

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of June 28, 2001

Location: Commission Offices
111 S. Independence Mall, East
The Bourse Building, 8th 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

(not represented)

Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee

Timothy J. Carson, Esq.

Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office

Robert E. Baker, Jr.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Larry M. King

Bucks County

Lynn Bush

Chester County

Colin A. Hanna

Delaware County

John E. Pickett

Montgomery County

Lewis F. Gould, Jr., Esq.
Kenneth Hughes

Burlington County

Jerald R. Cureton, Esq.
Carol Ann Thomas

Camden County

Thomas Gurick
J. Douglas Griffith

Gloucester County	Charles E. Romick
Mercer County	Danielle Longerbone
City of Chester	(not represented)
City of Philadelphia	Lawrence Wilson
City of Camden	Edward Williams
City of Trenton	(not represented)
<u>Non-Voting Members</u>	
Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division Pennsylvania Division	(not represented) Spencer Stevens
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	David Hosjak
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Michele Destra
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Christopher Patton
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Brent Barnes
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Thomas Hickey
Delaware River Port Authority	Linda Hayes
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Michael Shea
Pennsylvania Department of Community and	

Economic Development
Regional Citizens Committee Chairman

Ronald K. Bednar
Patrick Starr

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

David Garrison
Thomas J. Coleman

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Thabet Zakaria, Chick Dougherty, Roger Moog, Michael Ontko, Patty Elkis, 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

Camden County Freeholder Quirk's Office

Eve Charles

City Planning Commission
Dougherty

John

Cross County Connection TMA

William Ragozine

Vollmer Associates

Jeremy Alvarez

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

Joe Hartenstine

Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation

David Averill

Call to Order

Chairman Timothy J. Carson called the meeting to order at 10:44 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 May 24, 2001

On a **motion** by Mr. Beetle, seconded by Mr. Hanna, the minutes of the meeting of May 24, 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 0133 - FTA Section 5310 Program

PennDOT has selected 11 agencies in the DVRPC region to receive a total of \$1.467 million for the purchase of vehicles under FTA’s Section 5310 program (formerly Section 16) and has requested that these funds be added to the TIP. This program provides capital assistance to private nonprofit corporations that provide transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Forty-one applications were approved statewide for a total of \$5.4 million. The agencies receiving funding in the DVRPC region are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Bucks County Transport, Inc.	Bucks	\$185,400
Handi-Crafters, Inc.	Chester	\$38,900
Cerebral Palsy Assoc. of Chester County, Inc.	Chester	\$174,300
Community Transit of Delaware County, Inc.	Delaware	\$185,400
Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Mental Retardation Services	Delaware	\$58,100
Cerebral Palsy Assoc. of Delaware County	Delaware	\$122,400
Suburban Transit Network, Inc.	Montgomery	\$215,600
Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing	Philadelphia	\$76,100
Wheels, Inc.	Philadelphia	\$116,200
The Association for Independent Growth	Philadelphia	\$116,700
Ken-Crest Services	Philadelphia	\$178,000
	Total	\$1,467,100

There will be no impact on financial constraint or the conformity finding.

b. TIP Action PA 0134 - Transit Mall and Park, Pottstown Urban Transit (Montgomery County)

The Borough of Pottstown, Montgomery County, has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding back the Transit Mall and Park project (old TIP #PT021.) This project was originally included in the FY 1999 TIP, but was not advanced in the anticipated time frame.

This project involves the creation of transit-related park and pedestrian mall on about one acre of undeveloped land in Pottstown's business district. Improvements include planting, landscaping and grading, a bus shelter, bike racks, benches, trash cans, lighting, and public art. This area will serve as the focus and connection for public transportation in the borough. The parcel lies adjacent to the hub of Pottstown Urban Transit, where all five bus routes link. SEPTA's Route 93 bus also terminates at this location.

The design phase and part of the construction phase will be programmed in FY 2001 for a total of \$460,000, with the remainder of the construction phase programmed in FY 2002 for a total of \$950,000. Funding will come from a combination of federal, state, and local sources.

FTA formula funds and State Act 26 funds are available to Pottstown for this project and this project is exempt from the Regional Air Quality Conformity analysis.

c. Action PA 0136 - 30th Street Station Intermodal Facility, SEPTA

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding back the 30th Street Station Intermodal Facility project (TIP #S092) at a total cost of \$3.124 million. These funds are the FY 1999 and FY 2000 Federal Transit Administration Bus and Bus Related Facilities earmarks that appeared in the FY 1999 TIP but were not obligated as expected.

The scope of work includes the following elements: (1) accessibility improvements to the SEPTA transit facilities at 30th Street Station, (2) street level improvements to better serve the several bus routes in the 30th Street Station area, and (3) the feasibility/preliminary engineering of re-opening the pedestrian tunnel between the 30th Street Market-Frankford Station and the 30th Street Amtrak Station to improve intermodal connections.

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

d. Action PA 0137 - PennDOT Adjustment Package

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend and/or modify the TIP to reflect adjustments in the cost, schedule, or scope of six existing or former TIP projects and to add one new project. The projects are:

- (1) PA 63, Woodhaven Road (TIP #9332) - Philadelphia
Increase the cost of the preliminary engineering phase by \$1.430 million. Defer the final design phase to “later fiscal years.” The additional funds will be used for further work on the traffic projections and to re-examine and modify the existing alternatives. Because of the expected impacts of these modified alternatives, a number of new preliminary alternatives have been conceptually developed and are being modeled by DVRPC. The cost increase will also allow for the development and review of additional preliminary and detailed alternatives; the preparation and circulation of the Draft EIS and Draft EIS comments; analysis and coordination; preparation and distribution of the Final EIS; preparation and announcement of the Record of Decision; and the preparation of a mitigation report.
- (2) US 202, Section 405 (TIP #8382C) - Montgomery County
Increase the cost of the construction phase by \$8.615 million (\$2.904 million federal, \$726,000 State, \$3.312 million State Bridge Bill, \$1.773 million local.) The construction costs have increased due to additional coordination with Norfolk Southern and meeting their requirements that were above what Conrail had agreed to. The additional funds will also cover anticipated sinkhole repair.
- (3) US 202, Section 403 (old TIP #8382B) - Montgomery County
Add this project back to the TIP, increasing the cost of the construction phase by \$9 million for sink hole repair.
- (4) Bridgeton Hill Road Bridge Replacement (TIP #5727) - Bucks County
Add the final design phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$350,000. This project was not obligated in FY 2000 as expected.
- (5) Lehnenberg Road Bridge Replacements (TIP #5718) - Bucks County
Add the preliminary design phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$100,000 to resolve environmental and permitting issues.
- (6) Germantown Avenue Bridge Replacement (TIP # 9308) - Philadelphia
Add the final design and the right-of-way phases back to the TIP at a total

cost of \$300,000 and \$100,000 respectively. These phases were not obligated in FY 2000 as expected.

- (7) Retrofit for Bike Lanes and Shoulders (New TIP #0596) - Regionwide
Add this new project to the TIP at a total cost of \$300,000 for preliminary engineering. The purpose of this project is to place an engineering consultant on retainer to undertake the necessary design work to retrofit bike lanes and shoulders where appropriate, coincident with resurfacing projects. The consultant will develop pavement marking plans and determine the feasibility for bike accommodations for in house design projects.

Financial constraint will be maintained through adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed.

There will be no impact on the conformity finding.

New Jersey Section of the TIP

- e. Action NJ 0112 - Ferry Dock Expansion and Repairs
(Delaware River Port Authority)

DRPA has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding the Ferry Dock Expansion and Repairs project to the TIP at a total cost of \$300,000 for preliminary engineering. DRPA has recently purchased a second ferry boat which will be ready for use in the RiverLink system in 2002. Recognizing the need for additional ferry infrastructure in Camden to adequately serve the growing number of tourists and local passengers, as well as to provide docking facilities for two ferry boats, DRPA will build two new terminals in Camden. The south terminal will serve the Battleship New Jersey and the Tweeter Center, while the north terminal, which is the subject of this request, will serve the Campbell's Field baseball park and the expansion of the aquarium.

Financial constraint will be maintained by drawing funds from the DVRPC Project Development Line Item (DB #X80B).

The TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this action.

- f. Action NJ0114 - Local Federal Surface Transportation Program
(Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer Counties)

The four New Jersey Counties have requested that DVRPC amend the TIP to include the following four projects:

Burlington:	Traffic Signal LED Bulb Replacements and Power Backups	\$626,000
Camden:	Mill & Resurface County Routes CR 612, CR 616, CR 615	\$604,000
Gloucester:	Upgrading Traffic Signals with LED Lenses	\$442,000
Mercer:	Traffic Signal LED Bulb Replacement and Power Backups	\$344,000

The New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation sent a letter dated April 30, 2001, to each of the County Freeholder Directors informing them that specified amounts of funds had been made available to their respective counties from a new \$10 million Local Federal Surface Transportation Program. These federal funds must be authorized for use by September 30, 2001. Each county was advised to select a project for these funds that would not require acquisition of right-of-way, nor necessitate environmental permits (that is, it should qualify as a programmatic categorical exclusion), and should be quickly ready to go to construction.

These funds have been set up by NJDOT upon the recommendation of a special task force charged with finding a way to assist the counties in drawing down excessive unobligated balances in STU funding. DVRPC staff helped initiate this effort and participated on the task force. Federal law requires that the states obligate STU funds at roughly the same rate as other STP funds which has not been the case in NJ. The county allocations were established by formula based on population and roadway mileage, with a \$200,000 minimum. The DVRPC region received \$2.016 million in total.

Financial constraint will be maintained as these are additional funds made available by the state through de-obligations from past projects.

These projects are exempt from the Regional Air Quality Conformity analysis.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) to approve TIP Actions PA 0133, PA 0134, PA 0136, PA 0137, NJ 0112, and NJ 0114.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) for TIP Actions PA 0134, and PA 0137.

Favorable recommendation was also received from the RCC for TIP Actions PA 0133, PA 0136, NJ 0112, and NJ 0114 with the following comments:

PA 0133 - The RCC believes that alternative fuel vehicles should be purchased and noted that existing state and federal programs are available to cover the marginal costs of these vehicles.

PA 0136 - The RCC recommends this action on the condition that the project include weather protection and security for bicycle facilities. The committee also urges the completion of the pedestrian tunnel as quickly as possible.

NJ 0112 - The RCC Committee hopes that the ferry service will accommodate local travelers and commuters as well as visitors.

NJ 0114 - The RCC Committee suggests that Camden County take care not to damage existing sidewalks and curbs.

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

MOTION by Mr. Beetle, seconded by Mr. King; that the Board approve TIP Actions PA 0133, PA 0134, PA 0136, PA 0137, NJ 0112, and NJ 0114.

3. Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Funding Request in Penn Township, Chester County

Patty Elkis, DVRPC staff briefed the Board and explained that PENNVEST is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania managed by a 13-member Board of Directors and chaired by the Governor, which provides funding for drinking water, wastewater treatment and stormwater management projects. The Program provides long-term loans through a revolving loan fund to municipalities, authorities and some private entities at below-market interest rates. Limited grant funds are also available.

The following application has been forwarded by PENNVEST to DVRPC for review for consistency with the regional plan.

- Penn Township, Chester County - Request for loan of \$710,000 to increase the disposal capacity of its wastewater treatment from 93,690 gallons per day (GPD) to 350,000 gpd by constructing a force main to the Conard-Pyle Nurseries where a storage pond would be constructed and the effluent would be used for spray and drip irrigation purposes.

This project serves to provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the forecasted growth of the area while providing a beneficial reuse of the wastewater effluent. The project is consistent with the Chester County Landscapes Plan and the DVRPC Horizons Plan for the Year 2025.

The RCC recommends that the Board approve Chester County's PENNVEST application with the proviso that this land will remain commercial/horticultural in use.

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

MOTION by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Baker; that the Board authorize the Executive Director to notifying PENNVEST that the application to increase the disposal capacity of a wastewater treatment plant in Penn Township, Chester is consistent with the DVRPC Horizons 2025 Plan.

4. Election of DVRPC Board Officers for Fiscal Year 2002

Chairman Carson reported the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of candidates for Board officers in Fiscal Year 2002 (July 2, 2001 through June 30, 2002) as follows:

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

There were no further nominations from the floor and the nominations were closed. The slate of Board officers for Fiscal Year 2002 proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected by acclamation.

5. Regional Citizens Committee Report

Patrick Starr (RCC Chairman) called the Board's attention to the SEPTA Fare Hike Resolution (distributed to the Board and attached to this document). He expressed the concerns of the RCC with reference to the fare hike and urged the Board to encourage SEPTA to minimize the increase. The RCC believes that the fair hike is contradictory to the goals of public transit in the region.

Mr. Starr also mentioned the correspondence (distributed to the Board) from SEPTA dated June 26, 2001 which responds to the RCC resolution with reference to the Schuylkill Valley MetroRail. He believes that the letter responds adequately

to the RCC's concerns.

6. Executive Director's Report

a. Schedule of Meetings for Pennsylvania TMA Assistance Grant Performance Measures for FY 2003

Mr. Coscia called the Board's attention to the memorandum dated May 31, 2001 (distributed to the Board) which listed a proposed schedule of meetings to discuss, determine, and approve performance measures to be included in the FY 2003 TMA Work Programs.

b. Final Court Decision on Route 202, Section 700

Mr. Coscia reported that the judge ruled decisively in DVRPC, PennDOT and Federal Highway Administration's favor. He commented that the judge was extremely thorough in detailing the technical elements and in his findings that these elements met the highest standards and met all state and federal requirements. Mr. Coscia read the conclusion from the Final Decision document (distributed to the Board).

c. Metropolitan Planning and Freight Transportation Workshops and Site Visits for Public Agencies and Freight Companies

Mr. Coscia reported that DVRPC will be hosting a workshop on freight transportation planning scheduled for October 9-11, 2001. A delegation from five to seven metropolitan regions will be invited to attend these workshops. The essence of the workshops will be to examine elements of the metropolitan planning process as it relates to intermodal freight movement and to observe a working, successful public/private partnership in the Philadelphia region.

7. Election of New Jersey County and Pennsylvania County Representatives to Serve on the Executive Committee for FY 2002

Commissioners Jerald R. Cureton, Esq., Burlington County and Charles P. Martin, Bucks County were selected by the New Jersey County Board members and the Pennsylvania County Board members, respectively, to serve on the Executive Committee during Fiscal Year 2002.

8. National Constitution Center

Emily Bittenbender, Project Director, National Constitution Center (NCC), presented

to the Board highlights of the future NCC being constructed in the City of Philadelphia.

Ms. Bittenbender remarked that the NCC is under construction and completion is expected by July 4, 2003. In an area of 260,000 square feet, the NCC facility will include parking garages, a museum, exhibits, an educational outreach center, a theater-in-the round, bus loading and unloading zones, and areas for concessions (retail and restaurants).

A informative video of the future NCC was also shown to the Board.

Ms. Bittenbender also mentioned the issue of emissions from the tour bus parking. She stated that the NCC project has included loading and unloading facilities within the NCC block and a remote facility for bus parking which will be located under I-95 between Race and Callowhill. With the remote parking facility, it is anticipated that bus congestion and emissions in the NCC area will be greatly eliminated.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

Activities were reported under the appropriate agenda items.

- b. Regional Housing Committee - Report distributed to the Board.

- c. Regional Land Use and Development Committee

Richard Bickel reported that two very information presentations were given at the Regional Land Use and Development Committee meeting of June 15, 2001 (distributed to the Board). The first, the *Montgomery County Community Revitalization Program*, a program to provide \$5 million per year for revitalization activities and the second, *New Jersey Smart Growth Planning Grants Program*, which supports the implementation of the State plans.

- d. Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG)

Michael Ontko reported the highlights of the IREG Committee meeting of June 20, 2001 (distributed to the Board). He commented that the Digital Ortho Imagery project is on schedule. Final delivery of all of the Imagery is expected by the end July. When received, initially, the information will be distributed to the member governments for their review and then distributed upon request.

Mr. Ontko also mentioned that as the Census products for the Year 2000 Census are received the information will be placed on the DVRPC web site.

e. Regional Aviation Committee (RAC)

Roger Moog reported the highlights from the RAC meeting of June 21, 2001 (distributed to the Board). He commented that new commuter Terminal, Terminal F, at the Philadelphia International Airport is now in operation. This terminal provides additional convenience and connections for travelers using the U.S. Airways network. A consultant from DMJM attended the RAC Meeting and spoke about the master plan for the airport which examines additional capacity.

With regard to the other airports in the region, Mr. Moog stated that discussions continue for the terminal expansion at the Trenton Mercer Airport. The RAC also reviewed the Commonwealth Court decision overturning Pennsylvania State Law 2210, which gave Whitpain Township total ability to block development at Wings Airport.

Lastly, DVRPC has completed negotiations with FAA to develop a more significant role for the planning agency in grant preparation and allocation for airports within the region.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

Linda Hayes called the Board's attention to the invitation (distributed to the Board) to celebrate the 75th Birthday of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. Ms. Hayes highlighted some of the many activities which will include visiting the anchorage which has never been opened to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for June 28, 2001

- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for June 28, 2001

Additional Documents distributed to the Board:

- (1) *Alert*, June 2001
- (2) *Freight Lines*, June 2001
- (3) *TravelSmart* June 2001
- (4) The National Constitution Center Newsletter entitled: *Signature*
- (5) *Great Places with Transit*
- (6) Brochure entitled: *Nighttime Detours on I-95 and PA 291*
- (7) May/June 2001 Newsletter of the National Association of Regional Councils entitled: *Regions*
- (8) DVRPC Media Release: *DVRPC Reacts to Ruling in Route 202 Suit*

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of June 28, 2001

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

Call to Order

Chairman Timothy J. Carson called the meeting to order at 11:50

1. Minutes of Meeting of May 24, 2001

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

2. Election of DVRPC Executive Committee Officers for Fiscal Year 2002

Chairman Carson reported the proposed slate of Executive Committee officers for Fiscal Year 2002 (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002) as follows:

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

There were no further nominations from the floor and the nominations were closed. The slate of Executive officers for Fiscal year 2002 proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected by acclamation.

3. Selection of New Jersey and Pennsylvania Co-Counsel for DVRPC for Fiscal Year 2002

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Cureton, seconded by Mr. Wilson; that the Executive Committee approve: (1) the reappointment of thomas J. Coleman as DVRPC New Jersey Co-Counsel for Fiscal Year 2002; and (2) extend the services of James White/Kenneth Zielonis as DVRPC Pennsylvania Co-counsel for one month until July 26, 2001.

OLD BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Carson announced that he will be resigning his position on the DVRPC Board and Executive Committee as of June 30, 2001 and expressed his appreciation to the member government and the DVRPC staff for their support throughout his tenure as Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.