



## ***QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS***

### **Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force**

**10:00 A.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2012**

**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 Jim Ritzman of PennDOT called the quarterly freight advisory committee meeting to order. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

In member news, it was announced that Eric Moses of John Curry, Inc. has been elected the new President of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of the PA Motor Truck Association. Bill Halloran was installed as the President of the Traffic Club of Philadelphia and Robin Guidotti of the Norfolk Southern became a Board member. Kelvin MacKavanagh has recently stepped down after 34 years as a Board member of the Philadelphia Chapter of AST&L (American Society of Transportation and Logistics). Kate Quinn of FHWA's Office of Freight Management and Operations recently retired. She was a great friend to this region and a true freight champion.

It was with great regret that the Task Force was informed that Professor Tayfur Altiok of Rutgers University passed away very unexpectedly in April. Professor Altiok was an internationally regarded maritime expert, and we were very fortunate to have him speak to the committee at the January, 2010 meeting. Also, deep sympathies were sent out to the family of Jefferson Troester. Mr. Troester, an Upper Merion and Plymouth Railroad engineer, regrettably perished in a very unfortunate industrial accident in May.

Minutes from the prior Task Force meeting on April 18, 2012 were adopted as presented. DVRPC has applied for 1.5 AICP Certification Maintenance Credits for eligible meeting attendees. Eligible attendees should check the AICP website for availability.

All guest presentations will be made available on-line at:  
<http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/committee/committee.aspx?p=DVGMTF>

### **2. ACTION ITEM**

#### **The Delaware Valley Freight Center Inventory**

Walker Allen of DVRPC presented an overview of a new report, *The Delaware Valley Freight Center Inventory*, which identifies 44 distinct clusters of freight and economic activity in the Delaware Valley. Termed Freight Centers, these clusters are made up of various combinations of freight-related land use and each is profiled in detail in the report.

Mr. Allen explained that the Freight Center research effort was motivated by the goals from the DVRPC Long-Range Plan, *Connections2035*, such as limiting sprawl by bringing employers and residents to targeted growth areas. The report also is meant to highlight the importance of the businesses located in these centers. Two of the largest activities in Freight Centers are manufacturing and distribution. Both of these sectors provide higher than average wages, and have grown locally in terms of output over the last decade.

The report has undergone extensive coordination including a review of the draft report by county and city agencies, as well as members of the Task Force. The 44 Freight Centers contained in the report are categorized into a three-step hierarchy: Mega Freight Centers (1500+ acres), Major Freight Centers (700-1499 acres), and Intermediate Freight Centers (250-699) Freight Centers. The entire report identifies 42,658 acres of freight-related land, in which a total of 338,030 jobs are located.

Mr. Allen went through some of the potential next steps for the inventory, such as: integrating the concept into the next update of the DVRPC Long-Range Plan, protecting Freight Centers through zoning and comprehensive planning, having businesses in Freight Centers participate in good neighbor strategies, and identifying needed transportation improvements. The Task Force members were enthusiastic about the possible uses of the report, and had many suggestions about how DVRPC can build upon the report in the future.

The Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force was asked to endorse the concept of Freight Centers and the underlying policies identified in the report, which it did by unanimous vote.

### **3. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **PennDOT's Sumneytown Pike/PA 309 Connector Project**

The Sumneytown Pike/PA 309 Connector project is located in a five-mile corridor running east-west through five Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties, Pennsylvania. Mike Maholick of McCormick Taylor discussed the economic considerations that created the need for this project. The project area is enjoying the benefits of a growing population and the economic prosperity that accompanies it. Mr. Maholick drew attention to some sample businesses located in the area such as Asher's Chocolates, Almac Pharmaceuticals, AccuPac, Car Sense, Cycle Center, Hatfield Quality Meats, and Lansdale Warehouse. Mr. Maholick also drew from the previous presentation to point out that the improved connections will benefit several nearby Freight Centers.

John Quirus also of McCormick Taylor presented the technical details of the project. In 2006, the design for the connector roadway had to be redesigned due to funding constraints. During this process it was also determined that the project would proceed as two phases. Phase one, which was recently completed, rebuilt the roadway between I-476 and Allentown Road. Phase one cost \$22.9 million to construct. Phase two will continue the connector between Allentown Road and Cowpath Road, as well as make improvements to the interchange at Route 309. The original design included high speed connections with Route 309, but this was removed with the 2006 redesign. The second phase is estimated to cost \$31 million to construct. There is currently no funding for phase two of this project, so although the project should only take four more months for final design and two years for construction, it is currently not scheduled to be completed until 2021.

Long time task force member Paul Delp, who owns Lansdale Warehouse, thanked the McCormick Taylor team for their hard work and presentation, and hopes to one day drive the entire new connector roadway.

### **NJDOT Freight Plan Phase II**

NJDOT will soon complete the Highway Corridor Freight Plan which provides a detailed look at six priority freight highway corridors identified in the 2007 NJ Statewide Freight Plan. Jenn Grenier of Parsons Brinckerhoff described the Highway Corridor Plan which identifies key deficiencies and recommends infrastructure improvements and policy initiatives to address those issues.

Ms. Grenier began her presentation by going over some of the major changes in context that have occurred since the original 2007 plan was published.

- US and global economies plummeted into the greatest recession since the Depression
- Major projects such as the Port of Paulsboro and the raising of the Bayonne Bridge have moved forward
- US and New Jersey began to experience economic growth in 2011

Ms. Grenier identified some of the major commodities traveling on the priority Highway Corridors, using three examples to depict the way different commodities are distributed. Food and kindred products have significant flows over highway routes in New Jersey and these flows continue to the Mid-West and even to the West Coast. The demand for chemicals meanwhile creates flows that are more north south in nature with a denser network of movements within the eastern half of the country. Lastly, petroleum and fuels have commodity flows that are extremely regional in nature with the vast majority only flowing between New Jersey and other Mid-Atlantic states.

For each of the six priority corridors, the plan produced an exhaustive performance summary which catalogs problem interchanges, deficient bridges, and bottleneck / congestion locations. Locations of importance were then prioritized using truck volumes and crash data, with specific emphasis on locations that carry a high amount of in-state commodity flows. For each location safety, maintenance, expansion, and policy improvements are documented.

The Highway Corridor Plan is part of the overall NJDOT Freight Agenda which also includes the Statewide Rail Plan, the South Jersey Port Plan, and a range of freight focused initiatives.

Following the presentation Eric Moses presented Ms. Grenier with a small gift on behalf of the Task Force, and the trucking community.

### **4. TWO-MINUTE REPORTS**

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

#### **Jim Ritzman ..... PennDOT**

Mr. Ritzman announced that Pennsylvania passed its state budget and that funding levels for the two rail freight programs remain unchanged. Also PennDOT has selected a consultant for its Freight Study and the committee will be hearing much more about the study at the next meeting. Mr. Ritzman gave a brief recap of the recently passed transportation bill, MAP-21, saying that it keeps the status quo for the next 27 months, but leaves many questions about future funding. While freight is mentioned in the bill, there is

not any dedicated freight funding, but it can be viewed as freight getting a “foot in the door” for future legislation.

**Miki Krakauer ..... NJDOT**

Ms. Krakauer announced that the Freight Plan 2 document presented to the task force earlier would be available for distribution shortly. Additionally work is moving ahead with the statewide rail freight plan as well as the statewide rail plan (which includes both freight and passenger).

**Greg Oliver ..... Delaware DOT**

Mr. Oliver lamented that the I-95 Corridor Coalition lost its dedicated funding in MAP-21. Delaware passed its budget on-time and DelDOT has been given the go-ahead by legislature to sell bonds to raise funds for its Route 301 project. Project information can be found at: [www.deldot.gov/information/projects/us301/](http://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/us301/)

**Don Shanis ..... DVRPC**

Dr. Shanis announced that the DVRPC board recently passed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) providing \$3.8 billion dollars in funding.

**Candice Dias ..... SJTPO**

Ms. Dias announced that SJTPO has recently published its Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan.

**Whitney White ..... City of Chester**

Mr. White thanked Ted Dahlburg of DVRPC for his contributions at a recent Free Trade Forum held at the Federal Reserve Bank. The goal of the forum was to ramp up exports from “middle America” through the DVRPC region.

**Kelvin MacKavanagh ..... Shippers Subcommittee**

Mr. MacKavanagh thanked Jenn Grenier for her presentation and made some comments on MAP-21.

**Nick Walsh ..... Philadelphia Regional Port Authority**

Mr. Walsh updated the committee on the Delaware River dredging project. The project has secured its federal funding and the next contract should begin on August 10, 2012. The project is scheduled for completion in 2016 to coordinate with the opening of the expanded Panama Canal.

**Tony Leo ..... RLS Logistics**

Mr. Leo announced that the next meeting of Ship Philly First will be in September. For more information on the group, please visit: [www.shipphillyfirst.com/](http://www.shipphillyfirst.com/)

**Ted Dahlburg ..... DVRPC Office of Freight Planning**

Mr. Dahlburg called the members attention to a progress report in their meeting packets. Highlights of recent activities include an Open House held in Darby Borough as part of an ongoing study into a highway-railroad grade crossing.

**Reiner Pelzer ..... DVRPC Office of Aviation Planning**

Mr. Pelzer followed up on his two minute report at the April meeting with more details on the acquisition of the Trainer Refinery by Delta Airlines. Delta plans on refitting the refinery so that 32% of the refined product will be jet fuel (previously 14%), and hope that output combined with sales of the other products will account for 80% of the national fuel operating expenses. Mr. Pelzer also announced that \$30 million was being provided by the State of Pennsylvania to broker the deal and keep the plant operational.

**Manlu Huang ..... DVRPC Office of Energy and Climate Initiatives**

Mr. Huang announced that DVRPC was publishing an update to its Green House Gas emissions Inventory and is looking for members to be part of the advisory group and to share success stories. If you are interested in becoming a member or sharing a success story please contact Mr. Huang (215.238.2951).

**Paul Delp ..... Lansdale Warehouse**

Mr. Delp thanked Ted for his recent presentation to the Lansdale Kiwanas Club.

**Johnetta Wleh ..... ABC Men Inc.**

Ms. Wleh spoke to the committee about her organization which is focused on exposing youth to social and professional atmospheres. To learn about ABCMEN and to get involved visit: [www.abcmen.org](http://www.abcmen.org)

**5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ritzman announced that committee Co-Chair Dr. Shanis is retiring effective July 27, 2012. Dr. Shanis has attended all but one meeting of the Task Force, since it was founded. Each subcommittee chair gave a brief report highlighting Dr. Shanis accomplishments and thanking him for his tireless work on behalf of the freight community.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served. The remaining meeting date of the committee for 2012 is October 17. The October meeting will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the freight advisory committee.

## Meeting Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Allen, Walker	DVRPC
Ben-Amos, Ariel	Philadelphia Office of Transportation and Utilities
Bickel, Richard	DVRPC
Boyer, Michael	DVRPC
Buerk, Jesse	DVRPC
Castagnola, Kevin	SJPC
Cipriani, Eugene	Keystone Acquisition Services Corp.
Chiaramonte, Stephen	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Colsher, Aaron	Manufacturing Alliance of Philadelphia
Coyle, Jerry	Evans Delivery Company
Crawford, Rick	Norfolk Southern
Dahlburg, Ted	DVRPC
DeSando, Bob	NJDOT
DeYoung, Larry	L.A. DeYoung, Inc.
Dias, Candice	SJTPO
Dunscumb, Mark	Schnabel Engineering
Evans, Bryan	Select Greater Philadelphia
Fareed, Cathleen	Norfolk Southern
Gabor, Liz	PIDC
Goldberg, Hannah	USACE
Grenier, Jenn	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Goetz, William	CSX
Guidotti, Robin	Norfolk Southern
Heinzelman, Ray	GBA
Hontz, Brian	FRA
Huang, Manlu	DVRPC
Hyer, Andy	Hyundai / Rotem
Jan, Farooq	PennDOT
Jandoli, Chris	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Jeroski, Ryan	GVFTMA
Jones, Dennis	USS - KIPC
Kanu, Lamin	
Kardon, Roy	NAI Mertz
Krakauer, Miki	NJDOT
Leo, Tony	RLS Logisitics
Lloyd, Clay	DVRPC
Ludasi, Andrew	NJ DOT
Luvara, Dave	Railroad Construction Co. of South Jersey
Mach, Frank	MARAD
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	MacKavanagh Railroad Consulting
Maholick, Mike	McCormick Taylor
McCann, Erin	DVRPC
McKiernan, Drew	McMahon Associates
Metz, Jordin	GVFTMA
Miller, Carole	SJTA
Moses, Eric	John Curry Inc.
Oliver, Gregory	DeIDOT

Pelzer, Reiner	DVRPC
Peterson, Marlin	GCIA/SJPC
Quirus, John	McCormick Taylor
Ratko, Wes	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Ritzman, Jim	PennDOT
Rook, Randall	AECOM
Roscoe, Michael	Schnabel Engineering
Salmons, Dylan	PIDC
Schoonmaker, Elizabeth	DVRPC
Schwartz, David	CHPlanning
Seymour, Barry	DVRPC
Shanis, Donald	DVRPC
Siebeneicher, Bob	Camden Iron and Metal
Singer, Mike	UPS
Smalls, Tashaye	DVRPC
Sumner, Marian	NAVFAC
Thomas, Adrienne, Esq.	Franklin Global Group
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County
Trustle, Chris	PA DEP
Walsh, Nick	PRPA
Ward, John	YRC Freight
Weiner, Harvey	Dependable Distribution
Westergaard, Rick	Gloucester County Planning Division
White, Whitney	City of Chester
Wleh, Jackie	ABC Men Inc.
Wleh, Johnette	ABC Men Inc.
Xu, John	Small Business Administration
Zarriello, Joseph	KS Engineers, P.C.