

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS

OCTOBER 27, 2011

BOARD
AGENDA ITEM

2. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action

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

From: Warren Strumpfer

County: Camden

Zip Code: 08012

Date Received: October 19, 2011

Comment/Question: How does this low original low bid compare to the higher bids previously submitted? Did the original higher bids consider items the low bidder did not?

Response: PennDOT awards construction contracts through a bid process. 95-GR1 project construction package (plans, etc.) was advertised for bidding. We received contractor bids and awarded the contract to the low bidder. All the bidders submit their bids for the same project construction items package. The low bidder is awarded the project based on having provided prices for all the construction items, and addressing all the requirements of submitting a bid in our system, and the final cost being lower than all the other bidders on the project. Each of the other bidders on this project had submitted prices for the same items as the low bidder, but when their item prices were totaled, they were all higher than the low bidder.

The bid results are available on our Penndot website through Services and Software, DOT On-Line Services, ECMS (electronic construction management system), under drop down Solicitation/Contractors/Bid results.

3. DVRPC Fiscal Year 2012 Planning Work Program Amendments

a. Norristown Transportation Center Intermodal Study and Concept Plan

From: John Boyle

County: Philadelphia

Zip Code: 19102

Date Received: October 18, 2011

Comment/Question: Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia - The NTC will serve as the junction of the Schuylkill River and Chester Valley Trails. We would encourage that the study look at upgrading and expanding bicycle storage at the Station. We also are concerned about pedestrian safety and comfort across Lafayette St due to the projected increase in traffic volume once the connection to the Pennsylvania Turnpike is completed.

Response: Thank you for your interest and comment. We agree that NTC's location at the junction of two major regional trails makes it a unique asset for rail-trail connectivity. We plan to consider the need for expanded bike parking, and will also take into account Montgomery County's plan for bicycle/recreation reuse at the old freight station site on the opposite side of Dekalb Street from NTC. To assist us in considering needs and opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, we have also completed a set of bicycle and pedestrian counts for all station access routes, including the Schuylkill River Trail.

b. Fare Sensitivity Modeling Project

From: John Boyle

County: Philadelphia

Zip Code: 19102

Date Received: October 18, 2011

Comment/Question: Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia - We support the inclusion of external factors such as fare increases, gas prices and current VMT trends in all travel forecast models utilized by DVRPC.

4. DVRPC Regional Trails Grant Program- Phase I Selected Projects

From: John Boyle

County: Philadelphia

Zip Code: 19102

Date Received: 10/18/2011

Comment/Question: Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia - We strongly support approval of the DVRPC Regional Trails Grant Program: Phase I Projects.

From: Marilyn Jacobson

County: Bucks

Zip Code: 18914

Date Received: October 19, 2011

Comment/Question: The Phase 1 Construction of the Neshaminy Creek Greenway in Doylestown Township provides a key link for the trail system in the Central Bucks Area.

From: Mark Glidden

County: Bucks

Zip Code: 18914

Date Received: October 19, 2011

Comment/Question: I am writing in support of Project #3 listed above, Doylestown Township– Neshaminy Creek Greenway (Phase I) - The trail system has become more and more important as sections are added on the regional trail system, this is a vital connector for the regional system. Please support this phase.

From: Mike Dulany

County: Bucks

Zip Code: 18976

Date Received: October 19, 2011

Comment/Question: Thank you for the support and vision for this ongoing program. I travel the region to use these trails for recreation and hope continued development will facilitate more use for work commuting and neighborhood errands in the future.

From: Leonard Fritz

County: Gloucester

Zip Code: 08094

Date Received: October 19, 2011

Comment/Question: I hope that the DVRPC approves all of these projects. I would like to recommend to the Commission to have some form that makes the public aware of these projects to encourage the public use of each of these trails, to make the public aware of these trails in the hope of promoting more trails to connect to these, and to help make the applicant/recipient's determined to see each trail completed through to the end of all the proposed phases.

From: Michael Gross

County: Bucks

Zip Code: 18976

Date Received: October 19, 2011

Comment/Question: I heartily support Doylestown construction #3, and the others, and hope that connections in Warrington can be built under rt 611 and rt 132 along the Little Neshaminy creek as in the Warrington Township Trails Master Plan. These will also connect with Doylestown and all adjacent townships to make the area more pedestrian friendly. Lets reduce diabetes!

From: Kathleen Cameron

County: Bucks

Zip Code: 18914

Date Received: October 21, 2011

Comment/Question: I am delighted to see our Chalfont community be linked into the 202 Parkway through walking/biking paths - very smart planning for our future. Thanks to all involved in making this happen!

5. Public Participation Task Force

From: John Boyle

County: Philadelphia

Zip Code: 19102

Date Received: October 18, 2011

Comment/Question: Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia - If the creation of the Public Participation Task Force supercedes the Regional Citizens Committee then it should be stated on the public record. We also believe the Task Force Chair should be elected and sit at the Board table.

From: Ernest & Elaine Cohen

County: Delaware

Zip Code: 19082

Date Received: October 25, 2011

Comment/Question: See attached letter

From: Nadia Zychal

County: Camden

Zip Code: 08002

Date Received: October 26, 2011

Comment/Question: I applaud the board on this first important step in public outreach. In order to better inform the public of the DVRPC and its actions, more public access to information such as published minutes of past board meetings is needed.

Response: DVRPC staff will respond noting that all Board minutes are posted on DVRPC's website.

Ernest & Elaine Cohen
525 Midvale Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082-3607
610-352-2689

Email: Ernest.Cohen@ieea.org

October 25, 2011

Jane Meconi
DVRPC
8th floor
190 North Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19108-9125

Re: Citizens Participation

Dear Jane:

Elaine has been involved in Citizen participation at DVRPC since the mid 1970's. Ernest became involved when he retired. The staff presentations have been very useful for our sustainability efforts: for SSAP conferences and recently for the Upper Darby Farmers Market committee, which is continuing to promote sustainability in Upper Darby. We hope that we can continue providing input to the DVRPC. We have shared pertinent articles with the DVRPC library, when we came in for an RCC meeting. We have also brought new people to the committee.

We are unhappy about the apparent demise of the RCC without explanation to those who have volunteered their time. An ongoing committee with experience in the workings of the DVRPC and a long term regional view should be considered a valuable asset. An effective citizens committee for a planning agency needs a long term view of what should be done now for the future. Cooperation rather than confrontation and a willingness to listen to others is necessary. One issue, obstructionist people should not be allowed to destroy it.

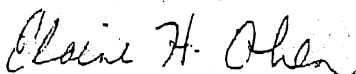
Other points:

An appointed committee may meet the letter of the law and is easier to control than self selected volunteers, but may lack the independent views that can come up with new ideas that hadn't considered.

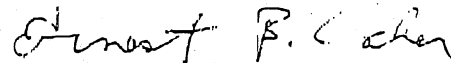
Representatives of organizations and companies should do so with a sense of what is best for the whole region.

You have made outreach efforts to diverse constituencies, however the reality is that volunteers will devote their time to projects that grab them. People who volunteer their time expect their ideas to be considered, but must understand the mission of the RCC and what it can and can't do.

Yours truly,



Elaine H. Cohen



Ernest B. Cohen, PE & Ph.D.

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