

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of October 27, 2011

Location: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office
Bucks County

Chester County
Delaware County
Montgomery County
Burlington County
Camden County
Gloucester County
Mercer County
City of Chester
City of Philadelphia
City of Camden
City of Trenton

Representative

Joyce Paul
David Kuhn
James Mosca
David Reiner
Ronald Henry
Andrew Paris
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Lynn Bush
Ronald Bailey
John Pickett
Kenneth Hughes
(not represented)
Louis Cappelli, Jr. Esq.
Richard Westergaard
Donna Lewis
William Payne
(not represented)
Edward Williams
(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division
Pennsylvania Division
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development, Region III
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
Federal Transit Administration, Region III
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

(not represented)
Camille Otto

(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Byron Comati

New Jersey Transit Corporation	Louis Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	Barbara Holcomb
Port Authority Transit Corporation	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	(not represented)
New Jersey Office for Planning Advocacy	Katherine Meade
Regional Citizens Committee	Aissia Richardson

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Thomas Jennings
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Donald Shanis, Richard Bickel, Tom McGovern, John Ward, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Chris Puchalsky, Patty Elkins, Joseph Hacker, Chris Linn, John Griffies, Candace Snyder and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Linda Guarini (Dist. 6)
	Les Toaso
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Andrew Clark
Federal Transit Administration, Region 3	Tony Cho
Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission	Glenn Reibman
Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine
Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers	Andy Sharpe
PlanPhilly	Anthony Campisi
Citizen	Jim Richardson
Citizen – Delaware County	Richard Kerr

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Louis Cappelli called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of September 22, 2011

On a Motion by, Commissioner Ellis-Marseglia, seconded by Mr. Hughes, the minutes of September 22, 2011 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Capital Programs, presented to the Board the following TIP Action:

a. PA11-46: I-95, Columbia Street to Ann Street (MPMS #79686), Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction phase by \$5,131,000 (FY11 \$649,000 STU/\$162,000 State; FY12 \$3,456,000 NHS/\$864,000 State) of the I-95, Columbia Street to Ann Street project (MPMS# 79686) in order to process and award this construction contract. The additional funds would cover the difference between the low bid amount plus construction inspection and the engineers estimate on this approximately \$100 million construction project.

While there were savings on some elements of the low bid, other items came in over bid, resulting in an overall bid over-run of \$5,131,000. The additional cost increase is related to the following four (4) items:

Mobilization: The bid price is \$2.46 million more than the engineer's cost estimate. The bid price is reflective of the contractor's needs of a 4-year construction schedule and estimated mobilization percentage of 4% based on the project's large size and its regional proximity to various contractors and suppliers.

Construction Surveying: The bid price is \$700,000 more than the engineer's cost estimate due to the amount of utility relocation work. Extensive utility relocations are required due to the dense residential/commercial neighborhoods. Therefore, extensive surveying is associated with this project.

Gas Main: The bid price is \$1.638 million more than the cost estimate provided by the the designer of this work, Philadelphia Gas Works. Costs were based on Philadelphia Gas Works historic pricing for this type of gas main installation. The bid price reflects labor, production rates and other costs.

Bypass Pumping: The bid price is \$1.125 million more than the engineer's cost estimate based on contractor's differing construction phasing and approach from the proposed staging sequence in the design plans. The contractors proposed plan and more aggressive approach is dependent on using bypass

pumping to protect their work area and is cost effective in reducing the amount of time required to complete the work were there a failure of the primary pumping system.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed and the TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project was already included in the regional air quality conformity analysis.

The cost and source of funds will be \$649 STU/\$3,456,000 NHS/\$1,026,000 581 Funds

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) to approve TIP Action PA11-46.

Public comments for TIP Action Item PA11-46 are attached as part of these minutes.

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

MOTION by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Mosca, that the Board approve TIP action PA11-46, PennDOT's request to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction phase by \$5,131,000 (FY11 \$649,000 STU/\$162,000 State; FY12 \$3,456,000 NHS/\$864,000 State) of the I-95, Columbia Street to Ann Street project (MPMS# 79686) in order to process and award this construction contract.

3. DVRPC Fiscal Year 2012 Planning Work Program Amendments

a. Norristown Transportation Center Intermodal Study and Concept Plan

Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning, explained to the Board that this project will help SEPTA determine how best to accommodate and integrate the multiple modes converging at the Norristown Transportation Center. SEPTA is considering an alignment which would discontinue use of the existing Dekalb Street station building, providing a prime opportunity to consider reuse. Other considerations include nearby planned and proposed road and trail improvement projects. Staff will work with stakeholders to examine the current NTC layout and operation, including its transportation and development context. Appropriate future strategies and concepts will include capital and operational improvements.

The cost and source of funds is \$104,000 in Federal Transit Administration funds through PennDOT.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC.

Public comments are attached as part of these minutes.

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

MOTION by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Commission Ellis-Marseglia that the Board amend the current DVRPC Fiscal Year 2012 Planning Work Program to include the Norristown Transportation Center Intermodal Study and Concept Plan.

b. Fare Sensitivity Modeling Project

Chris Puchalsky, DVRPC Associate Director, Technical Services Division, Office of Modeling and Analysis, explained to the Board that the Fare Sensitivity Model Project will improve DVRPC's travel forecasting model's (TIM 2.0) ability to forecast the effects of different fare policies and changes. Data from the most recent (2010) SEPTA fare increase will be used, along with other fare change data in the region. Time series data will be examined to separate short and long term effects. Other data, such as gas prices, regional unemployment, and regional GDP, will also be examined to separate the effect of fare increases on ridership from the effect of other variables. TIM 2.0's ability to reproduce the impacts of this fare increase will be assessed and improvements to the TIM 2.0 model will be made as required. The improved TIM 2.0 model will be suitable for assessing future fare increases as well as for assisting in the planning of SEPTA's fare modernization program.

The cost and source of funds will be \$104,000 in Federal Transit Administration funds through PennDOT.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC.

Public comments are attached as part of these minutes.

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

MOTION by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Paul that the Board amend the current DVRPC Fiscal Year 2012 Planning Work Program to include the Fare Sensitivity Modeling Project.

4. DVRPC Regional Trails Grant program – Phase I Selected Projects

Chris Linn, DVRPC Manager, Office of Environmental Planning, explained to the Board that Greater Philadelphia is a region blessed with a variety of opportunities to create a connected network of multi-use trails, including both right-of-ways (ROWs) inherited from the area's long history as a hub of railroad activity and greenway corridors that follow the region's creek buffering and park systems. The Regional Trails Program, administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, with funding from the William Penn Foundation, aims to capitalize upon these opportunities by providing funding for targeted, priority trail design, construction and planning projects that will promote a truly connected, regional network of multi-use trails with Philadelphia and Camden as its hub. The program will also provide technical assistance to trail developers, counties, municipalities and nonprofit organizations.

The program aims to:

- Raise the visibility of the regional trail network overall and support catalytic projects that will advance its completion;
- Foster innovation and collaboration among organizations representing diverse interests and populations advancing the regional trails system;
- Promote "hubs" of trail-related activity that will contribute to community revitalization in urban neighborhoods;
- Provide new opportunities for safe, active transportation throughout the region;
- Create livable, bikable and walkable communities that will promote public health through active living;
- Leverage additional resources for trail development;
- Increase sponsor capacity for project management;
- Promote the regional trail network as a unique, significant amenity for the region's residents and visitors.

Phase I of the program will provide over \$5 million for trail design and construction projects. A Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) was posted on DVRPC's website in early June and 37 requests for funding were received by the application deadline on July 8. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) evaluated the projects at meetings on July 20 and August 23, 2011.

Four early action projects totaling \$690,000 were presented to the Board in July. Since then, 14 of the remaining 33 projects have been prioritized for funding based on input from the TAC and DVRPC staff evaluations.

Mr. Linn then reviewed the list of the 14 Regional Trails Program Phase I projects selected for funding (distributed to the Board).

The total grant request amount for the 14 projects is \$4,472,000.

Four “early action” projects were presented to the Board on July 28. Since that meeting, Camden County revised their grant request for construction of the Kaighns Ave to Route 130 Connector Trail from \$50,000 to \$125,000. Approval of this revised grant amount is being requested at this time.

Total revised grant request amount for all Phase I projects is \$5,237,000.

Favorable recommendations was received from the PCC/RTC.

Public comments are attached as part of these minutes.

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

MOTION by Mr. Pickett, seconded by Mr. Kuhn that the Board approve the 14 Phase I projects selected for funding, as well as the revised grant request for Camden County’s Kaign’s Avenue to Route 130 Connector Trail.

5. Transportation Funding Advisory Commission Recommendations

Barry Schoch, Secretary of Transportation, PennDOT, reported to the Board that the Pennsylvania Governor had appointed a Transportation Funding Advisory Commission to evaluate alternatives for transportation funding. The report has been completed and has been submitted to the Governor for consideration. Secretary Schoch presented a few of the recommendations and reported that one aspect of the report includes educating the public as to the importance of continued improvements and repair of transportation infrastructure. This education will enable the public to understand the benefits of possible additional taxes and user fees to assist in the need for all modes of transportation funding.

6. Creation of Public Participation Task Force

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director, Communications and Public Affairs, explained to the Board that building upon the results of the August 2010 federal certification review, and particularly focusing on the need for more diversity, inclusion, and equity, DVRPC has determined that a new direction in public involvement is needed to attract those who have not previously played a role in the regional planning process.

A Public Participation Task Force would be formed to serve as a conduit for DVRPC to share information with citizens, communities, and organizations throughout the region; act as a review body for timely issues; and inform and assist

with DVRPC's outreach activities. This group would have members that are appointed by the Board and represent the nine counties as well as 10 - 14 citizens at large who are chosen from an application process. Some of the details have yet to be determined but a proposal has been prepared that calls for task force members to participate in an orientation or citizen planner training so that they are prepared for the tasks ahead. They would serve staggered two-year terms. This body would select four representatives to sit on and participate with the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC). This structure is in addition to the online commenting feature that DVRPC has made available for Board Action Items each month, which enables all residents of the region to review the materials and comment on Board Action Items.

As with our other committees, all meetings would be open to the public for attendance and would take place at a time that is convenient for task force members. It will be up to the Board to determine whether the task force chair would be appointed or elected, and whether that representative would sit at the Board table.

As before, this task force would represent only one aspect of DVRPC's overall public participation program. DVRPC's Public Participation program includes a variety of outreach techniques, such as:

- Online commenting feature for Board Action Items
- Environmental Justice Work Group
- Regional Student Forum
- Regional listening sessions and workshops
- Targeted citizen outreach
- Project-based outreach – such as the LRP, corridor studies, safety program, etc.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Board Policy Analysis Committee.

This action item was not reviewed by the PCC/RTC, however will be presented at their November meeting for comment.

Public comments are attached as part of these minutes.

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

MOTION Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Lewis, that the Board authorize staff to move forward with the development of a Public Participation Task Force with progress to be reported to and approved by the Board as work progresses.

7. Approval of DVRPC Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2012

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director, called the Board's attention to the DVRPC Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2012 (distributed to the Board) and requested approval.

On a **motion** by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Henry, the Board unanimously approved the Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2012 (copy attached as part of these minutes).

One Minute Reports

Byron Comati, SEPTA, reported that the SEPTA Contract Award for the Fare Technology System has been tabled by the SEPTA Board for approximately one month.

James Mosca, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, thanked all those who participated in the Planning Partners Meetings.

Ronald Bailey, Chester County, reported several items of interest in Chester County including: opening of another segment of the Schuylkill Valley trail; initiatives have begun for the Keystone Rail Line; environmental review in process for the Coatesville facility; and the Paoli Transportation Center Project is moving forward.

William Payne, City of Chester, reported that the I-95 to 291 ramps are now open.

Aissia Richardson, Regional Citizen Committee, commented that three Work Program proposals for the 2013 Work Program have been submitted to DVRPC for consideration.

Freeholder Cappelli, Camden County, reported that Camden County has undertaken \$10 million worth of road improvement projects.

8. FY 2013 DVRPC Work Program Development

Mr. Seymour reminded the Board and alternates that a Work Program Meeting would follow the Board Meeting and invited all board members and alternates to attend. The work program candidate projects were distributed to the Board for this meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the following items: (1) Memorial Service for Art Loeben; (2) Pennsylvania Planning Association Conference and Planning Excellence Award given to DVRPC for the Food System Plan; (4) NJDOT and PennDOT Planning Partners Meetings; (5) Status of the 422 Study; (6) Breaking Ground Conference scheduled for November 1, 2011; (7) Open Space Forum scheduled for November 30, 2011, (8) USA250 Discussion scheduled for December 1, 2011; and (9) National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Annual Conference scheduled to be in Philadelphia in June of 2013.

10. Committee Reports

The following Committee Highlights were reported and distributed to the Board: (1) Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee; (2) Board Policy Committee; (3) Work Program Committee; (4) Transportation Operations Task force; (5) Regional Aviation Committee; (6) Goods Movement Task Force; and (7) Information Resource Exchange Group.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

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

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations for October 27, 2011
- (2) Public Comments for Board Meeting of October 27, 2011
- (2) Board and Executive Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2012

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) Alert, October 2011

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website may be translated into Spanish, Russian, and Traditional Chinese online by visiting www.dvrpc.org. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For more information, please call (215) 238-2871.