

Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force

Economics Subcommittee

Long Range Plan Subcommittee

Data Subcommittee

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Meeting Highlights

DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2000

[1] Call to order

All Goods Movement Task Force members introduced themselves. Highlights from the October 13, 1999 meeting of the Goods Movement Task Force were accepted without revision.

[2] Delaware Valley Year 2025 Plan

Ron Roggenburk of DVRPC discussed the *Horizons 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan* currently under development. The *Horizons* long range plan will update and refine the Year 2020 Plan, with adoption scheduled for mid-2001. Five reports will be prepared, and there will be many opportunities for public involvement (including a survey of businesses.).

Horizons Report 1, *The Shape of Things to Come* (September 1999), reiterated the major features of the Year 2020 Plan. It also identified current regional trends and their consequences. In terms of population and employment forecasts, the most noticeable trend is the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, and the similarity in size of age cohorts 25 years from now.

Horizons Report 2 is entitled *Issues and Choices*, and it is due for completion by February 2000. This report will identify forces and conditions of both a global and regional scope that will influence change. Ultimately, two long range planning scenarios can be differentiated: one allowing for a continuation of present trends, and a second characterized by managed growth and development.

The next step in the *Horizons* process will be the preparation of a *Regional Land Use Plan* (Report 3, Summer 2000) and a *Regional Transportation Plan* (Report 4, Summer 2000.) The transportation plan will address six major problem areas. Special attention will be directed to the impacts resulting from the projected growth in e-commerce. The plan will consist of policy and facility recommendations.

In one public involvement exercise already conducted by DVRPC at its *Horizons* workshops, the public was asked how it would invest \$100 among six improvement areas. The highest identified priorities were: improve existing transportation facilities, revitalize towns, and preserve open space. Rated as lower priorities were: build new highway and transit facilities and implement bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

The Goods Movement Task Force's Planning Subcommittee (Kelvin MacKavanagh, Chair) will be asked to play a major role in the preparation of *Horizons*, particularly with respect to updating freight-related policies, strategies, and projects. The Subcommittee will, in turn, report to the full Goods Movement Task Force on its activities.

[3] Intelligent Transportation System Program

Don Shanis of DVRPC provided an overview of the agency's significant ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) program. The impetus for the effort is changing travel conditions and patterns which will put additional strain on the region's highways. In the future, auto and truck trips and suburb to suburb travel are expected to increase, while transit trips and commuting to Philadelphia will change little from current levels.

There are several challenges to developing a successful regional ITS program. There are many actors: at least 15 transportation agencies with operation/control centers, and over 50 stakeholder organizations. Also, a regional ITS vision must be created, and the deployment of technology and strategies advanced. DVRPC has responded to these challenges by developing a vision of ITS coordination and establishing the ITS Coordinating Council and Technical Task Force which are made up of area operators and stakeholders.

PRIMIS (Philadelphia Regional Integrated Multi-Modal Information Sharing) is a concept to develop a regional information exchange network. This consortium would be based on an MOU (Memo of Understanding) and would develop institutional procedures, a telecommunications network, an information database, and an operations manual/training.

DVRPC recently surveyed area operating agencies as to their implementation of ITS technologies. DVRPC found that all of the agencies were already making use of some form of ITS technology (control center, closed circuit TV cameras, etc.), with much more use of ITS components planned in the next 1 - 2 years.

There are a range of ITS coordination scenarios leading to media and public notification. They may be categorized as: existing, cooperative, decentralized, centralized, and regional operations center.

There are a number of major ITS initiatives underway in the region. The E-Z Pass electronic toll collection system has been implemented by DRPA, and the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Turnpikes are expected to follow suit in 2000. The *Traffic.com* data program, DVRPC's regional architecture study, and corridor level deployment of ITS projects are other large efforts being undertaken. One corridor under consideration for the use of ITS technologies (in part due to this year's Republican National Convention) is the Schuylkill Expressway. Task Force members noted how important it is to coordinate any ITS activities with the adjacent municipalities due to issues such as funding and directional signs.

[4] Two-minute Reports

Among the reports made by the Task Force and Subcommittee chairs and Task Force members were the following:

Liz Voras and John Brown, PennDOT, on: the Conrail Transaction Council meeting in Philadelphia on January 11, 2000; the Department's recent railroad trade mission to Mexico; the completion of the second phase of the 1999 Rail Freight Assistance Program; the Annual Rail Freight Seminar to be held in Pittsburgh from May 3-5, 2000; the statewide study of the implications of 315,000 pound rail cars; the Railroad Industrial Properties Directory set for release by March, 2000; and the development of a comprehensive training program for District Intermodal Coordinators which will address all modes and be available for a wider audience.

John Coscia, DVRPC, on: the agency's new citizen's guide and annual report (in calendar format for the first time) which both reflect the growing importance attached to goods movement planning; the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) project selection process which should be completed in two months; and the TE (Transportation Enhancements) project selection process which should be completed by Spring, 2000.

Gary Shields, Economics Subcommittee, on: the Subcommittee's joint luncheon with the Traffic Club of Philadelphia on November 8, 1999 (guest speaker: Mr. Kenneth Enzor, Director of Logistics and Distribution, OMYA); and Bethlehem Steel subsidiary railroad highlights (including the establishment of its first interstate railroad, the *Brandywine Valley*).

Kelvin MacKavanagh, Planning Subcommittee, on: highlights from the Conrail Transaction Council meeting including Conrail's assumption of an advocacy role and its inauguration of a customer outreach effort for customers in the Shared Assets Areas.

Ted Dahlburg, Data Subcommittee, on: the *Freight Lines* data bulletin; *TravelSmart* transportation advisory; the funding of the rail weight limit study in the DVRPC FY2001 Work Program; plans for a spring conference on incident management; the current Intermodal Management System study which is focused on truck trip generation; FHWA's preparation for the freight planning aspects of the successor to *TEA-21*; TRB committee papers on the new millennium; and Class I railroad concerns about the proposed BNSF-CN merger.

Paul Zielinski, Traffic Club of Philadelphia, on: the Traffic Club's successful annual dinner (January 11, 2000); the organization's expanding website (www.tcphila.org); and the upcoming *Rail Industry Night* (at 30th Street Station, and including a tour) hosted by Terry Foley of Amtrak and John McCreavy of CP Rail on March 14, 2000.

Chris Blake, Council of Logistics Management, on: the development of a speaker's bureau for freight transportation and logistics professionals to discuss their careers with college students (Interested parties may contact Mr. Blake at: (phone) 610.524.7533; (e-mail) sonshine@pipeline.com).

Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern, on: the railroad's addition of new capacity, including the proposed intermodal yard in South Philadelphia.

Tom Collard, Southern Railroad of New Jersey, on: New Jersey's upcoming transportation conference, *TransAction* (Atlantic City, April 25-27, 2000).

Jerry Kraft, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, on: the opening of relocated Interchange 6 of the New Jersey Turnpike on January 28, 2000, which will afford enhanced access to other roads in Burlington County (e.g., US 130).

Jeff Sutch, SMS, Penn Jersey Rail Lines, on: the scheduling of the New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association meetings on the third Friday of the month (next meeting: New Jersey DOT offices, 10AM, February 18, 2000).

Charles Clark, Federal Railroad Administration, on: trespassing as the leading cause of railroad related deaths; the *Livable Communities Through Safe Transportation Forum* on February 17, 2000; and US DOT's National *Groundhog Job Shadow Day* for school students on February 2, 2000.

Yi Liu, CHPlanning, on: her experience with the freight forwarding industry in China, working for the China National foreign Trade Transportation Corporation, and her knowledge of China's customs policies, freight-forwarding procedures, and contacts in China in international trade.

[5] Old/New Business

A reminder was issued that the next meeting of the Goods Movement Task Force has been scheduled for 10AM, April 12, 2000.

Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Kim Kraeuter	PENJERDEL Council
Paul Zielinski	Alliance Shippers
Amos Hutchinson	Alliance Shippers
Ed Duffy	PIDC
Gary Shields	Bethlehem Steel Corp.
Chris Blake	MXWorldwide, Inc.
Yi Liu	CHPlanning
Ray Lagomarsino	UPS Professional Services
Tony Gemma	Roadway Express
Gerald Coyle	Trans Freight Systems
Tom Carolan	Green Field Transport
Robert Renner	Haines and Kibblehouse
Rick Crawford	Norfolk Southern
Terry Foley	Amtrak
Jeff Sutch	SMS, Penn-Jersey Rail Lines
Fred Winkler	Winchester & Western Railroad
Tom Collard	Southern Railroad of New Jersey
James Boylan	Tyburn Railroad
Doug Golden	Main Line Management
Kelvin MacKavanagh	Consultant-CSXT
Roy Blanchard	Blanchard Company
Tom Erickson	Rail Cents Enterprises
Charles Clark	Federal Railroad Administration
Hank D'Andrea	South Jersey Port Corporation
Jeff Hirsch	Maritime Administration
John Hanssens	Philadelphia International Airport
Jerry Kraft	New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Greg Mester	Sverdrup Civil
Karthik Balasubramaniam	University of Pennsylvania
Avri Dub	Avri Dub, CPA
Carmine Fiscina	FHWA, Phila. Metropolitan Office
Carol Ann Thomas	Burlington County Engineer's Office
Elizabeth Voras	PennDOT
John Brown	PennDOT
John Coscia	DVRPC
Donald Shanis	DVRPC
Christian Bauer	DVRPC
Ted Dahlburg	DVRPC