC Board:

The RCC Action Task Force recommends that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Action PA11-20, SEPTA's request to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Bus Purchase (MPMS# 92304), and programming funds in FY11 (\$475,000 5309-B/\$119,000 Local) for the purchase of buses for TMA Bucks.

Discussion: Will there be any provisions for public access to the CNG filling station for the public who may be interested in owning CNG vehicles? Where will the CNG filling station be located?

Project Selection for Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI), Round II

Comment for DVRPC Board:

The RCC Action Task Force recommends that the DVRPC Board approve the list of selected projects for Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) funding. Further amend the FY2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania (TIP Action PA11-16) to add projects and associated funding.

Discussion: RCC members discussed the various selection criteria utilized for prioritizing the PCTI proposals. Staff will follow up with findings of which projects are located in DVRPC Degrees of Disadvantage census tracts.

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