

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of June 4, 2003**

Location: DVRPC, Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, 8th Floor

Attendance:

Bob Parfet	Asst. Director, OR&P	Archdiocese of Philadelphia	rparfet@adphila.org
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Lauris Olson	Social Science Bibliographer	University of Pennsylvania Library	olson@pobox.upenn.edu
Ted Ehrlich	Chief Transportation Engineer	Urbitran Associates	tehrlich@urbitran.com
Jake Lewandowski	Professor	West Chester University	jlewando@wcupa.edu

The IREG Meeting started at 10:10 am.

1. Minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2003

Curt Noe and Jake Lewendowski accepted the minutes, without correction or changes.

Introductions were made by each of the attendees.

A special announcement was made that both Bob Bielski, long time member of the committee, and Mike Ontko, Staff Coordinator for the IREG Committee, were both retiring.

2. Presentations

John Pickett, Jen Wesson and Eugene Briggs from the Delaware County Planning Department gave the first presentation, which was an overview of the Delaware County Council's Renaissance Program. The program's purpose is to encourage smart growth and economic development within the County by means of Open Space Mapping and the creation of Renaissance Action Plans. The Open Space Mapping program was done in cooperation with the Natural Lands Trust and identified existing open space and natural resources in northern and western municipalities of the County. The Renaissance Action Plans were developed by private consultants and local task forces to identify & prioritize highly visible and implementable projects in eastern and southern first-generation suburbs that will make them more attractive, livable, safe and economically viable. A handout was made available that showed a map of the program areas, and a copy of the text slides from their Powerpoint presentation.

The second presentation included three speakers from various agencies on the topic of bicycle facility mapping and using GIS to evaluate bicycle planning needs. Steve Spindler, a cartography consultant who worked on the Greater Philadelphia Regional Bicycle Map gave some background information on how the new map was created, using the Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) model and other analytical methods.

John Madera, the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator at DVRPC, described DVRPC's application of the various models and how the power of GIS was integral in developing long-range plans for bicycles and pedestrians. Car-Bike Crash data, traffic volumes and other engineering data were linked to a dynamically-segmented GIS model to show a clear picture of how 'bicycle-friendly' each facility currently is.

Ted Ulrich, a consultant from Urbitran under contract to NJ DOT, gave a presentation on Phase II of the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This phase included collection of data on bike and pedestrian facilities and likely trip attractions, and the use of that data in bicycle and pedestrian demand models to determine where investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure should be prioritized. Mr. Erlich presented a series of maps depicting the data and model outputs. The first map showed schools, colleges and universities by Census Tract. Detailed data for each location is included in the GIS. Other maps included: Federal, State, County and Local Parks; Coastal Centers; Commercial Development Boundaries; Commercial

Areas (using 1993 NJ DEP Aerial Photography); Inactive Rail Lines; Rail Stations, Rail Lines, Bus Lines (with data on peak ridership but not bus stops, in the GIS); Bike Demand Model results; and Pedestrian Compatibility Index results. An interesting goal of this phase was to use four mile weighted-buffers around attractions for bikes (schools, parks, convenience stores), where each 'attraction' would have a different weight for its buffer (i.e. school buffers would have a weight of 10, whereas park buffers would have a weight of 2). This scenario would have a weight of 12 for any buffer areas that overlapped the school and park buffer. This functionality was not built into existing ESRI products, so the NJ DOT and the consultant team were in close contact with ESRI in hopes of developing a solution for multiple, weighted buffers. Maps of Somerset County, NJ were used to show examples of completed analysis using GIS.

3. Census 2000 Update

- a. **108th Congressional District Summary File.** This file was released on 3/17/03. DVRPC has downloaded the data but has no plans to release it on the website.
- b. **Summary File 4 (SF4).** This data was released for New Jersey on 4/29/03 and for Pennsylvania on 5/28/03. DVRPC has downloaded the data, but has no plans to release it, since it is primarily cross-tabulations of previously released data.
- c. **Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).** PUMS 1-percent data was released between May 7th and June 4th, 2003 for the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. PUMS files have state-level Census 2000 data containing individual records of the characteristics for a 1 percent sample of people and housing units. The PUMS files contain geographic units called super-Public Use Microdata Areas (super-PUMAs), a new geographic entity for Census 2000. The state files, which may contain one or more super-PUMAs, include geographic equivalency files that show the relationship between the super-PUMA and standard Census 2000 geographic concepts (e.g., counties, etc.). The super-PUMAs are made up of a Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) or group of contiguous PUMAs (each PUMA must have a minimum of 100,000 population). PUMAs are only identified on the 5-percent files and not on the 1-percent files. PUMS 5-percent sample files (information for state and sub-state areas), is scheduled for release later this year.
- d. **2002 Population Estimates.** The latest county population estimates for 2002 were released April 17, 2003. Municipal estimates are expected later this year, at which time DVRPC will publish a data bulletin showing 2000 population and 2002 estimates.
- e. **2002 Annual Building Permit data.** National residential building permit data for permit-issuing places was released on May 2, 2003. DVRPC modified our previously released data bulletin to include the new data and published Updated Data Bulletin #72: 2000-2002 Residential Building Permits, by Permit-Issuing Places (28-County Service Area), which is available for free on our website.
- f. **CTPP/ Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ).** Official release dates still say June 2003, but it is possible some might not be available until late August 2003.

- g. **Metro Area Delineations.** This data, which was originally scheduled for release in June 2003, has not yet been released. For more info, contact 301/763-2419 or <http://landview.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html>
- h. **American Community Survey (ACS).** Congressional hearings are still taking place.

4. DVRPC Work Program Updates

- a. **Year 2005 Aerial Imagery Acquisition.** DVRPC is continuing the planning for a 2005 imagery acquisition effort. Product identification must be completed by September 2003 to provide the necessary lead time for cost estimates, funding arrangements, RFP development, etc. to be ready for a spring 2005 flight. A July meeting is anticipated to finalize product identification.
- b. **Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development.** The Region-Wide Transportation GIS project is in the implementation phases. DVRPC staff will be working closely with member governments and operating agency participants to develop the required line work and data files.
- c. **Year 2000 Land Use File.** The Year 2000 Land Use File is nearing completion. Six counties are completed and under review. Three counties are nearly complete.

5. Information Items

NJ State Data Center Affiliates Meeting (6/5/2003) . The next IREG Meetings will take place on September 3 and December 10, 2003. Please bring your calendars and be prepared to choose dates for the 2004 IREG Meetings.

6. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

7. New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

8. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. The Webmasters Subcommittee met immediately after the meeting adjourned.