

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**BOARD COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting of May 24, 2001**

Location: Commission Offices  
111 S. Independence Mall, East  
The Bourse Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

Joyce Paul

New Jersey Department of Transportation

William S. Beetle

Governor of New Jersey's Appointee

Jerrold D. Colton, Esq.

Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee

Timothy J. Carson, Esq.

Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office

Bob E. Baker

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Thomas TenEyck

Bucks County

Lynn Bush

Chester County

Colin A. Hanna  
William Fulton  
Charles Coyne

Delaware County

John E. Pickett

Montgomery County

Lewis F. Gould

Burlington County

Carol Ann Thomas

Camden County

J. Douglas Griffith

Gloucester County

Chuck E. Romick

Mercer County	Donna Lewis
City of Chester	(not represented)
City of Philadelphia	Lawrence Wilson
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten
<u>Non-Voting Members</u>	
Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division Pennsylvania Division	Keith Lynch Spencer Stevens
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	Lyn Kirshenbaum
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	Daniel Ryan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
New Jersey Office of State Planning	David Hosjak
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Robin Mayhew
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Gerald Kane
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Brent Barnes
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Thomas Hickey
Delaware River Port Authority	Anisah Abioli
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Ronald K. Bednar

Regional Citizens Committee Chairman

Patrick Starr

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel  
New Jersey Co-Counsel

(not represented)  
Steve Raymond

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Thabet Zakaria, Chick Dougherty, Roger Moog, Michael Ontko, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan  
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Jim Lewis  
Jerry Mooney  
Al Prant  
Neil Longfield

New Jersey Governor's Authorities Unit

Kimberley Stuart

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Rich Burnfield

Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter's Office

Anthony Cunningham

Cross County Connection TMA

William Ragozine

Vollmer Associates

Jeremy Alvarez

**Call to Order**

Chairman Timothy J. Carson called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

Chairman Carson reported that one of his goals as chairman was to facilitate communication and interaction between DVRPC and entities in the Delaware Valley region who participate in various public activities. He believes this has been accomplished due to several joint programs with the Delaware River Port Authority, Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and Philadelphia First. Chairman Carson also reported on the success of the county visits which he and John J. Coscia, Executive Director, have been making throughout the past few weeks. Thus far, they have visited Bucks and Montgomery County. They will visit

Chester County on May 29<sup>th</sup>, Delaware County on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Camden County on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Burlington County on June 27<sup>th</sup> and Mercer County on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Philadelphia County and Gloucester County are in the process of being scheduled.

### **Public Comments**

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

#### **1. Minutes of Meeting of April 26, 2001**

On a **motion** by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2001 were approved as distributed.

#### **2. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions**

John Claffey, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the following TIP Actions:

##### Pennsylvania Section of the TIP

##### a. TIP Action PA 0127 - PennDOT Adjustment Package

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend and/or modify the TIP to reflect adjustments in cost, schedule, and scope of four existing TIP projects as follows:

- (1) Aston Bike Loop (TIP #7903) - Delaware County  
Delete this project from the TIP. The Aston Township Board of Commissioners approved a motion to suspend work on this project due to concerns about the “on-road” nature of the project. Construction funding will be returned to the “On-Road Bicycle Facilities Line Item (TIP #0565.)
- (2) US 202, Section 701 (TIP #8729) - Montgomery County  
Increase the cost of the final design phase by \$1.8 million. This revised cost estimate is based on recent field views with the consultant.
- (3) Glenwood Avenue Bridge (TIP #9742) - City of Philadelphia  
Defer the construction phase from FY 2001 to “Later Fiscal Years.” This project will not be ready to advance in this fiscal year. Although no funding will remain programmed for this project in the current TIP period, it remains a priority for the City and its schedule will be addressed during the next TIP update cycle.

- (4) “Share the Road” Campaign (TIP #0582) - Regionwide  
Change the funding source from Transportation Enhancements (TE) with a local match to CMAQ with a toll credit match.

Financial constraint will be maintained through adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. The attached fiscal constraint charts provided by PennDOT showing the adjustments taking place to accommodate the above actions (highlighted rows,) as well as a series of administrative modifications taking place this month were distributed to the Board.

There will be no impact on the conformity finding.

b. TIP Action PA 0129

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC modify the TIP by adding available funds remaining from the FY1999 TIP into the current TIP. Carryover funds in the amounts of \$11 million and \$17.5 million will be added to the Broad Street Subway Station Improvements Project (TIP #S070) and the 30<sup>th</sup> Street to Suburban Station Catenary and Bridge Repair Project (TIP # S054,) respectively.

Financial constraint will not be affected since these funds will be carried over from the FY1999 TIP and there will be no impact on the conformity finding.

c. Action PA 0132 - Bicycle Mobility Improvements, City of Philadelphia

The DVRPC TIP for Pennsylvania includes a Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item (TIP #0565), currently programmed with \$3.183 million (\$2.546 million CMAQ). Its purpose is to fund on-road bicycle projects in the four suburban counties and in the City of Philadelphia.

The City of Philadelphia has submitted a proposal to add the study phase of two projects to the TIP under this line item, totaling \$110,000. The projects are as follows:

- (1) Chestnut Street/Walnut Street Evaluation (\$55,000)  
Explore the feasibility of establishing bicycle lanes on each of these streets from 38<sup>th</sup> Street to the Cobbs Creek Parkway. The study will

include a capacity analysis to determine whether traffic lane reduction can be effected through this corridor.

(2) 25<sup>th</sup> Street Evaluation (\$55,000)

This roadway is beneath a railroad viaduct, the columns of which create an unusual inner/outer lane configuration. The study will concentrate on possible closure of the inner lanes, if capacity permits, and the creation of a bikeway in the area now occupied by the inner lanes.

There will be no impact on financial constraint. Funds for the new projects will be drawn from the Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item and these projects are exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

New Jersey Section of the TIP

d. Action NJ 0111 - Gloucester County Trails Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding the design phase of the Gloucester County Trails Project at a total cost of \$141,000. This project is a multi-purpose trail along the abandoned Williamstown Branch of the Pennsylvania - Reading Seashore Line, which is located in Monroe Township and Glassboro. The trail will also provide linkages with the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area, Scotland Run Park, the Monroe Township Bike Path, and the Clayton Trails Bike Path. The \$500,000 construction phase will be funded through the State's Local Aid Bikeway Program.

Financial constraint will be maintained by drawing funds from the DVRPC Project Development Line Item (DB #X80B) and the TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this action.

The Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) recommends that the Board approve TIP Action PA 0127, PennDOT Adjustment Package, TIP Action PA 0129, SEPTA Carryover Funds, PA 0132, Bicycle Mobility Improvements, and TIP Action NJ 0111, Gloucester County Trails Project.

The Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) recommends that the Board approve TIP Actions PA 0127 and NJ 0111.

The RCC recommends approval of TIP Action PA 0127 with the following notation: *The RCC restates its continuing opposition to US 202, Section 700. The RCC asks that DVRPC staff write a letter to Aston Township informing them of the existing "Share the Road" Program and offer to present an overview of the Program to the Township.*

The RCC recommends approval of TIP Action PA 0132 with the following notation: *The committee expresses concern that bicycle mobility funds are being used for the Chestnut/Walnut Street extensions. The RCC asks that consideration be given to adding a bicycle lane on the left side of the street.*

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

**MOTION** by Mr. Romick, seconded by Ms. Thomas; that the Board approve TIP Action PA 0127, PennDOT Adjustment Package, TIP Action PA 0129, SEPTA Carryover Funds, TIP Action PA 0132, Bicycle Mobility Improvements (City of Philadelphia), and TIP Action NJ 0111, Gloucester County Trails Project (Gloucester County)

**3. FY 2002 DVRPC Planning Work Program Amendment: Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Public Education Video**

Mr. Claffey briefed the Board and explained that, in the Greater Philadelphia area, many public agencies have begun implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) programs. Expansion and enhancement of these activities to full implementation requires support from elected officials and government policy makers. Unfortunately, the public and consequently public officials are not widely aware of ITS programs. Therefore, production of an ITS Public Education Video approximately ten minutes in length is proposed to build support by educating the public, elected officials, and government policy makers about ITS, the projects already implemented, and the benefits of a fully implemented ITS program to the Greater Philadelphia area.

The ITS Service Plan is a Federal Document that outlines the services, actions and products provided by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to improve local transportation through guidance and support of local ITS deployment. In FY 2001, the Delaware Valley area was allocated \$40,000 in the ITS Service Plan, with a portion of the amount, \$15,000 reserved for development of an ITS Public Education Video. The video will be produced in conjunction with the ITS Technical Task Force, a formal committee to the DVRPC. These additional funds, \$15,000 from the FHWA, do not require match and will be spent exclusively on the video production.



Some important concepts that will be incorporated into the video will be to describe the various elements of ITS including traffic monitoring, incident detection and operations, electronic toll collection, and transit management. Basic ITS elements will be explained and placed in a broader context by presenting US Department of Transportation initiatives to implement a national ITS program. Lastly, the benefits of ITS to the public will be described, especially when ITS is fully implemented.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC

Favorable recommendation was also received from the RCC with the request that an RCC representative be involved in the production process.

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

**MOTION** by Mr. Pickett, seconded by Mr. Griffith; that the Board approve amending the FY 2002 Planning Work Program to include the ITS Public Education Video project funded by \$15,000 from a FHWA-FTA Service Plan grant.

#### **4. Federal Aid Functional Classification Change**

Mr. Claffey explained to the Board that the Chester County Planning Commission is requesting the addition of a new roadway to the Regional Functional Classification System.

The new roadway, the French Creek Parkway, is a two-way facility that will connect PA 23 (Nutt Road) to PA 29 (Starr Street) in the Borough of Phoenixville, Chester County. The new road, one lane by direction, with left turn lanes where needed, will provide access to a new railroad station of the Schuylkill Valley Metro line. The purpose of the French Creek Parkway will also be to provide service to a 120 acre parcel of land scheduled for redevelopment consisting of office, retail and residential uses. This new land use is estimated to create 5,000 new jobs. Two new bridges over French Creek are also planned along the new road.

Staff has reviewed the request and found it consistent with the Functional Classification System and its continuity. The request, endorsed by DVRPC staff, consists of an additional 1.2 miles of urban collector to the Functional Classification System.

Construction of the roadway is approved under TIP #6937 of the FY 2001-2004 Pennsylvania Highway Program.

After favorable recommendation was received by the PCC/RTC and the RCC, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

**MOTION** by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Gould; that the Board approve the designation of the proposed French Creek Parkway in Phoenixville Borough, Chester County as an urban collector of the Federal and Functional Classification System.

**5. Nominating Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2002 DVRPC Board Officers**

Chairman Carson announced the slate of officers for the DVRPC Board Officers for Fiscal Year 2002 as follows:

Chairman: Jerald R. Cureton, Burlington County  
Vice Chairman: Robert E. Baker, Jr., Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office  
Secretary: Charles H. Martin, Bucks County  
Treasurer: Thomas Gurick, Camden County

The election of officers will take place at the regular June meeting at which time nominations may be made from the floor.

**7. Transportation Management Association (TMA) Performance Measures**

Donald Shanis, DVRPC staff, presented an overview of TMA performance measures in response to their request at their regular April meeting. Dr. Shanis reported that at present there are eight TMA's in the region as follows: Bucks County TMA, Partnership TMA, TMA of Chester County, Central Philadelphia TMA, Delaware County TMA, Cross County Connection TMA, Greater Valley Forge TMA. The TMA's primary focus is to address transportation issues with particular emphasis on travel demand management. The clients they serve are businesses, municipalities, transit providers, commuters and state DOTs. The TMA funding sources consist of state/federal contracts (62%), private sector (32%), and municipalities and fees for services (6%).

Dr. Shanis continued to say that TMA performance can be difficult to measure. Monthly and quarterly reports are prepared by the TMA's and a DVRPC staff person is assigned to the Board of each TMA. Other methods in measuring performance include estimates of the following: number of companies contacted, companies with new programs, new participants, new applicants for ridesharing, persons matched, pools formed, and new transit riders.

Dr. Shanis also commented on the future action plan to improve measuring TMA

performance as follows: meet with PennDOT and counties, and TMAs; develop and approve performance measures; and include performance measures in all FY 2003 Pennsylvania TMA contracts.

A FY 2001 TMA Mobility Alternatives Program 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Performance Report was distributed to the Board for the review.

Discussion ensued and Robert Baker, Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office inquired as to what is the approximate level of funding for the TMAs? Dr. Shanis responded that two TMAs in Pennsylvania get over \$1 million (Chester County TMA and the Greater Valley Forge TMA) because of their shuttle programs. The others receive approximately \$400,000 each.

Colin Hanna, Chester County, commented that as the performance measures are refined, the counties should be an integral part of the process.

Patrick Starr, RCC Chair, urged that when calculating the TMA performance measures that consideration be given to whether the services provided are valued by the funding members.

Andrew Carten, Trenton City, questioned the purpose of the TMA performance measure reports. Mr. Coscia, responded that the purpose of the reports is to review the end products. Funded with federal funds under contract, the TMA effort must first meet the contractual requirements. Secondly, the reports assist in framing the work and allotment of funding for the next year.

## **8. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report**

Patrick Staff, RCC Chair, read and called the Board's attention to the *Resolution on the Schuylkill Valley Metro (SVM) Ridership Estimates* attached to the Recommendations to the Board for May 24, 2001 (copy attached).

Gerald Kane, SEPTA, responded that a letter will be prepared in response to each item contained in the resolution. He also pointed out that an extensive travel demand study has been performed by SEPTA which considered many different alternatives.

Mr. Starr also commented that the RCC requests that they be able to review Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) on significant regional projects.

## **9. Executive Director's Report**

a. Ozone Action Kick-Off, May 15, 2001

Mr. Coscia reported that the Ozone Action Kick-Off held at the Franklin Institute was a great success. Awards were presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Ozone Action effort.

Mr. Coscia also mentioned a new pilot program (ECommute) to develop telecommuting. DVRPC will develop tradeable credits for individuals who do not take journey to work trips but work at home. These credits would then be converted in order to examine the reduction in air pollutants.

b. TransitChek Policy Committee Meeting, May 21, 2001

Mr. Coscia reported that sales for TransitCheks are doing exceeding well. Sales are over \$11 million a year with a growth rate of 30-40% per year. The maximum denomination for a TransitChek if \$65 per month, however, will be increased to \$100 per month in the near future.

**10. New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Long Range Transportation Plan**

Jim Lewis, Manager of NJDOT Bureau of Statewide Planning, presented to the Board an overview of NJDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan (Plan). The plan overview highlighted the following: 2025 goals and objectives, key findings of a public opinion survey, key transportation problems, managing land development, road improvement progress/transit progress, travel demand, impact assessments, funding, and future development and implementation.

Mr. Lewis distributed to the Board the *New Jersey Long-Range Transportation Plan Update* and *New Jersey Transportation Choices 2025 Summary*.

Mr. Lewis announced that meetings for public comment on the Plan are scheduled for June 7, 2001 at the Delran Municipal Building from 4-8 p.m. and June 12, 2001 at the Trenton City Hall Atrium from 4-8 p.m.

**11. Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP)**

Roger Moog, DVRPC staff, gave a brief overview of the RASP (executive summary for the RASP distributed to the Board). Mr. Moog explained the RASP is a component of DVRPC's 2025 Long Range Plan and is a plan for airports/aviation facility needs to optimize economic development, mobility, safety, and to minimize

air and noise pollution. Funded since 1980 the RASP encompasses a four state 12 county area and provides linkage from region to states and FAA regarding policy and capital grants. The main airports in the system are Philadelphia International, Trenton-Mercer, and New Castle County. Currently, there are 22 general aviation airports; 12 relievers and 10 general aviation, five heliports, and two major military bases. The RASP is now being amended to reflect events that have occurred since 1995, such as the drastic increase in commercial traffic; the flat rate of non-commercial traffic; increased suburbanization of the region; major construction at Philadelphia International; and the closures of two airports.

Mr. Moog then reviewed deficiencies, facilities and funding, and feedback from the public. In summary, Mr. Moog reviewed the RASP 2025 recommendations as follows: keep existing airports, no new facilities; increase airside capacity at Philadelphia, landside at New Castle County and Trenton-Mercer Airports; look outside region for more capacity, extend five runways in suburbs; acquire three private airports; purchase land for storage/buffer; and construct two heliports.

## **12. Committee Reports**

The following Committee Reports were distributed to the Board for their review:  
(1) PCC/RTC and (2) RCC.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was stated.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for May 24, 2001
- (3) RCC Recommendations to the Board for May 24, 2001

Additional Documents distributed to the Board:

- (1) *Alert*, May 2001
- (2) *Freight Lines*, May 2001
- (3) *TravelSmart* May 2001
- (4) DVRPC Newsletter
- (5) NJDOT *Transportation Choices 2025 Summary*

- (6) *New Jersey Long-Range Transportation Plan Update*
- (7) DVRPC Report entitled: *Homeownership: A Dream Still Vanishing*, April 2001

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Minutes of Meeting of May 24, 2001**

Location: Commission Offices  
The Bourse Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
111 S. Independence Mall East  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

#### Membership Present

#### Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Joyce Paul
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Thomas TenEyck
New Jersey Department of Transportation	William S. Beetle
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Jerrold D. Colton
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	Timothy J. Carson
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Bob Baker
Pennsylvania Counties	Lynn Bush
New Jersey Counties	Carol Ann Thomas
City of Philadelphia	Lawrence Wilson

#### Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Robert Hannigan Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Jim Lewis Jerry Mooney Al Prant Neil Longfield
Bucks County	Lynn Bush
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna William Fulton

	Charles Coyne
Delaware County	John E. Pickett
Montgomery County	Lewis F. Gould
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Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine



DVRPC Co-Counsel

New Jersey Co-Counsel

Steve Raymond

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Thabet Zakaria, Chick Dougherty, Roger Moog, Michael Ontko, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Timothy J. Carson called the meeting to order at 12:23

**1. Minutes of Meeting of April 24, 2001**

On a **motion** by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Beetle, the minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2001 were approved as distributed.

**2. Nominating Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2002 DVRPC Executive Committee Officers**

Chairman Carson announced the slate of officers for the DVRPC Executive Committee Officers for Fiscal Year 2002 as follows:

Chairman: Jerald R. Cureton, Burlington County  
Vice Chairman: Robert E. Baker, Jr., Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office  
Secretary: Charles H. Martin, Bucks County

The The election of officers will take place at the regular June meeting at which time nominations may be made from the floor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No new business was stated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.