

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of October 23, 1997 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Commission Offices
Bourse Building, 8th Floor
111 S. Independence Mall, East
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Joyce Paul
New Jersey Department of Transportation	John H. Moore
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Raymond F. Akers, Jr.
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	Timothy J. Carson
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Charles Bohnenberger
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Larry M. King
Bucks County	Charles H. Martin
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna
Delaware County	John E. Pickett
Montgomery County	Arthur F. Loeben
Burlington County	Ridgeley P. Ware Carol Ann Thomas
Camden County	J. Douglas Griffith
Gloucester County	(not represented)
Mercer County	Donna Lewis
City of Chester	(not represented)

City of Philadelphia	Denise L. Goren
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Trenton	(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration Pennsylvania Division New Jersey Division	(not represented) Lloyd Jacobs
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	(not represented)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	(not represented)
New Jersey Office of State Planning	Charles P. Newcomb
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Richard G. Bickel
New Jersey Transit Corporation	(not represented)
Port Authority Transit Corporation	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	(not represented)
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Louis Guerra
Regional Citizens Committee Co-Chair	Dennis Winters

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel

Kenneth Zielonis

New Jersey Co-Counsel

Thomas J. Coleman, III

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, William Greene, Barry Seymour, Thabet Zakaria, Donald Shanis, Candace Snyder, Charles Dougherty, Ronald Roggenburk, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Jerry Mooney
All Prant

Chester County Planning Commission

William Fulton

City of Camden

Edward Martinez

Pennsylvania Governor's Office

Marie Conley

Federal Transit Administration

Janet Kampf

New Jersey Transit

Brent Barnes

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Richard Burnfield

Delaware River Port Authority

Anisah Abiola

Representative from Happy Fernandez' Office

Miles Day

Armand Corporation

James Dixon

University of Pennsylvania
Graduate Students

Mineo Oishi

Call to Order

Chairman Ridgeley P. Ware, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Public Comments

Comments from the public were invited to be heard on non-agenda items. No comments were stated.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of September 25, 1997

On a **motion** by Mr. King, seconded by Ms. Goren; the minutes of the meeting of September 25, 1997 were approved as distributed.

2. FY 1997-2001 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

John B. Claffey, DVRPC Staff, briefed the Board on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments as follows:

Amendment 9731

Montgomery County has requested the TIP be amended to add the engineering phases of four bridge replacement projects, using funds from the Old Betzwood Bridge Project which is not ready to advance. The total cost of the project is \$890,000 (\$712,000 federal, \$133,000 state, \$45,000 county).

This amendment will not alter the TIP's conformity finding since all of the projects are exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

Amendment 9732

SEPTA has requested the TIP be amended to add 11 projects, totaling \$41.2 million (\$39.8 million state, \$1.4 million local), using funds generated by Pennsylvania's recently enacted revenue enhancement package (Act 3). Many of these projects have been included in previous TIPs and all have been determined to be consistent with the Year 2020 Long Range Plan.

Financial constraint will be maintained since all of the projects will be funded with a combination of state funds made available through the revenue enhancement package and a local match.

Amendment 9733

SEPTA has requested the TIP be amended to add the Vehicle Maintenance Project to FY 1998 at a total cost of \$15 million (\$12 million federal, \$2.5 million state, \$ 500,000 local). This project was not eligible for capital funding when the TIP was developed in the Spring of 1996. However, the new Federal Transit Administration guidelines do allow federal capital assistance for vehicle maintenance.

To maintain financial constraint, the funds for the Vehicle Maintenance Project will be taken from the Market-Frankford Automatic Train Control Project. Because of good bids received for construction activities of the Frankford Elevated project, funds are available within this grant to advance the construction phase of the Automatic Train Control Project.

All of the TIP amendments are consistent with the 2020 Long Range Plan.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) for TIP Amendments 9731, 9732, and 9733.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) for TIP Amendment 9732 and 9733. TIP Amendment 9731 was also recommended, however, the RCC believes that consideration should be given to providing adequate space for wider shoulders to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access, where appropriate, on the four bridge replacement projects in Montgomery County.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Pickett that the Boards approve: (1) TIP Amendment 9731, Montgomery County's request to add the engineering phase of four local bridges, using funds from the Old Betzwood Bridge Project which is not ready to advance, (2) TIP Amendment 9732, SEPTA's request to add 11 projects using State Act 3 funds, and (3) TIP Amendment 9733, SEPTA's request to add the Vehicle Maintenance Project.

DVRPC staff assured the RCC that their specific concern about TIP Amendment 9731 would be forwarded to PennDOT and the county design engineers for their review.

A board member raised a question on TIP Amendment 9732 concerning the Schuylkill Valley Metro Major Investment Study (MIS). Since work cannot begin on the MIS until the feasibility study is complete, SEPTA was asked if a completion date was available. The SEPTA representative responded that the feasibility study would be complete by the Spring of 1998 (March or April).

3. **FY 1998 Work Program Amendment: Institutional Coordination of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Deployment in the Delaware Valley**

Mr. Claffey briefed the Board on the Federal Highway Administration and PennDOT's request for DVRPC to undertake a study for ITS Deployment in the Delaware Valley region. In an effort to build smarter highway and transit systems an ITS would include some of the following: (1) ramp metering, (2) electronic toll

collection, (3) coordinated signals, (4) incident detection, (5) response systems and (6) general surveillance.

Donald Shanis, DVRPC Staff, outlined the ITS project and its purpose. The project employs a two-tier approach. First, at the regional level, it identifies users of the transportation system and operating agencies who need to know about travel conditions and incidents; identifies methods to improve communication among agencies; and notifies travelers largely using existing equipment and off-the-shelf technology. Second, the project establishes incident management task forces along freeway corridors with the purpose of improving communication and cooperation among local level agencies who must respond to incidents. Technical memoranda documenting project accomplishments and recommendations will be prepared.

John J. Coscia, DVRPC Executive Director, brought to the Board's attention that due to the high level of technology that this study entails, he may need to hire additional staff and/or consultants. These individuals would be term employees (not permanent).

It was requested that the counties be involved while developing the ITS. Mr. Coscia assured the Board that the counties and cities would be part of this effort.

Colin A. Hanna, Chester County, stated that the Public Technology Institute (PTI) recently completed a similar study and suggested DVRPC obtains this information to avoid duplication of effort. Two Board members (Colin A. Hanna and Denise L. Goren) are members of the PTI and would assist DVRPC in obtaining the pertinent information.

Denise L. Goren, City of Philadelphia, was pleased that the architecture and operational issues, which are critical, will be dealt with as this ITS project moves forward.

After favorable recommendation from the PCC/RTC the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Hanna; that the Board amend the FY 1998 Planning Work Program to include the Project; Institutional Coordination Study for Intelligent Transportation (ITS) Deployment in the Delaware Valley and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate, enter into, and execute any required contracts.

4. **Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Funding Request in Delaware County**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on two applications forwarded to DVRPC by PENNVEST for review for consistency with the regional plan. The projects include the rehabilitation or replacement of sanitary sewer lines for the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority and the installation of new sewer lines for the Southern Delaware County Authority. The areas served by these projects are now developed and identified as future growth areas in the DIRECTION 2020 Plan. Therefore, these applications are consistent with DIRECTION 2020.

After favorable recommendation by the DVRPC staff, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Pickett, seconded by Mr. Loeben; that the Boards authorize the Executive Director to send letter notifying PENNVEST of consistency with the DIRECTION 2020 Plan.

5. **Update of the New Jersey Reexamination Report and Preliminary Development and Redevelopment Plan and the Cross-Acceptance Process**

Charles P. Newcomb, State of New Jersey Office of State Planning presented to the Board a summary of the New Jersey Reexamination Report and Preliminary Development and Redevelopment Plan (Plan) and the Cross-Acceptance Process.

Mr. Newcomb stated that the Plan was adopted by the State Planning Commission in June 1992 and puts forward a strategy for redevelopment and new development within the state. He explained that every three years it is required that the Plan be reexamined to accommodate new trends and citizens' issues of concern. A preliminary document is prepared which contains any appropriate Plan or policy revisions. This preliminary document goes through a Cross-Acceptance Process which allows citizens, state, and local officials, legislators, planners, businesses, and private and nonprofit entities to refine the Plan. At the end of cross-acceptance, the State Planning Commission will adopt or readopt the Plan to reflect the changes to the Preliminary Plan (April 1999).

DVRPC has been requested to prepare a report which compares the preliminary New Jersey State Plan document for consistency with the DIRECTION 2020 Plan.

6. **How Do We Get There? ... Improving Access for Tourists and Visitors**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Staff, called the Board's attention to the report (distributed to the Board) entitled: "*How Do We Get there?...Improving Access for Tourists and Visitors.*" He pointed out three main areas of the report which identify: (1) the major

tourist attractions within the region and the primary access routes used to get there, (2) transportation improvements to improve mobility and access to the attractions, and (3) increased visibility and recognition through improved signage.

Mary Bell, DVRPC Staff, presented the findings of the report. She explained that the report considers the economic impacts of tourism and travel in the Delaware Valley and presents strategies for improving mobility for tourists. Over 130 regional attractions were mapped and surveyed, and primary access routes to and between these attractions identified. Transportation improvements that would improve mobility are listed, and a detailed proposal to establish a regional directional signage program is presented.

7. Pennsylvania FY 1997 TIP Performance

John J. Coscia reported that DVRPC negotiated an obligation target of \$191 million in federal funds for this region for FY 1997, which represents 29 percent of The estimated available regular federal resources for Pennsylvania of \$660 million for FY 1997.

As of September 30, 1997, the PennDOT's District 6 Office was able to obligate \$195 million (net) worth of project phases. This represents 102 percent of the region's target and 27.8 percent of corresponding obligations for all PennDOT districts statewide.

PennDOT and the staff of District 6, in particular, were commended for the effort put forth in meeting the region's target.

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Intelligent Transportation Systems Forum held at DVRPC on October 8, 1997

Mr. Claffey reported the activities of the ITS Forum held at DVRPC. These included: (1) a national perspective of what is expected from ITS, (2) identify critical issues and develop an ITS mission statement, and (3) the involvement of additional agencies and organizations.

b. The National Freight Summit: *One System. Many Partners.* November 17-19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Philadelphia

Mr. Coscia reported on the National Freight Summit and encouraged all Board members and alternatives to attend.

c. DVRPC Board Retreat Scheduled for December 8, 1997 at the Union League Club in Philadelphia

Mr. Coscia reported that the next Board meeting is the Board Retreat on December 8 at the Union League Club in Philadelphia. The keynote speaker will be The Honorable Myron Orfield, House of Representatives, State of Minnesota and the keynote address will be *Metro-Politics: A Regional Agenda for Community and Stability* which deals with Tax-Base Sharing. All Board members and alternatives were encouraged to attend.

d. Route 29 Litigation

Mr. Coscia reported that DVRPC along with NJDOT and FHA is being sued in district court. The contention is that; as the MPO, DVRPC should have required NJDOT to conduct a Congestion Management System Plan and a Major Investment Study for the Route 29 corridor in Mercer County.

e. AMTRAK Strike

Mr. Coscia pointed out SEPTA's Alternative Service Plan (distributed to the Board) in case of AMTRAK Strike.

9. Committee Reports

a. DVRPC FY 1999 Work Program Committee

Mr. Coscia reported the activities of the Board Work Program Committee meeting of October 14, 1997. Member government inputs were reviewed and a list of 28 new projects were presented for consideration. Approximately \$550,000 is available for new projects, however, three state projects must be funded with supplemental funds or this amount will be reduced by \$230,000 which leaves \$300,000 available funds.

The committee suggested that all new project submissions should be rated on how they relate to the Year 2020 goals. A ranking sheet will be developed by DVRPC staff and mailed to committee members for voting. Committee members are to vote for their top five projects and bring this ranking sheet to the next committee meeting for them to be tallied.

The next Board Work Program Committee meeting is scheduled for November 10, 1997, 9:30 a.m, at DVRPC.

b. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

The items for the PCC/RTC were previously reported under the appropriate agenda items.

c. Regional Citizens Committee

The items for the RCC were previously reported under the appropriate agenda items. In addition, Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, requested the Board's permission to send a letter to Gordon Linton, Federal Transit Administration (with a copy to the Honorable Rodney Slater) supporting the DVRPC Access-to-Work Proposal. It was agreed.

Richard Bickel questioned the statement on the RTC report which stated: *"The RTC remanded back to staff the Regional Indicators Report with the request that data resulting from accepted calculations and formulas which is nonetheless inconsistent with the perception of regional circumstances be more carefully explained or revised to reflect existing regional conditions."*

Barry Seymour explained that the policy goals of the eight issue areas in the 2020 Plan were examined and then specific measures were identified relating to those goals. The database line available was taken from the National figures for 1990 and the most recent data collected was for 1995-1996. DVRPC Staff has been requested by the RTC and the RCC to update the Regional Indicators Report to better assess existing conditions (i.e., congestion in the region). DVRPC will prepare a revised report using our own, more accurate, analysis (i.e., DVRPC traffic count reports). After compilation of this information a revised Regional Indicator Report will be presented to the RTC, RCC, and the Board.

10. Conrail Merger Testimony

A copy of the revised Testimony for filing to the STB on the Norfolk Southern, CSX, Conrail Merger was distributed to the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for October 23, 1997
- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for October 23, 1997

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) National Freight Summit Program and Registration
- (2) SEPTA's 1997 AMTRAK Strike Alternative Service Plan
- (3) Transportation FAX dated October 10, 1997
- (4) Freight Lines, October 1997
- (5) Alert, October 1997
- (6) TravelSmart, October 20, 1997

**PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR
OCTOBER 23, 1997**

**BOARD
AGENDA ITEM**

2. FY 1997-2000 TIP AMENDMENTS

a. TIP Modification 9731

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve TIP Modification 9731, Montgomery County's request to amend the FY 1997 - 2000 TIP to add the engineering phase of four local bridges, using funds from the Old Betzwood Bridge Project which is not ready to advance.

b. TIP Amendment 9732

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9732, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 1997-2000 TIP by adding 11 projects using State Act 3 funds.

c. TIP Amendment 9733

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9733, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 1997-2000 TIP by adding the Vehicle Maintenance project, as recent changes to Federal Transit Administration policies and procedures have allowed this project to become eligible for capital funding in FY 1998.

3. ACCESS-TO-JOBS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT GRANT

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board endorse a staff initiative to prepare a formal grant application for an Access-to-Jobs Demonstration Project if one is so requested by US DOT, the US Department of Labor, or the State Department of Public Welfare.

In Other Business

1. The RTC remanded back to staff the Regional Indicators report with the request that data resulting from accepted calculations and formulas which is nonetheless inconsistent with the perception of regional circumstances be more carefully explained or revised to reflect existing regional conditions.

DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR OCTOBER 23, 1997

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

2. FY 1997 - 2001 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

The RCC recommends:

a. TIP Amendment 9731

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9731. The RCC also believes that consideration should be given to providing adequate space for wider shoulders to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access, where appropriate, on these bridges.

b. TIP Amendment 9732

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9732.

c. TIP Amendment 9733

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9733.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

The RCC has heard the details of the DVRPC Access-to-Work Demonstration Grant and would like to send a letter of support for this proposal to The Honorable Gordon Linton at the Federal Transit Administration (with a copy to The Honorable Rodney Slater).