

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of March 25, 1999

Location: Commission Officer
The 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

William S. Beetle
John H. Moore

Governor of New Jersey's Appointee

Jerrold D. Colton

Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee

Timothy J. Carson

Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office

Charles Bohnenberger

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Larry M. King

Bucks County

(not represented)

Chester County

Colin A. Hanna
William Fulton

Delaware County

John E. Pickett

Montgomery County

Arthur F. Loeben

Burlington County

Carol Ann Thomas

Camden County

J. Douglas Griffith

Gloucester County

James Atkinson
Charles Romick

Mercer County	Donna Lewis
City of Chester	(not represented)
City of Philadelphia	Denise L. Goren
City of Camden	Edward Williams
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten
<u>Non-Voting Members</u>	
Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division Pennsylvania Division	Calvin Edghill (not represented)
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)
New Jersey Office of State Planning	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	John Garrity
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Christopher Patton
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Brent Barnes
Port Authority Transit Corporation	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	Anisah Abiola
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Lou Guerra
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Ronald K. Bednar
Regional Citizens Committee Chairman	Dennis Winters

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Kenneth Zielonis
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Thabet Zakaria, Richard Bickel, Michael Ontko, Ronald Roggenburk, John Dawson, Roger Moog, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Jerry Mooney
Al Prant

New Jersey Governor's Office

John G. Donnelly

Congressman Joseph Pitts Office

Thomas Tillett

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Patrick Starr

Cross County Connection TMA

William Ragozine

Eddie Battle Associates

Eddie Battle

RBA Group

John Burkhardt

Call to Order

Chairman Colin A. Hanna called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Public Comments

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

1. Minutes of Meeting of February 25, 1999

On a **motion** by Mr. Beetle, seconded by Ms. Paul; the minutes of February 25, 1999

were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications

John B. Claffey, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the TIP Modifications as follows:

New Jersey Portion of the TIP

a. Modification 9823 - Engineering for Projects (Delaware River Port Authority)

DRPA has requested that DVRPC modify the TIP by increasing the amount programmed in FY99 for their Engineering for Projects line item (TIP #D028). Currently, this project has \$500,000 (\$400,000 federal, \$100,000 DRPA) programmed in FY99. DRPA is proposing to add \$800,000 (\$640,000 federal, \$160,000 DRPA) to fund engineering and design for their Embankment Restoration project.

Financial constraint will be maintained since the additional \$800,000 for the Engineering for Projects line item will be transferred from the Upgrade of Car Door Operators project (TIP #D021). This project currently has \$800,000 (\$640,000 federal, \$160,000 DRPA) programmed in FY99 and in FY00. This project is not scheduled to begin in this fiscal year.

b. Modification 9824 - Restriping Program (NJDOT)

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the TIP by increasing the amount programmed in FY99 for the Restriping Program (TIP #0047) by \$600,000. Currently, this project has \$1 million in STP funds programmed for engineering and construction in FY99. NJDOT is similarly proposing to increase the amount programmed for the Restriping Program in the NJTPA region by \$2.4 million.

Financial constraint will be maintained since the additional \$3 million (\$600,000 for the DVRPC Restriping Program and the \$2.4 million for the NJTPA Restriping Program) will be transferred from the Statewide Operations Center (DBNUM X235). This project currently has \$4 million in STP funds programmed for engineering and construction in FY99. The remaining \$1 million will cover the anticipated design costs.

These projects are exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

After favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) and the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Griffith; that the Board approve the following TIP Modifications:

Modification 9823, DRPA's request to transfer FY 1999 funding for the Upgrade Car Door Operators project for \$800,000 (\$640,000 federal, \$160,000 local) to Engineering for Projects, with the intention of using these funds for the engineering and design activities of the Embankment Restoration project, and

Modification 9824, New Jersey DOT's request to reduce the amount programmed for the Statewide Operations Center by \$3 million of STP funds, transferring \$2.4 million to the NJTPA Restriping Program and \$.6 million to the DVRPC Restriping Program.

3. Proposed Amendments to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan

Michael Ontko, DVRPC, staff briefed the Board on the proposed amendments to the Tri-County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan as follows:

a. Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA)

Kupper Associates, representing Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) has requested an amendment to the Tri-County WQM Plan. The amendment would update the CCMUA Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) by expanding the wastewater planning flows to the following facilities: Winslow Township Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Camden County Vo-Tech School in Gloucester Township, and Ancora Psychiatric Hospital in Winslow Township. The WMP covers all of Camden County and two additional areas in Evesham and Mount Laurel Townships, Burlington County.

This amendment serves to unify three CCMUA plans into one cohesive document. The plans are the Delaware River Basin Plan; the Mullica River Plan encompassing the Pinelands portion of Winslow and Waterford Townships and Chesilhurst borough; and the Egg Harbor River Basin including the non-Pinelands portion of Winslow township. The only new element of the CCMUA amendment is the non-Pinelands portion of Winslow Township.

After favorable recommendation was received from the Tri-County WQM Board the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Ms. Thomas that the Board adopt the amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan for the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority Wastewater Management Plan by passing Resolution No. B-FY99-012 (copy attached).

b. Chesterfield Township Wastewater Management Plan - Burlington County

Environmental Resolutions, Inc., on behalf of Chesterfield Township, has requested an amendment to the Tri-County WQM Plan. The amendment would provide a comprehensive WMP to Chesterfield Township.

The primary element of the Chesterfield WMP is the acquisition of all of the wastewater flow for the Township. The WMP proposes expanding the flow and sewer service area for the Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility Sewage Treatment Plan (STP).

After favorable recommendation by the Tri-County WQM Board the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Griffith that the Board adopt the amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan for the Chesterfield Township Wastewater Management Plan in Burlington County by passing Resolution No. B-FY99-013 (copy attached).

4. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Dennis Winters, RCC Chairman, reported the activities of the RCC meeting of March 9, 1999.

The RCC requests permission to co-sponsor, on behalf of DVRPC, a series of forums geared to educating the public about regional planning issues and promote participation in the long-range planning effort. To date, the forums have been coordinated by the Clean Air Council and have focused on such issues as sprawl and auto dependency.

Winters announced the next forum is scheduled for April 21, 1999 in the Philadelphia Main Library auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

After discussion the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Goren, seconded by Ms. Thomas; that the Board authorize the RCC to co-sponsor the forums on regional planning issues and promote participation in the long-range planning effort. The Board also agreed to sponsor and support these forums.

Winters then reported that the RCC urges the DVRPC Board to support an immediate reduction of the speed limit on PA Route 41 to 45 mph from the Delaware State Line to Gap. This recommended action reflects the agreement of PennDOT, their engineers, local officials and police that speed reduction would promote safety and benefit congestion.

Winters also presented a Resolution (copy attached to) from the RCC which urges PennDOT or DVRPC to conduct a Major Investment Study (MIS) for an on-line, two-lane highway improvement that would include a two-lane, low-speed bypass for Avondale, incorporating safety enhancements for the balance of the Pa Route 41 study corridor, such as lowering the current 55 mph speed limit to 45 mph, adding lefthand turn lanes where appropriate, installing crossover warning devices in the center of the highway, and adding shoulders to accommodate farm vehicles and bicycles.

Members of the Board responded and explained to Winters that efforts are being made to solve the safety issues along Route 41. Under discussion is an attempt to use a form of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS); such as an automated camera, on traffic signals as a means of stopping individuals from running red lights. Also being considered is aggressive signage to warn vehicle operators that a camera device is attached to the traffic signals.

In response to the RCC's resolution requesting that a MIS be performed for Route 41, Board members questioned exactly what the RCC was trying to accomplish. TEA-21 regulations do not require a MIS and the current project development process meets the requirements of a MIS.

Larry King, PennDOT, explained their project development process ensures that all issues are thoroughly explored and provides for continued public input. Also, the laws and regulations for environmental issues are fully addressed for each project.

The Board suggested that the RCC consider forming a secondary committee which would include input from local elected officials and local organizations to form a parallel between the engineering and environmental process while the project continues to move forward.

It was agreed that Winters would discuss the Board's recommendation with the RCC before further consideration of the RCC's resolution by the Board.

5. Selected Applicants for Job Access and Reverse Commute

After Board action at its February 25, 1999 meeting, a list of high priority projects in Pennsylvania and New Jersey was forwarded to FTA for Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant funding. John J. Coscia, Executive Director, explained that the selected applicants have not been announced. Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, stated that he was informed by FTA that the selections would be posted on the FTA website, however, nothing is available as yet.

Colin A. Hanna, Chester County, informed the Board that he had contacted the office of U.S. Congressman Joseph Pitts to also inquire if the applicants had been selected. Thomas Tillett, District Director for Congressman Pitts, reported that the competition for the grant funding is very large; 280 applications nation-wide. Tillett stated that all of the applications are in the office of administration and selected applicants will be announced by March 31, 1999.

Using PennDOT funds, Barry Seymour reported that PennDOT went through a similar competitive grant process for access to jobs' programs in rural areas. Those grant awards have been announced for three projects in this region as follows: (1) Bucks County Transportation Management Association (TMA), (2) Chester County TMA, SCCOOT Group, and (3) Delaware County TMA, expansion of the Quick Silver Express project.

6. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) - Status of Regional Deployment Plan and Policy Development and System Integrated Surveillance and Data Management Infrastructure

Donald Shanis, DVRPC staff, presented to the Board the DVRPC study on ITS. Shanis explained the study was done to set a framework for the ITS concept and develop a regional architecture. Shanis stated that questionnaires and surveys were sent to interested municipalities and regional organizations to help DVRPC define their needs and opportunities in the ITS area. A coordinating council and technical task force have been established, and an inventory has been completed of agencies that must interface to coordinate ITS functions. Shanis described a prototype freeway corridor program, as well as ITS priorities and schedules. A matrix was shown to explain the physical architecture for traffic control (incident management system), which showed the focus groups involved and how ITS would operate.

7. Status of New Rail and Rail Extension Projects

John Dawson, DVRPC staff presented to the Board the status of new rail, rail restoration, and rail extension projects. Dawson gave a brief description of each project and distributed to the Board a table which listed the following aspects of

each project: (1) project name and lead agency, (2) status of project, (3) alternative, (4) capital cost, (5) annual operating cost, (6) weekday ridership, and (7) specific information for each project.

8. Regional Trends and Recommendations for Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

Patrick Starr of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) presented the results of the final report prepared for Transit Oriented Development (TOD). TODs are those where public transportation and neighborhood services are located within walking distance of housing, thus reducing the need for automobile travel. Although there are numerous barriers to this type of new development in the region, surveys sponsored by PEC indicated that such developments are desirable and developers can build TODs profitably. The report recommends ways to remove the barriers and proposes "next steps" to provide clear direction for policy makers and other advocates.

9. Executive Director's Report

John J. Coscia reported on the following:

a. Population Change 1990 to 1998

The latest U.S. Census Bureau population changes from 1990 to 1998 was distributed to the Board. Coscia highlighted that the four New Jersey counties continue to grow gaining 51,000 people over the last eight years, whereas, the five Pennsylvania counties have lost 20,000 people. The largest growth in population is located in Chester, Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania and Burlington and Gloucester Counties in New Jersey.

b. New Jersey TIP Freeze Release

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was informed in February that the Environmental Protection Agency, Region II approved the revisions to the New Jersey Implementation Plan, thus removing the freeze on conformity demonstrations imposed in 1997 which impacted the TIP.

c. Meeting with PennDOT Secretary Brad Mallory held on March 18, 1999

Coscia reported that a the meeting on March 18, 1999 with Secretary Brad Mallory, PennDOT, was held to discuss the ability of the District 6-0 staff to advance engineering design for the large number of projects in the FY 1999-2002 TIP. As a result of that meeting, the following is being recommended: (1) that DVRPC assist PennDOT in getting projects through the planning process, and (2) DVRPC help PennDOT administer and provide technical oversight for the CMAQ and the Transportation Enhancement projects.

d. USDOT Tri-County Annual Certification Review of DVRPC, May 19, 1999

A USDOT Tri-County Annual Certification Review is scheduled for May 19, 1999 to review DVRPC's regional transportation planning process and certify that it fully meets all of the requirements of the federal metropolitan planning regulations.

e. National Association of Regional Councils' (NARC) Washington Policy Conference held on March 20-23, 1999

Coscia reported that the NARC Conference brought together Regional Councils from the United States and Europe to discuss regionalism.

f. Ozone Action Partnership Board Meeting, March 3, 1999

Coscia announced that the Ozone Action Kickoff event is scheduled for May 25, 1999 at Penns Landing in Philadelphia.

g. New Jersey Straight Line Diagrams

A diskette was distributed to the Board on the New Jersey Straight Line Diagrams for their use and information.

10. **Committee Reports**

a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC)

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

b. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC)

In addition to the RCC items previously reported under the appropriate agenda items, Dennis Winters requested a Board response to the RCC's request to add

a bicycle advocate to the CMAQ Subcommittee to be selected from the RCC membership.

c. Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG)

The IREG meeting highlights of March 10, 1999 were distributed to the Board.

d. Tri-County Water Quality Management Board

The Tri-County Water Quality Management Board meeting highlights of March 15, 1999 were distributed to the Board.

e. Regional Air Quality Committee

Ron Roggenburk, DVRPC, staff reported that on March 2, 1999 the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit struck down or remanded portions of the federal conformity rule. The critical issue for the DVRPC region is a prohibition on using budgets submitted by the states but not yet approved by EPA.

PennDOT, in response to recommendations from FHWA, is requesting that DVRPC complete a second analysis for the recently adopted Pennsylvania TIP and amended Plan, using the 1996 budget for VOCs and a build/no-build comparison for NOx. Approval at the April 22 Board meeting is targeted.

f. Regional Aviation Committee

Roger Moog, DVRPC staff, reported the highlights of the March 18, 1999 Regional Aviation Committee as follows: (1) the completion of the new Philadelphia International Airport runway 8/26, (2) emerging issues in airport development, and (3) fair and appropriate share of federal funds for aviation facilities.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for March 25, 1999
- (2) RTC Recommendations to the Board for March 25, 1999
- (3) Resolution Numbers B-FY99-012, B-FY99-013

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Transportation FAX dated March 5, 1999
- (2) NARC brochure entitled: *Regional Councils - Building Regional Communities for the 21 Century*
- (3) *Alert*, March 1999
- (4) *Freight Lines*, March 1999
- (5) *TravelSmart*, March 17, 1999
- (6) *NARC Regional Reporter*, March 1999