



QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force
10 A.M., Wednesday, April 15th, 2009

8th Floor—DVRPC Main Conference Room

190 North Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106

1. Call to order

Task Force Co-Chairs Don Shanis of DVRPC and Eric Madden of PennDOT called the quarterly freight advisory committee meeting to order. All Task Force members were recognized, and new attendees were welcomed.

In member news, it was announced that Talvin Davis has been promoted to Director, Division of Multimodal Services of New Jersey DOT. Dave Spera has gone back to work for Muller, but he will continue helping run the local chapter of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association. Also, our old friend, John Hummer, was recently named a Gateway Director for MARAD in their San Francisco office.

2. Regional Truck Parking Study

DVRPC is currently undertaking an assessment of the supply and demand of overnight truck parking in the region. Walker Allen made a presentation outlining the current state of truck parking in the region and the work completed on the study to date.

The lack of truck parking nation-wide and especially in the Northeast has recently become a planning issue, with similar studies being completed by NJTPA, BMC, and the State of Pennsylvania. A lack of truck parking can cause safety and security issues, as well as provide a poor quality of life for truck drivers.

The DVRPC region is host to 9 public parking facilities and 3 private truck stops. The 3 private truck stops combine for roughly 750 truck spaces and are all located in New Jersey. The public facilities, both turnpike service plazas and welcome centers, provide roughly 225 truck spaces. In total, there are about 10 times more spaces in New Jersey as there are in Pennsylvania.

A recent overnight windshield survey of trucks parked along the sides of interstates found 71 trucks parked along shoulders or in highway cutouts. The corridor that had the most trucks parked along the roadway was the eastbound PA Turnpike with 25 trucks. Also, two truck parking facilities were found to be significantly over capacity that evening: the Valley Forge Service Plaza in Pennsylvania and the Walt Whitman Service Plaza in New Jersey.

Additional information about this study will be presented at future meetings. If you would like more information about the study or would like a copy of this presentation, please contact Walker Allen (wallen@dvrpc.org; 215-238-2947).

3. Federal Recovery Act

The DVRPC Board recently approved a set of transportation projects totaling close to \$678 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Manager of DVRPC's Office of Capital Programming, provided an overview of DVRPC's Recovery Act program. The requirement of ARRA funding is that the project must be completed in 3 years and it must maximize job creation and economic benefit. Also, rigorous reporting and accountability is required for any project receiving ARRA funding.

SEPTA received roughly \$200 million in ARRA funding, some of which is for projects that were already on the TIP and will now be advanced faster. Highlights of SEPTA projects include new subway stations at Spring Garden and Girard Streets, as well as 30 new hybrid buses. The Pennsylvania portion of the DVRPC region received just over \$250 million in funding for highway improvements, many of which will be beneficial to the freight community. Highlights of PennDOT District 6 projects include reconstruction of US 422, Exton Bypass, and I-476, ITS along I-95, painting and repair on the Girard Point Bridge, and local bike and pedestrian projects.

New Jersey Transit received roughly \$60 million in ARRA funding, mostly for a new transfer station between the River Line and the Atlantic City Rail Line in Pennsauken. The highway projects in the New Jersey portion of the DVRPC region received \$114 million, with the largest project being the I-295 Camden/Gloucester reconstruction.

Britta Stein, a planning specialist with FHWA who is working with DVRPC for 2 months as part of a professional development program, presented a one-page handout covering other opportunities freight projects have for receiving ARRA funding. These pots include funding administered by the EPA and Energy Department. For more information, please contact Britta Stein (britta.stein@dot.gov; 215-238-2832)

4. VISSIM Demonstration

Keith Hartington, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, demonstrated the *VISSIM* traffic operations software package. This planning tool simulates highway and travel conditions and is very useful in evaluating potential improvements.

Mr. Hartington showed how the *VISSIM* software was used to evaluate a potential improvement to the I-476 / I-76 Interchange in Montgomery County. *VISSIM* allows for improvements to be entered into the software and, using traffic projections, evaluates build and no-build scenarios. The software showed that a low-cost off-ramp improvement would have significant benefit for traffic traveling southbound on I-476.

5. TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce

The TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce serves over 1,400 businesses in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery Counties. Tim Phelps, President, discussed the Chamber's mission, services and leadership role. Mr. Phelps spoke about the history of the area and mobility constraints caused by the congestion of US 422 and the lack of passenger rail.

6. Organizational and Business Overview of the Port of Wilmington, Delaware

The Port of Wilmington is one of the busiest marine terminals on the Delaware River. Tom Keefer, Deputy Executive Director of the Diamond State Port Corporation, provided an overview of the Port of Wilmington's operations and facilities.

The Port of Wilmington is the largest banana port in the world, with both Chiquita and Dole as tenants. Other fresh produce handled through the port includes seasonal fruit (mainly grapes) from Chile, and concentrated juice products (which come in bulk and are processed on site). The Port has excellent highway connections and there are no traffic lights between its gate and the highway. Another major commodity that moves through the port both inbound and outbound are finished motor vehicles, which use a roll-on, roll-off dock and have allotted storage space within the terminal.

7. Two-minute Reports

The following Task Force and Subcommittee chairs and Task Force members provided updates on the activities of their companies and agencies:

Eric Madden	PennDOT
Len Ross.....	Pennsylvania TAC
Talvin Davis.....	NJ DOT
Bobbie Geier	Delaware DOT
Don Shanis	DVRPC
Kelvin MacKavanagh.....	Planning Subcommittee
Ted Dahlburg	Shippers Subcommittee
Ted Matthews	NJTPA
Kevin Fisher	The Traffic Club of Philadelphia
Al Gambone.....	CSCMP
Dave Harvey	PRPA
Bob Philpott	WTA
Kate Zaidan	Clean Air Council
James Boylan.....	Tyburn Railroad
Paul Gessner.....	MARAD
Phil Hopkins	Select Greater Philadelphia

8. Old/New Business

The next meeting of the Goods Movement Task Force will be held on July 15, 2009.

Meeting Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Allen, Walker	DVRPC
Becker, Mike	DVRPC
Binck, Chris	Bergmann Associates
Blevins, Dan	WILMAPCO
Boylan, James	Tyburn Railroad
Cipriani, Eugene	RCC
Crawford, Rick	Norfolk Southern
Dahlburg, Ted	DVRPC
Davis, Talvin	NJDOT
DeBerry, Gary	PennDOT
Delp, Paul	Lansdale Warehouse Co
DeYoung, Larry	L.A. DeYoung, Inc
Duffy, Ed	Duffy Associates
Duval, Jennifer	Jacobs Engineering
Ercolani, Jack	Philadelphia Belt Line Railroad
Fisher, Kevin	ARAMARK
Francisco, Bill	Pro Wash Services
Gambone, Alfonso	CSCMP
Geier, Bobbie	Delaware DOT
Gessner, Paul	USDOT MARAD
Giobbie, Tony	CSX Transportation
Goetz, William	CSX
Haines, Angelica	Phila. Workforce Investment Board
Hartington, Keith	DVRPC
Harvey, Dave	PRPA
Heinzelmann, Ray	GBA
Hopkins, Phil	Select Greater Philadelphia
Jeroski, Ryan	GVFTtransportation
Johanson, Erik	Economy League
Kardon, Roy	NAI Mertz
Keefer, Tom	DSPC (Port of Wilmington)
Kenny, Tom	DADC
Kirlin, Ed	State Rep Bill Keller's Office
Krakauer, Miki	NJDOT
Kruel, Quentin	PIDC
Kruger, Arthur	Pioneer Research
Ludasi, Andrew	NJDOT
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	MacKavanagh Railroad Consulting
Madden, Eric	PennDOT
Maley, Donnie	Philadelphia Office of Transportation
Matthews, Ted	NJTPA
McCreavy, John	SMS Rail Lines
McTamney, Mike	Klein and Hoffman, Inc.
Nawn, John	Patrick Engineering
Peterson, Marlin	South Jersey Port Corporation
Phelps, Timothy	Tri County Area Chamber
Philpott, Bob	BDP International
Piltman, Stephanie	PB
Pyers, Denise	PennDOT
Ratko, Wes	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Ross, Len	Pennsylvania TAC
Rothe, Tanya	SEPTA
Rozon, Chris	OOCL Logistics
Sauer, Alfred	East Penn Railroad
Schoonmaker, Elizabeth	DVRPC
Shanis, Donald	DVRPC
Siebeneicher, Bob	Camden Iron and Metal
Stein, Britta	FHWA
Tigue, Tom	DRMEC

Theriault, Melissa	OOIDA
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County
Turcich, Jim	Philadelphia Belt Line
Wahler, Brian	NJ Turnpike Authority
Walston, Dan	FHWA
Ward, John	DVRPC
Warren, Shelley	The Howland Group / DRMEC
Wells, Tim	LTK Engineering Services
Winkler, Fred	Winchester & Western RR
Young, Lindsay	The Howland Group / DRMEC
Zaiden, Kate	Clean Air Council