

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of May 26, 2005

Location: Commission Officer
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

Brent C. Barnes

New Jersey Governor's Appointee

(not represented)

Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee

Richard W. Hayden, Esq.

Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office

Joanne R. Denworth

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Larry M. King

Bucks County

Lynn Bush

Chester County

(not represented)

Delaware County

John Pickett

Montgomery County

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

Burlington County

Jerald R. Cureton, Esq.
Carol Ann Thomas

Camden County

Edward Fox

Gloucester County

Charles E. Romick

Mercer County

Matt Lawson

City of Chester

William Payne

City of Philadelphia	Gary Jastrzab
City of Camden	Edward Williams
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten
<u>Non-Voting Members</u>	
Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Division	(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 Smart Growth	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Keith Lynch
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	David Fogel
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Jerry Lutin
Port Authority Transit Corporation	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	Linda Hayes
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	(not represented)
Regional Citizens Committee Chairman	Dennis Winters
<u>DVRPC Co-Counsel</u>	
Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Steve Raymond
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Elizabeth Witmer

DVRPC Staff:

John J. Coscia, Donald Shanis, Barry Seymour, Thabet Zakaria, Chick Dougherty, John Ward, Richard Bickel, Candace Snyder, Phyllis Robinson, Patty Elkis, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, and Jean McKinney

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Robert Hannigan James Mosca Linda Guarini (Dist. 6)
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Brian Cuccia
Camden County	J. Douglas Griffith
Camden Redevelopment Agency	Joshua Warner
GCUA / CCS	Kevin Hagan
Jiangsu Province	Yuan Jinfu Liu Yuping Jun Cheng

Call to Order

Joanne R. Denworth, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

DVRPC Chair Joanne R. Denworth presented a gift to Maxine Griffith, Executive Director, Philadelphia City Planning, for her outstanding contributions and service to the region as a member of the DVRPC Board. Ms. Griffith thanked the Board, DVRPC staff, and John J. Coscia, Executive Director, for the regional cooperation extended over the years. Ms. Griffith also thanked Gary Jastrzab, Director, Strategic Planning & Policy Division, Philadelphia City Planning, who has attended the DVRPC Board meetings as her alternate.

Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, announced that the American Planning Association is sponsoring a program which allows a group of Chinese planners to spend time in the United States. Locally, Wallace, Roberts and Todd is the coordinating agency and together with DVRPC will be hosting these three visitors from China. All three visitors are from Jiangsu Province which is a suburban area near Shanghai; an area undergoing tremendous growth. All three planners are interested in regional cooperation. Mr. Seymour introduced the three visitors as follows: Yuan Jinfu, Deputy Chief Engineer at Jiangsu Institute of City Planning and Design, Liu Yuping, Vice Director of the Jiangsu Urban Planning and Research Institute, and Jun Cheng, Landscape Architect and Vice President of the Jiangsu Institute of Landscape Architect.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of April 28, 2005

On a **motion** by Mr. Cureton, seconded by Mr. King, the minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2005 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Donald Shanis, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the following TIP Actions:

a. TIP Action NJ05-14: Traffic Signal Video Camera Detection Retrofit Project, Gloucester County

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, the Gloucester County Traffic Signal Video Camera Detection Retrofit project using \$2.4 million of funds that were made available to the region this year as part of the additional federal obligation authority. The county maintains over 100 traffic signals which stretch over more than 400 miles of roadway. The county proposes to retrofit traffic signals with video camera detection systems for traffic controlling, relying on vehicle movement to send the signal to the signal controller. Currently, most of the county's signals operate as part of a loop detection system which rely on significant masses of metal to break magnetic current and send the signal for the traffic light to change. As technology advances many automobiles are now being constructed using less iron/steel/metal than in previous years. Further, motorcycles and bicycles go undetected. The county desires to address traffic congestion and safety by installing an efficient, county-wide system that is compatible with existing equipment. The request is to program \$2.4 million STP-STU funds for construction in FY05, drawing down from the \$2.468 million programmed in the DVRPC Future Projects. Funds will be used to purchase video equipment, brackets, cable, and new communication panels as necessary.

Financial Constraint will be maintained as the project will draw down \$2.4 million from the \$2.468 million available in the DVRPC Future Projects Line item.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment. This project will be included in subsequent regional emissions analysis as required by section 93.128 of the current conformity rule.

After favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) and the Regional Citizens Committee for approval of TIP Action NJ05-14, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Romick, seconded by Mr. Carten, that the Board approve TIP Action NJ05-14, Gloucester County's request to amend the FY 2005 TIP for New Jersey (FY2005-2007) by adding a new project to the TIP, the Gloucester County Traffic Signal Video Camera Detection Retrofit project, programming \$2.4 million STP-STU for construction in FY05.

b. TIP Action PA05-28: Philadelphia Port Access Enhancement, Philadelphia

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Philadelphia Port Access Enhancement project, programming \$500,000 specially earmarked TCSP (Transportation and Community System Preservation) funds in FY05. The Delaware River Maritime Enterprise Council (DRMEC) is the sponsor of the project and will use the funds to develop a strategic plan that establishes a conceptual framework for future public and private investment. An assessment of several issues/items will be done, including: infrastructure at or near the Port of Philadelphia; identification of military and commercial hubs and freight corridors that connect to the Philadelphia seaport; and identification of state-of-the-art transportation technologies, business, and information sharing processes.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this project uses specially earmarked TCSP funds and the TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and the RCC for approval of TIP Action PA05-28, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Jastrzab, seconded by Mr. Cureton, that the Board approve TIP Action PA05-28, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by adding a new project into the TIP, Philadelphia Port Access Enhancement project, programming \$500,000 specially earmarked TCSP funds in FY05.

c. TIP Action PA05-29a: Route 313 Signals, Bucks County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Route 313 project to the TIP with a \$306,000 CMAQ FY05 utility phase and \$1.5 million construction phase (FY06 and FY07). Design for this project was funded and advanced locally, with the project first appearing on the FY01 TIP in July of 2000 with a projected construction cost of \$536,000 to be federally funded. The project will provide for a closed loop traffic signal system on Route 313 between Sawmill Road and East Court Street, in addition to a signal on Main Street between Ashland Street and Swamp Road.

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

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment. This project will be included in subsequent regional emissions analysis as required by section 93.128 of the current conformity rule.

d. TIP Action PA05-29b: Merion Avenue Bridge Over R5, Montgomery County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase for the Merion Avenue Bridge project (MPMS #16180). This project was recently added to the TIP for final design and utility phases totaling \$2.45 million (Federal/State/Local), with construction expected in FY08 or later. Over the last couple of months PENNDOT's bridge consultant has been working with Amtrak to determine a feasible schedule, as the bridge runs over Amtrak's line and requires that Amtrak determine the construction schedule. The bridge crosses over Amtrak and SEPTA R5 rail lines in Lower Merion Township. Amtrak has identified a window to address the construction within the next several months, and PENNDOT is working to advance the project quickly, in order to take advantage of Amtrak's schedule. The request requires that \$7.218 million (\$5.774 federal Bridge/\$1.083 State/\$361,000 Local) be programmed in FY05 for construction. This project will advance in conjunction with the Church Road Bridge in Lower Merion Township, MPMS #16155.

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

The TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

e. TIP Action PA05-29c: Church Road Bridge Over R5, Montgomery County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase for the Church Road Bridge project. This project was recently added to the TIP for final design and utility phases totaling \$2.575 million (Federal/State/Local), with construction expected in FY08 or later. Over the last couple of months PENNDOT's bridge consultant has been working with Amtrak to determine a feasible schedule, as the bridge runs over Amtrak's line and requires that Amtrak determine the construction schedule. The bridge crosses over Amtrak and SEPTA R5 rail lines in Lower Merion Township. Amtrak has identified a window to address the construction within the next several months, and PENNDOT is working to advance the project quickly, in order to take advantage of Amtrak's schedule. The request

requires that \$5.664 million (\$4.531 federal Bridge/\$850,000/State/\$283,000 Local) be programmed in FY05 for construction. This project will advance in conjunction with the Merion Avenue Bridge in Lower Merion Township.

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

The TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and the RCC to approve TIP Actions PA05-29a, PA05-29b, and PA05-29c, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board approve the following TIP Actions:

- (1) TIP Action PA05-29a - That the Board approve TIP Action PA05-29a, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by adding a project into the TIP, The Route 313 Signal project, programming a \$306,000 CMAQ FY05 utility phase, and a \$1.5 million CMAQ construction phase in FY06 and FY07.
- (2) TIP Action PA05-29b - PENNDOT's request to modify the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by advancing and increasing the construction phase of the Merion Avenue Bridge project by programming \$7.218 million (\$5.774 federal Bridge/\$1.083 State/\$361,000 Local), for construction in FY05.
- (3) TIP Action PA05-29c - PENNDOT's request to modify the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by advancing and increasing the construction phase of the Church Road Bridge project by programming \$5.664 million (\$4.531 federal Bridge/\$850,000/State/\$283,000 Local) for construction in FY05.

3. Proposed Tri-County Water Quality Management Board Amendment: Evesham Township Wastewater Plan, Burlington County

Patty Elkis, DVRPC staff, explained to the Board that in 1984, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection implemented a procedure to ensure that all requests for water quality permits are consistent with approved Wastewater Management Plans and the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reviews all permit applications and for those which are inconsistent with Wastewater Management Plans or the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan, the applicant may elect to

seek a plan amendment.

DVRPC is the designated area-wide water quality management planning agency for the Tri-County area (Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties), and DVRPC approval is one of several that amendment applicants must receive before New Jersey DEP will consider the amendment package complete.

The following amendment has been requested:

- a. Evesham Township Wastewater Management Plan Amendment, Evesham Township, Burlington County to expand the sewer service area of the Elwood Sewage Treatment Plan in Evesham Township to include Block 17, Lots 3 and 4 in Evesham and Block 901, Lot 1.01, which is located in Medford Township.

The Tri-County Water Quality Management Board recommendations approval.

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

MOTION by Mr. Cureton, seconded by Mr. Carten, that the Board approve the proposed amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan for the Evesham Township Wastewater Management Plan to expand the sewer service area of the Elwood Sewage Treatment Plan in Evesham Township, Burlington County by adopting Resolution No. B-FY05-008 (copy attached).

4. Nominating Committee Report: Proposed Candidates for Fiscal Year 2006 DVRPC Board Officers

The Nominating Committee's Report for the slate of FY 2006 Board Officers was postponed until the regular June Board meeting.

5. Regional Citizens Committee Report

Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, pointed out the *In Other Business* items from the RCC Recommendations to the Board for May 26, 2005 (copy attached) and asked the Board to review the following items: (1) *RCC Policies with reference to Destination 2030 - DVRPC's Long Range Plan*; and (2) *the RCC Input to DVRPC Draft FY 2006 New Jersey TIP*.

Mr. Coscia thanked Mr. Winters for the effort put forth by the RCC in preparing their policy statements and recommendations for the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan and stated that all of their recommendations would be addressed.

7. Safety Conscious Planning at DVRPC

John Ward, DVRPC staff, presented to the Board DVRPC's Safety Conscious Planning; a new process that not only looks at proactive measures but includes a holistic approach aimed at engineering, education, enforcement and emergency services to provide solutions to safety problems.

Mr. Ward explained and presented specifics of several DVRPC projects and programs that currently have safety as a main component such as: (1) the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); (2) Congestion Management System; (3) Incident Data Collection; (4) Corridor Planning; (5) Regional Congestion and Accident Mitigation; and (6) Incident Management Task Force.

A Transportation Safety Forum scheduled for June 17, 2005 at the DVRPC offices will bring together a multi-disciplinary group of professionals to discuss safety goals, strategies and resources, and build and maintain effective partnerships with the purpose of reducing the number of crashes and the resultant casualties in the region. The intent is to develop effective safety initiatives/programs with significant input from non-traditional partners as well as our traditional planning partners. Mr. Coscia urged all Board members and alternatives to attend the forum.

Larry King, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, stated that investments have been made in resources for safety data and hopefully, with the passage of the new transportation bill, an emphasis will be placed on safety which may include formal safety plans and new funding categories for safety.

Carol Ann Thomas, Burlington County, mentioned the importance of appropriate signage for improving safety for vehicle travel as well as pedestrians.

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Update of DVRPC's Annual Dinner scheduled for June 7, 2005

Mr. Coscia informed the Board that sponsorships for the Annual Dinner scheduled for June 7, 2005 have been very successful. Mr. Coscia urged the Board and alternates to place their reservation as soon as possible.

b. Air Quality Partnership Ozone Action Kick-Off Event, May 10, 2005

Mr. Coscia reported that a very successful Air Quality Partnership Ozone Action Kick-Off Event was held on May 10, 2005 to initiate the summer program for reporting ozone.

Mr. Coscia continued to say that a series of programs have been initiated by DVRPC and other partners which address, during the summer, the parameters of two pollutants, ozone and particulate. A scale measures both of these

parameters which indicates whether the air is at a healthy or unhealthy level for that day. Modelers are hired to examine atmospheric conditions, temperatures, etc. and predict the next day's ozone level. If the levels dictate an "ozone action day", DVRPC is notified and, in turn, DVRPC notifies a network of numerous agencies/companies for announcement to the public.

c. Pennsylvania Proposals for New Funding of Public Transportation

Mr. Coscia called the Board's attention to the *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Proposals for New Funding of Public Transportation* (distributed to the Board). Mr. Coscia stated that hopefully the legislature will adopt some of these proposals to help fund public transportation. The proposals include: (1) Realty Transfer Tax; (2) Tire Tax; (3) Driver Record Information fees; (4) Safety Inspection fees; (5) Act 3 of 1997; (6) 1.0% Sales tax; (7) Rental tax; (8) Advertising and Naming Rights; (9) Tax Easements.

Mr. Coscia requested that the counties review the proposals and work with their state representatives and state senators to discuss the proposal which they would support.

Mr. Coscia continued to say that SEPTA will be adopting their budget in June and in that budget an item which indicates \$92.7 million of federal highway funds are slotted to be flexed to SEPTA. This action will probably be requested by the SEPTA Board in June or July. The DVRPC Board needs to address, with the counties, any conditions which need to be imposed for this flexing. One suggestion from the Chester County Commissioners was that SEPTA develop a Business Plan which helps them live within their budget. The DVRPC Board has approved flexing funds to SEPTA in the past with some reluctance and if another flex is instituted, the counties may ask for additional transit improvements. Mr. Coscia stated, however, that the flexed funds will not be for any new transit projects. If funds are flexed they will be to cover the SEPTA operating deficit and not for any new service.

Mr. King addressed the Board and stated the PENNDOT is gathering detailed information from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's transit authorities to determine their situation, as best projected, for FY 2005/2006 including the means for flexing highway funds.

David Fogel, SEPTA, thanked the Board and PENNDOT for their efforts in assisting SEPTA through their financial crisis.

Ken Hughes, Montgomery County, stated that at the Pennsylvania Caucus meeting some discussion was held about having a regional meeting with the elected officials to present information on the flexing. Mr. Coscia responded that, a meeting of this sort would be most desirable, however, scheduling a date in which everyone could meet would be very difficult. Mr. Coscia will meet with the counties at their request to discuss any information which pertains to

the flexing if needed.

Mr. King stated that continuing to flex highway funds to the transit agencies is not a good option and hopefully a solution will be found in the future.

Chair Denworth also stated that Governor Rendell feels flexing federal highway funds is a last resort. Political help from the suburban counties is needed to determine which proposals might be adopted for a permanent solution.

9. One Minute Reports

Mr. King acknowledged Robert Hannigan who has given excellent support and outstanding leadership throughout the many years as the PENNDOT representative to the PCC/RTC. Mr. Hannigan will now be assuming a statewide role with PENNDOT. James Mosca will be the new representative to DVRPC's PCC/RTC. Mr. King also recognized Linda Guarini, who has assumed the role of the PENNDOT, District 6 Planning and Programming Manager, previously held by Greg Brown.

Jerald Cureton, Burlington County, thanked the DVRPC staff for preparing and distributing to the Board the report entitled: *Chasing Ratables - The Impact of Property Taxes on Local Planning*. Mr. Cureton requested that the report be widely distributed to educate the population on the importance of property taxes. Mr. Cureton also requested that DVRPC staff give a formal presentation to the Board in the future. Mr. Coscia agreed to have DVRPC staff give the Board a presentation on this report.

Linda Hayes, Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), commented that DRPA and PATCO have negotiated a contract with New Jersey Transit's RiverLine which enables an individual to use their PATCO pass to ride the RiverLine to the waterfront for free during the summer months.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) Resolution No. B-FY05-008
- (2) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for May 26, 2005
- (3) RCC Recommendations to the Board for May 26, 2005

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) *Alert*, May 2005
- (2) *TravelSmart*, May 2005
- (3) DVRPC Report entitled: *Chasing Ratables - The Impact of Property Taxes on Local Planning*
2000-2030 Nine-county DVRPC Region

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Call to Order

Joanne R. Denworth, Chair, called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 12:10 a.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting of April 28, 2005

On a motion by Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Bush, the minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2005 were approved as distributed.

2. Request for Additional Services Provided by Current TransitChek Fulfillment Vendor: Commuter Check Services Corporation (CCSC)

Dr. Shanis explained to the Executive Committee that in order to stay competitive in the transit benefit market in this region, the TransitChek program must offer a “direct to employee” distribution service. It would cater to those employers who cannot or do not wish to handle the distribution element of this benefit program. With TransitChek Select, an employer can voluntarily choose that the vouchers ordered for employees are sent directly to employees, either at their home or to their work address. The employer would pay an additional fee to CCSC for this service. Employers can elect on their own to have this service provided by another third-party benefits administrator, but the effort would strive to accommodate as many new employers who seek this type of service, as well as serve our current client base to avoid attrition. The planned schedule is to institute a pilot program mid-summer and to roll out the service formally in December. If the program does not achieve desired results at a cost-effective level after the first year of full implementation, it will be re-evaluated and either revised or abandoned.

The estimated consultant cost is \$4500 for start-up services and software changes which will be funded from DVRPC Work Program project 5.44.010: Transitchek Administration.

Staff recommends continuing to work with CCSC to provide additional services to the Transitchek program and to begin the pilot service immediately.

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

MOTION by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Jastrzab that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into up to a one year agreement with the current TransitChek fulfillment vendor, CCSC, to provide additional services to the TransitChek program.

3. Nominating Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2006 DVRPC Executive Committee Officers

The nominating committee report for the FY 2006 DVRPC Executive Committee slate of officers will be announced at the regular June Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned a 12:15 p.m.