

## **Planning for Economic Development Integrating Land Use, Transportation & Economic Development Planning**

### **Summary of Advisory Committee Meeting Highlights and List of Attendees June 4th, 2007**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Barry Seymour, Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, opened the meeting and spoke briefly about DVRPC's LUTED project and its initiatives.

#### **2. Project Update**

Michael Boyer, Manager of Long Range Planning & Congestion Management, gave a few highlights about the project. He provided a progress report, and talked briefly about the recent meetings with the four New Jersey Counties. He covered the development process of the Long Range Plan and asked for participants to stay involved

#### **3. Review of Key Economic Development Challenges, Opportunities, & Initiatives Identified at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Rob Graff, Manager for Economic Analysis and Coordination, presented the outcomes of the groups priorities initiatives.

#### **4. Presentation: The Importance of Transportation Investments to Economic Development**

Steven T. Wray, Executive Director, of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia presented a study of on Transit primarily focused on SEPTA and its importance to the region's economy.

#### **5. Overview of Transportation Investments List**

Michael Boyer, DVRPC & Laurie Actman, Select Greater Philadelphia, spoke briefly on the significance of this list and how both organizations have worked together in developing this list. Mike Boyer went through each project on the list briefly and asked the members of the steering committee to score each project on its importance to economic development and growth.

Tom McKeon provided Berks County's input on the 9 projects they submitted. Tom said the following were the County's top 3 priorities:

- US 222 North
- I-78
- US 422 East

## **6. Break-Out Groups: Developing Transportation Priorities for Economic Growth in the Greater Philadelphia Region**

Participants were assigned to small groups to discuss and identify a set of transportation investments that will help further economic growth in the region. The groups reported back their list of priorities (please see attached tables and note that the projects are not ranked ).

## **Blue Group**

**Facilitator: Rich Bickel**

**Participants:**

Alma Plummer – PIDC

Andrew Leveccia – Camden

Maureen Sharkey – PECO

Jordan Friedberg – RPP

Mark Cassel – TMACC

**Key discussion points raised included the following:**

- Investment in technology is critical. The impact of technology, system improvements and the need for new and more modern facilities (like new rail cars and fare collection equipment) are essential to attract higher transit ridership. Also, transit agencies (particularly SEPTA) need to do a better job marketing what they have to offer for commuters and other user groups. Transit agencies need to become more competitive.
- The new NJ Transit Riverline was cited as an example of a new light rail line that is less intimidating to the public than heavy rail, and which acts as a connector rather than barrier through existing communities (since it is at grade rather than elevated).
- Better relationships between public agencies and the private sector are need to foster more public/private partnerships that can help to finance and advance need projects.
- They agreed with the notion that I-95/Turnpike Interchange and the Paoli Transportation Center should be separate projects from the I-95 and R5 line projects, respectively.
- Local politics is another “800 pound gorilla.”

**Priority Projects**

W. is #1 plus Easypass

G. 30<sup>th</sup> Street circulation improvements

A. US 202 to serve local and regional job centers

B. I-95/Tpke as a separate project

I. Rte.42/I-295 Interchange (“Missing Moves”)

E. US 322 and I-95 (“Chester Crunch”) in Delaware County

N. Broad Street subway extension to the Navy Yard

V. Northeast Corridor inter-city rail improvements

S. Gloucester County rail extension

M. Route100 Extension to King of Prussia

New: Systemwide parking enhancements for SEPTA in conjunction with a concerted TOD implementation program.

## Red Group

**Facilitator: Rob Graff**

**Participants:**

Loraine Brill - RCC

Carolyn Wallis – DCNR

David Fogel – SEPTA

Matt Lawson – Mercer County Planning

Erik Johanson – Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

Laurie Actman – Select Greater Philadelphia

Joseph Calhoun - DVRPC

**Key discussion points raised included the following:**

- Maintaining and improving access to the region’s core is the top priority.
  - Preserving existing infrastructure—e.g., I-95, Schuylkill, and SEPTA.
- ITS improvements to maximize capacity and minimize congestion of existing infrastructure, including ITS for transit.
  - Less expensive than building new capacity.
  - Will help the region feel more modern and less dated.
  - Might consider tolling other roads (e.g., Schuylkill, I-95) as options to both generate revenue and control congestion.
- Focus on improving regional gateways.
  - I-295 & NJ 42/I-76 links
  - I-95 & PA Turnpike link
  - Airport capacity
- Focus on TOD at existing transit.

**Priority Projects**

- 1) **N**ew Reliable and sufficient funding for SEPTA
- 1) **B**. I-95 reconstruction and PA Turnpike interchange
- 2) **X**. Capacity expansion at Philadelphia International Airport
- 3) **I**. I-295 and NJ 42/I-76 direct connect and missing moves
- 3) **L**. Highway operational and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements
- 3) **W**. Transit fare, information, and technology modernization
- 4) **F**. Schuylkill Expressway corridor
- 4) **V**. Northeast corridor inter-city connectivity
- 5) **Q**. Delaware waterfront transit initiative (including connectivity to Center City)

## Green Group

### Facilitator: Mike Boyer

### Participants:

Brian Cuccia – NJ DOT

Anne Carson – PIDC

Angela Watson – PennDOT

John Kennedy – PA DEP

Scott France - Montgomery Planning Commission

Steve Wray – Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

Joe Welsh – Collegiate Consortium

Dave Sciocchetti – City of Chester Redevelopment Authority

Tom McKeon – Berks County Industrial Development Authority

### Key discussion points raised included the following:

A suggestion was made to add the Lafayette Street Extension and Pennsylvania Turnpike slip ramps to the list of projects. Tom McKeon from the Berks County Industrial Development Authority stated that Berks County's top three priorities were the US 222 Bypass which would create a highway link between I-78 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike; improvements to interchange and other improvements along I-78; and improvements to the US 422 corridor, including the Schuylkill Valley Metro, which would serve the burgeoning bedroom communities in the southeastern part of the county.

The group started off by listing projects which had widespread consensus. These included the I-95 and Pennsylvania Turnpike interchange, which was deemed important enough to separate from the I-95 Reconstruction project. However, the reconstruction of I-95 was listed as a critical corridor and was also included. The group included air capacity expansion, without specifically stating Philadelphia International Airport because they also wanted to include expansion at other regional airports such as Trenton and Atlantic City. Northeast Inter-city Connectivity was listed as an important investment, even though one member questioned how many people actually use Amtrak. The group, as a whole, decided that the Northeast Corridor was important, particularly for critical sectors like biotech and finance. The 30<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway was included because it also targets key sectors such as biotech and universities. The Schuylkill Expressway and the I-295/I-76/NJ 42 Direct Connect and Missing Moves projects were also listed. The group included Delaware River dredging as a key component and one transportation investment that would lead directly to economic development. Rail freight improvements were also mentioned in the same regard.

Several group members noted that many of the projects serve the same corridor. The discussion then focused on looking at key corridors such as I-95 and the Schuylkill Expressway. Three key corridors were specifically mentioned: a North-South corridor that includes I-95 and Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (and possibly the New Jersey Turnpike); an East-West corridor that contains US 422, Schuylkill Expressway and I-76/NJ 42 in New Jersey (as well as the Schuylkill Valley Metro); and a beltway corridor that follows US 202.

## **Yellow Group**

### **Facilitator: Patty Elkis**

### **Participants:**

Lois Murphy – Governor’s Action team of the Southeast Regional Office

Lee Senior – Delaware County Planning Department

Marilyn Wood – 10,000 Friends

Natasha Schock – PennDOT

Charles Romick – Gloucester County Planning Department

Paul Levy – Center City District Philadelphia

John Weiner – Philadelphia City Planning Commission

Dennis Winters – RCC

### **Key discussion points raised included the following:**

The group addressed the task by going down the list of 26 projects and reaching a consensus on each project rank, as either a 1, 2 or 3, with 3 being highest priority. The group as a whole felt that improving access to existing centers, through both highway and transit, was most critical to the region’s economic development, and improving access to areas with less concentrated development was less critical to the region’s economic development. The Delaware Waterfront Transit Initiative was voted critical provided it also had connections east-west into Center City. Rail/freight improvements were deemed critical for the region’s economy in order to both keep goods movements flowing, as well as to take goods movement off the roads and onto rail whenever possible. The Route 100 spur to King of Prussia was thought to be a critical missing link in the transit network in SEPA. The Gloucester Rail Line, if built through existing towns, was thought to provide economic opportunities to those towns as the River Line brought to the Burlington County towns that it goes through. ITS improvements and Transit Fare/Technology modernization were also ranked high as a means to improve mobility without increasing capacity, and to keep the region perceived as technologically advanced, which is important to attract and retain economic development. Continuing the R3 from Elwyn to West Chester was also ranked high (2.8), in order to have Chester County’s county seat connected back into the rail network.

### **Priority Projects**

B-1 I-95 Reconstruction

B-2 I-95 PA Turnpike Interchange/Connection

G. 30<sup>th</sup> Street Circulation Improvements

I. I-295 and NJ 42/1-76 Direct Connect and Missing Moves

L. ITS improvements

M. Rt 100 Norristown High Speed Line Spur to King of Prussia

Q. Delaware Waterfront Transit Initiative

S. Gloucester Rail Line

V. Northeast Corridor Inter City Connectivity

W. Transit Fare, Information and Technology Modernization

X. Capacity Expansion at Philadelphia Airport

Y. Rail Freight Improvements

**PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:  
Integrating Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development Planning  
Monday June 4th at 10 am**

PREFIX	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	ORGANIZATION
MS.	Laurie	Actman	SELECT GREATER PHILADELPHIA
Mrs.	Loraine	Brill	RCC
Ms.	Anne	Carson	PIDC
Mr.	Mark	Cassel	The TMA of Chester County
MR.	Brian	Cuccia	NEW JERSEY DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
MR.	David	Fogel	SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Mr.	Scott	France	MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Mr.	Jordan	Friedberg	RPP
MR.	John	Haak	PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Mr.	Erik	Johanson	ECONOMY LEAGUE of Greater Philadelphia
MR.	John	Kennedy	PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Mr	Matthew	Lawson	MERCER COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION
MR.	Andrew	Leveccia	CAMDEN COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
MR.	Paul	Levy	CENTER CITY DISTRICT
MR.	THOMAS	MCKEON	BERKS COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Ms.	Lois	Murphy	Governor's Action Team of the Southeast Regional Office
Ms.	Alma	Plummer	PIDC
MR.	Charles	Romick	GLOUCESTER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Ms.	Natasha	Schock	PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Mr.	Dave	Sciocetti	Delaware County
Mr.	Lee	Senior	Delaware County Planning Department
Mrs.	Maureen	Sharkey	PECO ENERGY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Mrs.	Carolyn	Thomas	Burlington County
Ms.	Carolyn	Wallis	DCNR
MS.	Angela	Watson	PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Mr.	John	Weiner	PCPC
Mr.	Joe	Welsh	Collegiate Consortium
Mr.	Dennis	Winters	RCC
Ms.	Marilyn	Wood	10,000 Friends for Pennsylvania

MR.	STEVE	WRAY	ECONOMY LEAGUE of Greater Philadelphia
Mr.	Barry	Seymour	DVRPC
Mr.	Mike	Boyer	DVRPC
Mr.	Rich	Bickel	DVRPC
Mr.	Rob	Graff	DVRPC
Mrs.	Patty	Elkis	DVRPC
Mrs.	Natalia	Olson de Savyckyj	DVRPC
Mr.	Joseph	Calhoun	DVRPC