

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of October 24, 2013

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Joyce Paul
James Simpson
Dave Kuhn

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

James Ritzman
James Mosca

New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office
Bucks County
Chester County

Amy Herbold
Ronald Henry
Christopher Sullivan
Lynn Bush
Terence Farrell

Delaware County
Montgomery County

Ronald Bailey
Linda F. Hill
Leslie Richards
Jody Holton

Burlington County
Camden County
Gloucester County
Mercer County

Carol Ann Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Richard Westergaard
Brian Hughes

City of Chester
City of Philadelphia

Matthew Lawson
(not represented)
Rina Cutler

City of Camden
City of Trenton

Andrew Stober
Edward Williams
Jeffrey Wilkerson

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division
Pennsylvania Division

(not represented)
(not represented)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Tony Cho
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Byron Comati
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Patrick Patterson
Delaware River Port Authority	Barbara Holcomb
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Phil Spinelli
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy	Katherine Meade
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Lisa Worden

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Andrew Bockis
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Richard Bickel, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Paul Smith, Chris Puchalsky, Candy Snyder, Andrew Svekla, Mary Bell, Rob Graff, Richard Murphy, Kwan Hui, Sean Greene, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Thomas McGovern, Jane Meconi, Michael Boyer, Brett Fusco, James Briggs, Elise Turner, Ryan Gallagher, Betsy Mastaglio, Taghi Ozbeki, Elizabeth Compitello, Sarah Oaks, Zoe Neaderland, and Renee Wise.

Guests

Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Dist. 6)	Linda Guarini
	Charles Davies
Citizen of Bucks County	Sue Herman
Citizen of Montgomery County	Bridget Chadwick
Clear Air Council	Dennis Winters
Public Participation Task Force	Jim Hopkins

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair James Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes to the meeting. He also noted that he would need to leave the meeting early and asked Commissioner Leslie Richards to take over as Vice Chair upon his departure.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Sue Herman, a citizen of Bucks County, submitted public comments regarding the September 26, 2013 Board minutes. She requested that the minutes of the September 26, 2013 Board meeting be reworded, and that the minutes of March through July as posted on the DVRPC website be amended, to reflect that the minutes are final and not "draft." Additionally she asked that "see attached" be added to September 26, 2013 minutes to reflect her attached comments, and she requested that her comments, those of Lita Bellocchio, and those of Dennis Winters be attached, in their entirety, to the June 27, 2013 minutes (Note: Ms. Bellocchio has not submitted a copy of her comments). Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council requested that the Board amend the September 26, 2013 minutes to include his attendance at the September Board meeting. A response from DVRPC's Executive Director Barry Seymour followed, agreeing to amend the September 26, 2013 Board minutes, and to attach all future comments received to the minutes, as posted on the website. Previous minutes as posted will also be revised to indicate they are not "draft."

1. Minutes of Meeting of September 26, 2013

A **motion** was made by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, to approve the minutes of September 26, 2013 as amended.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Capital Program Manager, presented the following TIP actions to the Board.

2a. NJ14-01: Berlin Road Streetscape Improvements, Camden County, (DB# D1009) Camden County

The Borough of Lindenwold has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding the Berlin Road Streetscape Improvements, Camden County (DB# D1009) project back in to the TIP in the amount of \$552,200 DEMO for construction in FY14.

The funding for this project will provide streetscape improvements on Berlin Road (C.R. 702) between Gibbsboro Road (C.R. 686) and White Horse Road (C.R. 673) within the Borough of Lindenwold, Camden County. Work will include the installation of 2,547 linear feet of new sidewalk on the northern side of Berlin Road between White Horse Road (CR # 673) and Central Avenue; 4,062 linear feet of replacement sidewalk such that the existing four foot wide sidewalk is improved to have a concrete surface with a

brick paver edge and remain at a width of four feet. Also included are upgrades to 19 intersections for handicap accessibility, which include re-grading of existing sidewalk depressions and installation of detectable warning surfaces; landscape improvements along the entire 6,609 linear feet of sidewalk, which will re-establish the grass strip between the sidewalk and curb line through most of the project area and planting of 103 street trees selected from the approved street trees in the Borough Ordinance; 69 historic period style light fixture units with arms to hang future banners and planters; 8 benches located at central locations and 16 trash/recycling containers. The project will not involve any changes to the curbs along the County roadway or any improvements that will change the drainage of the county roadway. This project does not require the acquisition of any property since all of the proposed enhancements are either within the public right-of-way, or a right-of-entry agreement has been granted.

The Borough of Lindenwold was unable to meet the submission deadline for the request for federal authorization by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the project, so the project must be added back in to the new FY2014 TIP in order to advance. With unforeseen upgrades along the project route by the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) as well as utility and right-of-way issues revealed by NJDOT, there was a need for plan revisions to reflect current conditions as well as revisions to the project specifications. The Borough requested additional funding for additional survey and design services in an effort to complete the design phase. Additional funding was approved in August 2013 and the source was from the earmark/DEMO funds that were already on the project in the FY2012 TIP. There are also several pending items regarding eligibility for use of federal funds that are currently being addressed.

Financial constraint will be maintained, as these are DEMO funds and are not subject to fiscal constraint.

Public comments were received from Leonard Fritz of Gloucester County who questioned whether there would be plans for a bike lane on the road and if there are any other roads or streets connecting to the PATCO station slated for similar improvement. A response from DVRPC followed, stating that there are currently no plans to include a bike lane but if additional funding becomes available, Lindenwold Borough will consider further improvements.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Mr. Levecchia, seconded by Mr. Hughes, that the Board approve the following TIP action:

NJ14-01: The Borough of Lindenwold's request that the Board approve TIP Action NJ14-01, by amending the FY2014-2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding the Berlin Road Streetscape Improvements, Camden County (DB# D1009) project back in to the TIP in the amount of \$552,200 DEMO for construction in FY14.

3. Approval of DVRPC Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2014

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the DVRPC Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2014 (distributed to the Board) and requested approval.

On a **motion** by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Ritzman, the Board unanimously approved the Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2014.

4. Fiscal 2014 Work Program Amendments

a. DRJTBC Traffic and Revenue Forecasts

Chris Puchalsky, DVRPC Associate Director of Systems Planning, explained that this project will provide traffic forecasts to support an investment-grade traffic and revenue study on the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission's existing toll bridges and the Scudder Falls Bridge. The Scudder Falls Bridge Replacement Project will widen I-95 over the Delaware River and add tolls to what is now a free crossing. DVRPC will serve as a sub-consultant to Jacobs Engineering Group, who were chosen by DRJTBC to conduct the study.

Public comments were received from Leonard Fritz of Gloucester County who questioned the scope of the project. A response from DRJTBC followed indicating the current effort was not examining the project scope. Public comment was also received from Mark Harris of Philadelphia County stating his belief that I-95 should not be tolled and that instead alternate funding should be found.

The Regional Technical Committee (RTC) did not review this Work Program Amendment but it will appear on the RTC agenda for November, as an information item.

MOTION by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Farrell, that the Board amend:

The DVRPC FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program to include the DRJTBC Traffic and Revenue Forecasts.

DISCUSSION ITEM

5. Fiscal Year 2015 Work Program Development

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour called the Board's attention to the Fiscal Year 2015 Work Program Schedule in their folders and noted that the projects that were identified for the Work Program are in a table in the Board folders. Mr. Seymour explained the projects and pointed out that some of the projects that were originally thought to be part of the Pass-Through Program are instead going to be handled directly by staff. Mr. Seymour noted that traffic counts are usually funded by the requestor or could be undertaken by DVRPC with funding through the Pass-Through Program. Mr. Seymour noted that there were some projects that it would not be possible to complete due to lack of staff capacity. Mr. Seymour pointed out the TSP projects in the list and other projects that have placeholders, which may be possible to implement if more funding becomes available. Mr. Seymour noted that the counties would be meeting to discuss the Pass-Through Program and projects. Leslie Richards, Montgomery County, questioned what the filled in column in the table meant. Mr. Seymour responded that those are projects that we might be able to do but that they would require DVRPC to pursue additional funding, or that could be undertaken by others. Terence Farrell, Chester County, asked when the public comment period would be open for the Work Program. Mr. Seymour responded that the draft Work Program would open for public comment in December.

6. One Minute Reports

James Ritzman, PennDOT, reported that no vote has taken place on the PA transportation bill but that a lot of discussion is happening. The next session days are scheduled to take place the week of November 11. He asked Board members not to lose hope and to please advocate for transportation. Additionally he reminded Board members of highway trust fund balances and the way spend out rates are currently versus what comes into the motor license fund. He noted that MAP-21 funded federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014 but that as of September 30, 2014 the highway trust fund would be bankrupt. The plan is to spend what we get and there are questions about the impact of the sequestration and shut down. He stressed that if there is no plan for the highway trust fund, PA will have to figure out what to do. There will be a need for \$15 billion in additional revenue to supplement the trust fund. Currently in Pennsylvania, PennDOT receives \$1.6 billion for highways and bridges; that amount will go to \$80 million without additional funding. The money that will come in from the highway trust fund goes to obligations from this year and next year. If the government does not do anything, next year at this time will be different from this year.

James Simpson, NJDOT, commented that he was glad to see Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive, at the Board meeting. He noted that the Trenton/Mercer airport is a great structure and he asked Mr. Hughes to speak on the exciting things taking place at the airport.

Andrew Levecchia, Camden County, reported that earlier in the month Camden County and Cooper River Park were awarded a New Jersey Chapter of American Planning Association “Great Places” award for the Cooper River Park Vision Plan.

Terence Farrell, Chester County, reported that earlier in the week Chester County received an award for excellence from the American Planning Association’s Pennsylvania Chapter for their bicycle and pedestrian plan for central Chester County. The plan was developed by Chester County’s planning department. The plan was funded through one grant from PennDOT and one from the health department, in order to connect trails in Chester County.

Brian Hughes, Mercer County, reported that when he became Freeholder, he petitioned Southwest Airlines to come to Mercer Airport but was unable to get them to commit. He was able to get Frontier Airlines, with one flight, a year ago. The airline now has ten flights and recently added two more flights, which will begin early next year to Cincinnati and Charlotte. They will have about 60 flights a week to 12 different locations. The airport will reopen to the public on November 8, after extensive work to the existing terminal. The airport also had to close the long runway in order to install a runway safety area. Mr. Hughes expressed that he is looking forward to enhanced commercial traffic and to helping the economy grow in the region.

Rina Cutler, City of Philadelphia, reported that the Mayor’s Office of Transportation and Utilities hosted a 5-Year Anniversary celebration Story Slam. Additionally the 5th year report is available online. Ms. Cutler noted that there is a master plan study going on with Amtrak and other major stakeholders for the 30th Street area for Amtrak. There is potential for it to be a game changer for that area. It is in the beginning stages for that plan.

Jeffrey Wilkerson, City of Trenton, reported that Trenton received an award earlier in the week for its Complete Streets Policy at the New Jersey Complete Streets Summit. He noted that the award complements a ranking received earlier in the year for Top 10 Complete Streets in 2012.

Lisa Worden, Department of Community and Economic Development, reported that Arlington Virginia has a plan for lessening traffic accidents. They have created signage on the road that says, “do not hit the car in front of you.” The signage has actually slowed the rate of accidents.

7. Executive Director's Report

a. Ethics Training

Mr. Seymour asked the New Jersey Board members and alternates to complete their required ethics training by November 12 and forward their receipts to Renee Wise.

b. Board Retreat

Mr. Seymour reported that there is a “save the date” for the Board Retreat in the Board folders. The theme of the Board Retreat is “Changing Technology; Changing Transportation.” He noted that the Retreat would be taking place on December 12 at Burlington County College Enterprise Center. The Conference will start at 9:00 am, followed by the awards lunch at 12:00 pm, and the Board meeting at 1:30 pm.

c. Regional Excellence Awards

Mr. Seymour noted that the Regional Excellence Award winners have been identified, and would be recognized on December 12.

d. Trails Press Event

Mr. Seymour called the Board’s attention to the Trails Press Event taking place on November 13 at 2:30 pm at the base of the Ben Franklin Bridge in Camden, New Jersey. One of the new projects is a new bicycle ramp that goes into Camden. Mr. Seymour invited Board members and alternates to attend.

e. GreenBuild Reception

Mr. Seymour reported that there would be a GreenBuild Reception on November 20, 2013, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Paseo Verde. There will be an exhibit and Paseo Verde will be honored as a LEED ND certified project. The event will discuss sustainable infrastructure, affordable housing, and other green building themes. Mr. Seymour invited all Board members and alternates to attend.

f. NJ Civil Action

Mr. Seymour alerted the Board to the fact that Lita Bellochio, a resident of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, has filed a civil suit against a number of parties, including DVRPC. DVRPC has asked to be dropped as a party in the lawsuit.

g. Pennsylvania TIP Funding and Schedule

Mr. Seymour reported that there would be changes to the TIP funding and schedule in response to MAP-21 requirements. He explained that MAP-21 shrinks the categories of funding. A number of programs are being collapsed into a single program called the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP). There is a cluster of facilities in Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh, and in the Delaware Valley Region. There will be less money in the STP (flexible) funding category and PennDOT will need to allocate 60% of statewide funds to 17% of the road network (as shown in the maps in the Board folders). There has been discussion about whether or not the National Highway Performance Program funding should move into a statewide pool, like the Interstate Program. DVRPC's concerns are that the facilities under the NHPP represent half of our TIP. If all of it moved to a statewide pool, it may also change the dynamic of decision-making and move it to Harrisburg rather than keeping it here. This could mean more funding for the region, but less control. It is likely that it will delay the TIP schedule and there are questions about whether the adoption of these new rules will take place in October or another time.

Deputy Secretary Ritzman, PennDOT, commented that MAP-21 rules are delayed and when they are released, it is expected that they will be fairly large. One of them is Performance Based Planning and Asset Management. The rules we have to operate by are not even out yet, and figuring out how we should proceed without them is difficult. There needs to be some way to ensure that the right things get done. Next week is the Annual Planning Partners meeting and PennDOT has tried to repackage the format of that, looking at how to move forward. If there were state funding, it would help to round out these approaches. If you have a bridge that is not on the national highway system road, interstate, or arterial, it will be very difficult to find funding for that as we move forward in the next program update. The federal government has a vision but we are just beginning to understand what that is. For the Asset Management Plan, if the FHWA doesn't like the way funding is divided, PennDOT's percent share of the project goes down to 65 percent. The state does not have available resources to match federal funds at a 65 percent/35 percent share. PennDOT is trying to figure out the best way to work with this.

Leslie Richards, Montgomery County, said the new program could be devastating to the counties in the region. Ms. Richards, asked if she could participate in a meeting with the other counties to gain a better understanding and to discuss the program details. She also asked if the Annual Planning Partners meeting is a recommending body or if decisions will be made at the meeting.

Mr. Ritzman responded and said that the new program could be a big win for the region because the program requires more money be put into eligible national highway system roadways in the Delaware Valley Region. The money will be pulled into urban areas and removed from rural areas. Regarding Ms. Richards' question about the Annual Planning Partners meeting, Mr. Ritzman said that it is tough to answer whether they will simply offer recommendations or vote on actions but that the team really strives for consensus in their decision-making.

Rina Cutler, City of Philadelphia, would like a meeting of the counties and PennDOT to discuss this. She is not comfortable supporting the removal of regional dollars and programming them from the state. She sees unintended consequences of MAP-21. There is no way that someone in Harrisburg understands the implications of this region better than someone in this region.

Mr. Ritzman commented that PennDOT will be working with all the planning partners to figure things out. Mr. Seymour offered to organize a conference call ahead of the Planning Partners meeting.

Tony Cho, Federal Transit Administration, commented that he is happy to work with PennDOT and other stakeholders to try to figure out the new regulations.

Brian Hughes, Mercer County, asked if there would be a separation between bridge money and highway funding.

Mr. Ritzman responded that some categories of funding would be lumped together and some would not.

h. FTA Rulemaking – Transit “Representation” on MPOs

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration issued policy guidance on metropolitan planning organization representation; this is in response to MAP-21. He explained to the Board that three transit agencies joined DVRPC as non-voting Board members in 1992. This new FTA proposal is now interpreting representation differently and is calling for the representative of transit to have equal decision-making rights. The “specifically designated representative” could be Board members or senior staff of a transit agency. For regions with more than one transit agency, such as DVRPC, it is possible to designate a single representative for all transit agencies. An existing Board member at DVRPC who also serves on a transit board (Mr. Simpson, Ms. Egea, Ms. Cutler, and Ms. Richards) could be that “designated representative.” He noted that there is also a footnote in the rulemaking that says if the MPO existed prior to 1991, then

they are exempt from this rule. The question now is whether DVRPC, created under state law enacted before ISTEA legislation (December 18, 1991), is in fact exempt. The rule is currently open for public comment.

Tony Cho, Federal Transit Administration, responded that public comment ends at the end of October. The FTA is working on getting a more solid understanding of the footnote and will get more information to the Board.

Andrew Levecchia, Camden County, asked whether all three transit agencies are represented on the Board.

Mr. Seymour responded no, but that MPOs who have multiple transit agencies represented, can have one member represent all three transit agencies.

Rina Cutler, City of Philadelphia, expressed some concern over this new rule and commented that she would like transit agencies to have their own voice.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, asked if some members would have more than one vote on the DVRPC Board.

Mr. Seymour responded that if an MPO Board member also sits on the Board of a transit agency, they would be the representative, but it would not necessarily change the number of votes. Mr. Seymour noted that he is sending public comments and asking for clarification on some areas.

Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, expressed concern and wondered if collectively the transit agencies could be combined and have one vote.

Lou Millan, NJ Transit, commented that he is concerned because some of the information relayed at the Board is detailed and if another individual from another organization was to represent an agency, the information may not be accurate and informed.

Mr. Seymour responded that he values having all of the transit agencies being present at the Board meetings and that DVRPC will continue to investigate this rule and its implications.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, noted that some of the transit agencies cross geographical boundaries. He commented that he does not believe that transit issues would be separable between the states and that it would be difficult to handle for the representative.

i. Recent Newspaper Article

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to an article in the Business Journal called "Let's Get Rid of the Term Delaware Valley." He noted that without changing the legislation in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Delaware Valley is going to stay in DVRPC's name.

Presentations

8. Public Participation Task Force

Candy Snyder, DVRPC's Director of Public Affairs, and Jane Meconi, DVRPC's Public Involvement Manager, presented an overview and summary of the diverse and changing activities of the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF). James Hopkins, PPTF Chair, also provided his perspective.

Brian Hughes, Mercer County, asked if a Board member could recommend a PPTF member.

Mr. Seymour, responded that yes, a Board member could send in a letter of support and asked that the letter of support be sent within the next week.

9. Pennsauken Transit Center study

Andrew Svekla, DVRPC's Senior Planning and Design Analyst, Office of Smart Growth, presented on a recently completed study of the Pennsauken Transit Center, a new rail transit facility being constructed by NJ Transit at the crossing of the Atlantic City Rail Line (ACRL) and the RiverLINE in Pennsauken, NJ. The study outlines several strategies designed to facilitate better access to the transit center and identifies economic development opportunities created within the station area.

Lou Millan, commented that it was very interesting to see what has happened since the station's opening. In the first days of operation, the majority of ridership was walk-up, and there were also people transferring from bus to light rail to downtown Camden. The public appeared to be well informed about the new station, and were finding their fastest and best transit route.

10. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were distributed to the Board for review:

(1) Regional Technical Committee; (2) Regional Safety Task Force; (3) Regional Community and Economic Development Forum; (4) Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

Terence Farrell, Chester County, asked if it would be possible to get the counties together for a meeting on the proposed structure changes resulting from MAP-21.

Mr. Seymour responded that yes he will work on setting up a meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m. on a **MOTION** by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Mr. Kuhn.

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC public meetings are held in ADA and transit-accessible facilities. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. For more information please visit the DVRPC website (www.dvrpc.org) or call (215) 238-2871.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

Renee Wise, Recording Secretary

Secretary

**Susan Herman
1977 Boxwood Drive
Newtown, PA 18940
(Ph: 215.504.9670)**

Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DVRPC Board Members
c/o James Simpson, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

October 24, 2013

RE: Problems that exist with the Draft Minutes of the September, 2013 DVRPC Board Meeting and the Minutes of the March – July, 2013 DVRPC Board Meetings

Dear Mr. Seymour and DVRPC Board Members,

I am reading this letter into the public record at today's Board meeting, as a citizen of Bucks County. I respectfully request that you rectify the following problems that exist with the **Draft Minutes of the September, 2013 DVRPC Board Meeting** and the **Minutes of the March – July, 2013 DVRPC Board Meetings**.

Draft Minutes of the September 26, 2013 DVRPC Board Meeting (Exhibit I)

- The Draft Minutes state this in the section titled **Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**, "...Sue Herman, a citizen of Bucks County, submitted public comment regarding her unhappiness with the change in format for public commenting at the RTC. The new format requires that public comment on agenda items is moved to the end of the meeting, which, in Mrs. Herman's opinion, greatly limits the public's ability to comment at the time the item is presented and voted upon." The second sentence here is inaccurate.

Please correct the second sentence so that it reads, "...The new format requires that public comment on agenda items is moved to the end of the meeting, which Mrs. Herman opposed because it eliminates the public's ability to comment prior to the time the item is presented and voted upon."

- Please attach the 9/26/13 letter from Sue Herman to Mr. Seymour and the DVRPC Board **RE: DVRPC's Regional Technical Committee Eliminates the Formal Process for Obtaining and Considering Public Input Prior To Voting on Action Items** (Exhibit II) to the 9/26/13 Board Meeting Minutes on the website and mention that it is attached in the section titled **Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**.

1/17

- The Draft Minutes also state, "...She [Sue Herman] also commented on the insufficiency of the July 25, 2013 Board minutes... She also asked that her public comments, those of Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council, and those of Lita Bellocchio, citizen of Mt. Laurel, be attached to the July 25, 2013 Board Minutes on DVRPC's website." The second sentence here is inaccurate.
- **Please correct the second sentence so that it reads,** "...She also asked that her public comments, those of Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council, and those of Lita Bellocchio, citizen of Mt. Laurel, be attached to the June 27, 2013 Board Minutes on DVRPC's website, as per the motion made by Ms. Marseglia at the July 25, 2013 Board Meeting." (See Page 3 of Exhibit III, which lacks the specifics that the motion was for attaching the Herman, Clean Air Council, and Bellocchio comments to the Minutes on the website.)

Draft Minutes of the July 25, 2013 DVRPC Board Meeting (Exhibit III)

- Thank you for making the change in the section titled **Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items** to reflect that I spoke as a Bucks County resident. However, you have not corrected this section to accurately reflect that I asked that my public comments, those of Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council, and those of Lita Bellocchio, citizen of Mt. Laurel, be attached to the June 27, 2013 Board Minutes on DVRPC's website, as per the motion made by Ms. Marseglia at the July 25, 2013 Board Meeting." (See Page 3 of Exhibit III, which lacks the specifics that the motion was for attaching the Herman, Clean Air Council, and Bellocchio comments to the Minutes on the website.)

1) I also stated that the **June 27, 2013 Draft Minutes...**:

- (a) ...misrepresented the content of my public comment at that meeting. You failed to mention that I had specifically commented about **Agenda Item #5: Annual Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process and asked the Board to reject the resolution for self certification and pursue a resolution that encourages meaningful public participation from the region's citizens by including them in the action item decision-making process that takes place at monthly RTC and DVRPC Board meetings.**
- (b) ...did not have the 6/27/13 letter I read into the public record attached to the minutes. (You have since attached my letter to the Minutes and noted that it is attached in the section titled **Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items.**)
- (c) ...misrepresented the content of the comments given by Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council. I spoke on Dennis's behalf, as he was on vacation. The Draft Minutes stated, "Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council submitted comments focusing on his perception that public participation at DVRPC had declined. He commented on the disbanding of the Regional Citizens Committee and the inadequacy of its replacement, the Public Participation Task Force."

Your misrepresentation "sanitized" the Clean Air Council's thoughtful public comment. (See Exhibit IV, Draft Minutes of 6/27/13 meeting.) Mr. Winters

2/17

submitted a two-page (2-page) document titled **Statement of the Clean Air Council on The Demise of Public Participation at DVRPC (Exhibit V)**. As of this writing, you have only attached one page of this 2-page document. Please attach the entire document and mention that it is attached in the section titled **Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**.

(d) ...did not have Lita Bellocchio's thoughtful public comments [about excessive noise due to the New Jersey Turnpike and aircraft flight patterns, which caused airplane noise over her home] attached to the Minutes. I asked that this be done. As of this writing you have not attached her comments. I ask that you attach her comments and mention you have done so in the section titled **Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**.

Draft Minutes for the March – July, 2013 DVRPC Board Meetings

The Minutes for the March-July 2013 Board Meetings are still titled "Draft Minutes" on the DVRPC's website, yet each has been voted upon and approved at a Board meeting. Are these Draft Minutes or Final Approved Minutes? Why aren't the Draft Minutes being adjusted and made into Final Approved Minutes shortly after approval at each month's Board meeting?

I respectfully request that the problems addressed in this letter be rectified immediately and that this letter be included in its entirety in the Minutes of today's meeting.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman

Cc; Peter Rogoff; Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Therese McMillan; Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Matt Welbes; Executive Director, Federal Transit Administration
Victor Mendez; Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Greg Nadeau; Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Jeffrey Paniati; Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration
Barry Schoch, Secretary of Transportation
Bradley Mallory, Deputy Secretary of Administration
State Representative Steve Santarsiero
Candace Snyder; Director, Office of DVRPC Public Affairs & Communications
Bucks County Commissioner, Diane Marseglia
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III
Jim Mosca, PennDOT
David Kuhn, NJDOT
Philadelphia Inquirer
Plan Philly
Bucks County Courier Times
Regional Citizens

3/17

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of Meeting of September 26, 2013

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Joyce Paul
James Simpson
Dave Kuhn

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office

James Mosca
Amy Herbold
Joshua Novotney
Kathleen Bruder
Christopher Sullivan
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Lynn Bush

Bucks County

Chester County

Terence Farrell
Ronald Bailey

Delaware County

John McBlain
Linda F. Hill

Montgomery County

Leslie Richards
Jody Holton
Turea Hutson

Burlington County

Camden County

Carol Ann Thomas

Gloucester County

Mercer County

Andrew Levecchia
Richard Westergaard

City of Chester

City of Philadelphia

Matthew Lawson
(not represented)

City of Camden

City of Trenton

Rina Cutler
(not represented)
Jeffrey Wilkerson

Non-Voting Members

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 II	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Tony Cho
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Byron Comati
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou 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	Phil Spinelli
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy	Katherine Meade
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Lisa Worden

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	James Kilcur
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Richard Bickel, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Paul Smith, Chris Puchalsky, Mary Bell, Rob Graff, Richard Murphy, Kwan Hui, Sean Greene, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Thomas McGovern, Jane Meconi, Michael Boyer, Brett Fusco, James Briggs, Elise Turner, Ryan Gallagher, Betsy Mastaglio, Taghi Ozbeki, Elizabeth Compitello, Sarah Oaks, Zoe Neaderland, and Renee Wise.

Guests

Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Dist. 6)	Linda Guarini
Citizen of Bucks County	Sue Herman
Citizen of Montgomery County	Bridget Chadwick
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia	Sarah C. Stuart

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair James Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Chair Simpson thanked the Board for its support and the opportunity to Chair the DVRPC Board meetings.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Sue Herman, a citizen of Bucks County, submitted public comments regarding her unhappiness with the change in format for public commenting at the RTC. The new format requires that public comment on agenda items is moved to the end of the meeting, which, in Ms. Herman's opinion, greatly limits the public's ability to comment at the time the item is presented and voted upon. She also commented on the insufficiency of the July 25, 2013 Board minutes. She requested that her public comments be revised to show her affiliation is not with Residents of Regional Traffic Solutions but instead as a citizen of Bucks County. She also asked that her public comments, those of Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council, and those of Lita Bellocchio, citizen of Mt. Laurel, be attached to the July 25, 2013 Board minutes on DVRPC's website. Sarah Clark-Stuart of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia thanked the Board for its support of action item number seven and the regional trail fund. Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council, requested that the Board consider its vote on action item PA13-51, the Galloway Road project, due to insufficient information provided prior to the RTC meeting. He expressed the thought that the road project will not relieve congestion and that building new roads to address congestion is not the answer. He also expressed concern for the air quality due to the new road and more vehicular traffic in the area and a lack of bicycle lanes. Mr. Winters also asked that the RTC provide sufficient information for projects like this. A response from DVRPC's Executive Director Barry Seymour followed, noting that the Board will be addressing the Galloway Road project as a TIP action. Mr. Seymour also stated that there has been discussion about changing the format for public commenting and that he understood Ms. Herman's point about allowing public comment before the action items are discussed. He promised to take a look at that; he also agreed to attach the public comments to the Board minutes on DVRPC's website and to amend Ms. Herman's comments. Andrew Levecchia, Camden County, expressed that as RTC chair, he would like the RTC process to have more public involvement and that he will look at the timing of when public comments are submitted.

1. Minutes of Meeting of July 25, 2013

A motion was made by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to approve the minutes of July 25, 2013 as amended.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Capital Program Manager, presented the following TIP actions to the Board.

2a. PA13-47: Local Bridge Line Item, (MPMS#95447), Various Counties

6/17

**Susan Herman
1977 Boxwood Drive
Newtown, PA 18940
(Ph: 215.504.9670)**

Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DVRPC Board Members
c/o James Simpson, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

September 26, 2013

**RE: DVRPC's Regional Technical Committee Eliminates the Formal Process for
Obtaining and Considering Public Input Prior To Voting on Action Items**

Dear Mr. Seymour and DVRPC Board Members,

It is with dismay that I am compelled to read this letter into the public record at today's Board meeting. I speak as a citizen of Bucks County, one of the counties in the nine-county region you [Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)] serve. As you know, for well over a decade, I have personally attended Regional Citizens Committee, Regional Technical/Transportation Committee, and DVRPC Board meetings at your offices and participated in the issues with deliberation, passion, thoughtfulness, sincerity and interest.

At the September 10, 2013 Regional Technical Committee (RTC) meeting, Chairman Andrew Levecchia announced that **Public Comment on all Agenda Items** (including action items requiring a motion and vote by the RTC) would no longer be taken at the beginning of the meeting, but **was being moved to the end of the meeting AFTER votes on action items had been conducted**. Dennis Winters, a Clean Air Council transportation team member and center city Philadelphia resident, publicly verbalized a formal protest from his seat in the audience, stating that this policy would deny the public and interested parties the opportunity to make thoughtful public comment on agenda items prior to the time they are discussed and voted upon by the RTC. This would result in RTC discussion and votes taken on matters without public input. **By doing this, the RTC has eliminated the formal process for obtaining and considering public input prior to voting on proposed action items. This is a further erosion of real, meaningful contribution and input from the public.**

After the RTC meeting, I told Mr. Levecchia how disappointed I was in the new policy for Public Comment. I said that citizens, who come well-prepared on issues they are passionate about, have meaningful input and diverse views for RTC members to consider before they vote on action items. He responded that the RTC doesn't believe citizens can give meaningful input on agenda items prior to hearing the presentation about the agenda item, and that is why Public Comment on Agenda Items has been moved to the end of the meeting. I responded that taking Public Comment after action items have been voted upon, eliminates public participation in the

7/17

Page 1 of 18

decision-making process for action items. I explained that RTC members would lose the benefit of hearing citizens, a voice that sometimes gives another perspective for consideration when voting on action items. He stated that citizens have time between the RTC meeting and DVRPC Board meeting to consider what transpired at the RTC meeting and present their concerns at the DVRPC Board meeting. I then asked, "How high a hill do you want to make citizens climb in this public participation process? We (citizens) are aware that the decisions made at the RTC are generally rubber-stamped by the DVRPC Board."

This new policy, which eliminates public participation in the RTC action item decision-making process, must be revoked. WHY?

- Because it makes a farce out of these mission statements that appear in DVRPC's Publication titled dvrpc/ A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS:
 - a) "Citizens who take the time to get involved and learn about their community, their county, and their region can change the course of the future."
 - b) "Various planning policies are being implemented in our region that enhance our quality of life, improve our environment, and make the Delaware Valley an even better place to live. However, in order to effectively shape the region's future, area residents need to be informed and involved in the planning process. Public participation is an integral part of the planning process. The DVRPC believes that the best decisions are made with a fully informed and involved public; your opinion makes a difference on vital transportation and planning issues in the region. Through a constructive dialogue, planners, decision-makers, and the public can share their opinions and mutually shape a vision for a neighborhood, community, county, or region."
- There is already a notable lack of discourse amongst RTC members when considering agenda items. This new policy eliminates the well-informed, objective, and thoughtful voice of the citizens in the decision-making process for action items voted upon at RTC meetings. This voice often led to healthy discourse on the RTC.
- Citizens' input is important in a system where there is pressure for RTC and DVRPC Board members to rubber-stamp action items which often reflect the wishes of DVRPC staff exclusively. If we truly want to ensure the future "health of the region's citizens" and the "sustainability of the Delaware Valley", as professed in the document titled DVRPC SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS (see pages 4-5 of Exhibit I), a regional citizens' role must be respected and included in the decision-making process on action items at both the RTC and DVRPC Board monthly meetings. This regional citizens' role must be cultivated and encouraged.
- In my June 27, 2013 letter to DVRPC Board members (see Exhibit I) with

SUBJECT: Request that DVRPC Board members:

...reject RESOLUTION (No. B-FY13-002): DVRPC SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS, and

...pursue a resolution that encourages meaningful public participation from the region's citizens by including them in the

8/17

**action item decision-making process that takes place at
monthly Regional Technical Committee (RTC) and DVRPC
Board meetings,**

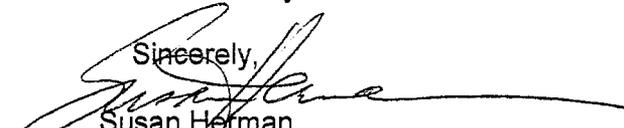
I stated, "Meaningful public participation is an important part of the Federal standards that are to be met by the DVRPC. Unfortunately, meaningful public participation is at an all time low at the DVRPC. I respectfully ask that you reject the RESOLUTION for DVRPC SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS and pursue a resolution that encourages meaningful public participation from the region's citizens by including them in the action item decision-making process that takes place at monthly RTC and DVRPC Board meetings."

- While the DVRPC meticulously tracks and reports on the number of comments received in its computer outreach efforts to citizens, the RTC's bold move to eliminate Public Comment in the decision-making process at RTC meetings, shows the agency's true colors. This is a disrespect and disregard for public input that overtly and completely politicizes the decision-making process.

I implore the DVRPC Board to pass a motion at today's meeting calling for Public Comment on Agenda Items at the RTC **to take place at the time that each agenda item is discussed prior to taking a vote on the issue.** In the case of an action item, citizens should be permitted to give comment after the presentation regarding the item and prior to a vote being made. This will enable citizens to benefit from hearing presentations. I hope that you, as do I, genuinely want a system that allows for checks and balances and healthy discourse, rather than a stacked deck.

I respectfully request that the reading of this letter be referenced in the minutes of today's meeting and ask that the letter be included in its entirety in the minutes.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman
Citizen of Bucks County

Cc; Peter Rogoff; Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Therese McMillan; Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Matt Welbes; Executive Director, Federal Transit Administration
Victor Mendez; Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Greg Nadeau; Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Jeffrey Paniati; Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration
Barry Seymour; Executive Director, DVRPC
Candace Snyder; Director, Office of DVRPC Public Affairs & Communications
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III
Jim Mosca, PennDOT
David Kuhn, NJDOT
Philadelphia Inquirer
Plan Philly
Bucks County Courier Times
Regional Citizens

Barry Schoch, Secretary of Transportation
Bradley Mallory, Deputy Secretary of Administration
State Representative Steve Santarsiero
Bucks County Commissioner, Diane Marseglia

9/17

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of Meeting of July 25, 2013

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation

James Requa
James Simpson

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Thomas Wospil
James Ritzman

New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office
Bucks County

James Mosca
Amy Herbold
Joshua Novotney
Christopher Sullivan
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Lynn Bush

Chester County

Terence Farrell

Delaware County
Montgomery County

Ronald Bailey
Linda F. Hill
Leslie Richards

Burlington County
Camden County

Turea Hutson
Carol Ann Thomas

Gloucester County

Louis Cappelli
Andrew Levecchia
Richard Westergaard

Mercer County
City of Chester
City of Philadelphia

Donna Lewis
(not represented)
Rina Cutler

City of Camden
City of Trenton

Andrew Stober
(not represented)
Jeffrey Wilkerson

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division

(not represented)

10/17

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
New Jersey Transit Corporation
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Jonathan Crum
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Lou Millan
(not represented)
Cosmo Servidio
Patrick Patterson
Barbara Holcomb
Phil Spinelli
Katherine Meade

Delaware River Port Authority
Port Authority Transit Corporation
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy
Pennsylvania Department of Community and
Economic Development

Lisa Worden

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

James Kilcur
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Richard Bickel, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Candy Snyder, Richard Murphy, Kwan Hui, Sean Greene, Chris Puchalsky, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Thomas McGovern, Jane Meconi, Michael Boyer, Brett Fusco, Elise Turner, Amy Bernknopf, Jesse Buerk, John Coscia, Jr., Taghi Ozbeki, Beth Wichser, Sarah Oaks, Kim Dean, Zoe Neaderland, and Renee Wise.

Guests

Cross County Connection TMA
Montgomery County Planning Commission
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Dist. 6)

New Jersey Department of Transportation
Chester County Planning Commission
3M
PlanPhilly
S.A.V.E.
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
Montgomery County
Delaware Valley Citizens Transportation Committee
Philadelphia Inquirer

William Ragozine
Alana Shaw
Linda Guarini
Lester Toaso
Andrew Clark
Randy Waltermayer
Leah Picone
Christine Fisher
Julie Gardner
Sue Herman
Bridget Chadwick
Lorraine Brill
Paul Nussbaum

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair James Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Chair Simpson thanked the Board for their support and the opportunity to Chair the DVRPC Board meetings.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Sue Herman of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. submitted public comments regarding the insufficiency of the June 27, 2013 Board minutes. She requested that her public comments, and those of Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council, be attached to the June 27, 2013 Board minutes on DVRPC's website. Bridget Chadwick of Montgomery County requested that the public comments she submitted prior to the July 25, 2013 Board meeting be amended. A response from DVRPC's Executive Director Barry Seymour followed, agreeing to attach the public comments to the Board minutes on DVRPC's website, and to amend Ms. Chadwick's comments.

1. Minutes of Meeting of June 27, 2013

A **motion** was made by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to approve the minutes of June 27, 2013 as distributed.

* On a **motion** by Ms. Marseglia, seconded by Ms. Richards, an amendment was proposed to include the public comments. The original motion was amended as requested, and adopted unanimously by the Board.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Capital Program Manager presented the following TIP actions to the Board.

2a. PA13-41: Montgomery County Act 13 Local Bridges, (Various MPMS#s), Montgomery County

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding eight new local bridge projects to the TIP for design, right-of-way, and construction in FY13 in the amount of \$897,825 using the 2012 allocation of Act 13 funds. These are additional funds to the region.

The eight bridges that have been requested are:

12/17

Exhibit IV
(pg. 1 of 3)
6/27 original

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of Meeting of June 27, 2013

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Joyce Paul
James Simpson
David Kuhn

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee

James Mosca
Regina Egea
Amy Herbold

Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office
Bucks County

Lisa Worden
Karen Stokes
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Lynn Bush

Chester County

Terence Farrell
Ronald Bailey

Delaware County

John McBlain
Thomas Shaffer

Montgomery County

Leslie Richards

Burlington County

Carol Ann Thomas

Camden County

Andrew Levecchia

Gloucester County

Richard Westergaard

Mercer County

Donna Lewis

City of Chester

Jacqueline Parker

City of Philadelphia

Andrew Stober

City of Camden

Edward Williams

City of Trenton

(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration

New Jersey Division

(not represented)

Pennsylvania Division

(not represented)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

13/17

Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Tony Cho
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	(not represented)
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Cosmo Servidio
Delaware River Port Authority	(not represented)
Port Authority Transit Corporation	John Rink
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	(not represented)

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Frederick D. Strober
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Patty Elkis, Candy Snyder, Richard Murphy, Chris Puchalsky, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Thomas McGovern, Jane Meconi, Karin Morris, Robert Graff, John Griffies, Michael Boyer, Brett Fusco, and Renee Wise.

Guests

Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine
Montgomery County Planning Commission	Jody Holton
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Dist. 6)	Linda Guarini
Clean Air Council	Dennis Winters
Resident, Mt. Laurel	Lita Bellocchio
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.	Susan Herman
Delaware County Planning Commission	Gus Frederick
	Steve Hackett
	Beverly Schaefer
	Michael Seay

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Terence Farrell called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Executive Director Barry Seymour welcomed Commissioner James Simpson from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Regina Egea from the New Jersey Governor's Authorities Unit, Karen Stokes from the Pennsylvania Governor's Policy and Planning

Regarding Self-Cert. +
I reject attach O/F/U on this.

- All members of press in room.
- No one taping.

Exhibit III
(Pg. 3 of 3)

Office, and noted that Lisa Worden was sitting in as a voting member for Ronald Henry as the Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Not transparent
Agenda to #5

Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council submitted comments focusing on his perception that public participation at DVRPC had declined. He commented on the disbanding of the Regional Citizens Committee and the inadequacy of its replacement, the Public Participation Task Force. Additional public comments were submitted about insufficient public participation in DVRPC's planning activities from Sue Herman of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. Public comments were submitted about noise problems at and around her residence by Lita Bellocchio, a resident of Mount Laurel, N.J. Ms. Bellocchio commented about excessive noise due to the New Jersey Turnpike, and aircraft flight patterns, which caused airplane noise over her home. She asked that funding go to noise abatement activities.

Annual Self Cert of Reginal T. Press

1. Minutes of Meeting of May 23, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Mosca, the minutes of May 23, 2013 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

Richard Murphy, DVRPC Capital Program Coordinator, presented the following TIP actions to the Board.

2a. PA13-38: Delaware County Act 13 Local Bridges, (Various MPMS#s), Delaware County

Delaware County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding four new local bridge projects to the TIP for design and construction in FY13 in the amount of \$420,000 using the 2012 allocation of Act 13 funds. These are additional funds to the region.

The four bridges that have been requested are:

1. 2nd Avenue Bridge over Stony Creek (MPMS# 97864) in Ridley Township in the amount of \$100,000 (\$10,000 final design and \$90,000 construction). The scope includes the placement of rock protection at the abutments, the deck will be scarified and have a latex modified concrete overlay installed and safety features will be upgraded.

15/17

Statement of the Clean Air Council on The Demise of Public Participation at DVRPC

My name is Dennis Winters. I am a Clean Air Council transportation team member, and I am a center city Philadelphia resident. I served on DVRPC's Regional Citizens Committee from 1994 to its dissolution in 2011. I also served as the RCC elected chair for six years. Several times over the years I have testified, usually at the request of the staff, at DVRPC's federal certification meetings. I have also sung the praises of the agency's involvement of citizens in its decision-making at national meetings and conferences on regional planning over the years.

What made the RCC almost unique among MPO public participation programs was the fact that it was composed of self-appointed residents of the region that simply had a passion and interest in planning at the regional level. Anyone could walk in off the street and after attending three meetings become a voting member of the committee. The RCC was also empowered to a great degree to manage its own operation with a set of bylaws and the ability to elect its own leadership.

Public participation on the RCC was the genuine thing in that it gave citizens of the region an opportunity to review nearly all projects and expenditures planned for the five counties in Pennsylvania and the four in New Jersey. RCC members were involved in the region's federally required Long Range Plan (LRP) and the periodically up-dated Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). They were provided with nearly the same opportunity to learn of the region's future as the Commission itself.

The vast majority of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, if they entertain public participation at all, simply appoint most or all of the public participants. This is great idea if the staff and public officials serving on the board of an MPO are happiest only hearing what they want to hear from the public. While this kind of public participation may expedite the process it does so at the cost of democratic principles.

As the region's MPO, DVRPC is the channel through which most, if not all, federal largess flows for highways, bridges, and public transportation. With the awesome responsibility for spending a little over a billion dollars a year on the area's infrastructure one would think citizens participation would be not just be welcome at DVRPC but much sought after, and, at least until recently, it was. Many of the RCC's members had been active on the committee for 20 to 30 years. Many on the RCC had retired from a variety of careers and willingly gave the DVRPC several hours of their time each month.

Unfortunately in 2010, several representatives of single-issue groups began attacking agency staff both verbally at agency meetings as well as on Internet websites. These agitators became more abusive of the DVRPC staff as time passed and, understandably, the staff's morale and the integrity of the citizens participation process suffered. Instead of empowering the RCC to deal with these troublemakers itself, the agency's executive director disbanded the Regional Citizens Committee in 2011.

As a result, for eighteen months there was no organized public participation at DVRPC. Eventually, a new group called a Public Participation Task Force of twenty-one was appointed from applications collected by the agency and the county's served by the MPO. This group has met three times publicly and several times behind closed doors. After its initial public meeting, attendance at the last two meetings has fallen off almost fifty percent. It has gotten so bad that at the May meeting reorganization was said to be in the offing some time this summer. Perhaps when the Public Participation Task Force's only "task" is to listen every other month for an hour and a half to presentations from agency staff it should be a surprise that even providing dinner won't keep task force members from voting with their feet.

Since the reorganization of DVRPC's public participation program, there has been no citizen representation on the board, a privilege I had the honor of for six years. And, while there are two public participation task force members that have seats on the Regional Technical Committee, there service has been irregular at best or totally absent at worst.

Further, there doesn't seem to be any communication or reporting on that service with the rest of the task force. In effect the task force has no collective roll in action item decision-making the way the old RCC had. This seems to refute the alleged need to increase diversity by creating the new task force, for what good is diversity in a group representing the public if it has no real role in regional planning?

So, to sum up, what has been the outcome of the dissolution of the Regional Citizens' Committee and the creation of the Public Participation Task Force?

1. There has been no formal citizens' participation in the actual work DVRPC does in almost three years.
2. There doesn't seem to be a viable mechanism to correct that situation.
3. The Public Participation Task Force is already in need of overhaul because of waning interest in listening to "talking heads" over dinner.
4. Finally, I'm here to encourage you to question whether you can, in good faith, approve the resolution on self-certification before you.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this matter. Please append a copy of this statement to the resolution on self-certification.

