

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OF  
THE DVRPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

**Attendees:** Todd Baylson, Lorraine Bradshaw, David Cohen, Nancy DeLucia, Quibila Divine, Harry Fox, James P. Hopkins, Morgan Hugo, Joel Johnson, Aissia Richardson, Charles Romick, Andrew Seligsohn, Joyce Smith, Tahirih Smith, Patricia Voorhees, Peter Yull, Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Bob Aretz, Owen Franklin, Andy Sharpe, Sue Herman, Dennis Winters, John Scott, Tom McHugh, Jon Frey (Guests); Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Michael Boyer (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director of Public Affairs, welcomed members and guests to the first PPTF meeting, and introduced Jim Hopkins as the Acting PPTF Chair and Tahirih Smith as Acting Vice Chair. Mr. Hopkins reviewed the procedures in place for PPTF meetings, which are available as a handout at all PPTF meetings, as well as online at <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=PPTF>.

Overview of DVRPC's Public Involvement Program

Jane Meconi, DVRPC Manager of Public Involvement, provided an overview of the Commission's current public outreach activities (see presentation at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=PPTF>). Several federal mandates guide public participation at DVRPC: Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice (EJ), and public participation mandates within the current transportation legislation. Public Participation is an integral part of DVRPC's work, and the Commission consistently strives to expand outreach and seek new opportunities to engage the residents of the greater Philadelphia region.

Ms. Meconi highlighted the documents that guide and define public participation at DVRPC:

- the Public Participation Plan;
- *Environmental Justice at DVRPC*, which defines the technical analysis that DVRPC employs, as well as highlights programs and projects that contain EJ elements;
- The Title VI Compliance Plan, which established a framework for DVRPC's efforts to ensure compliance to federal nondiscrimination statutes; and
- *The Planner's Methodology*, a document that is designed as a staff resource for implementing public participation and EJ into plans, projects, and programs.

In addition to the PPTF, there are several ongoing outreach programs, such as the EJ Work Group and the Regional Student Forum. Ms. Meconi also highlighted other meetings, committees, events, and communications undertaken by the Commission throughout the year.

Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan

Michael Boyer, DVRPC Manager of Long-Range Planning and Economic Development, presented the current *Connections* Long-Range Plan and the update to the plan that will occur in 2013 (see presentation at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=PPTF>). DVRPC's Long-Range Plan provides a vision of the region's future and serves as the blueprint for future transportation facilities and services. A regional land use and open space plan identifies appropriate areas for future growth and infrastructure and an inter-connected system

of natural resource areas targeted for protection. Forecasts of future population and employment inform the plan and a set of regional indicators track progress toward its goals.

Work is underway on the *Connections 2040 - Plan for Greater Philadelphia* update. The *Connections 2040* Plan, to be released in mid-2013, will address land use, environmental, economic competitiveness, and transportation policies, and include a set of fiscally constrained transportation projects. The *Connections 2040* Plan will place a strong emphasis on rebuilding our transportation system and investigating additional transportation funding that is needed to maintain the system we have today, as well as make necessary improvements to maintain our quality of life and enhance economic competitiveness. The Plan will continue the *Connections* focus on creating livable communities, managing growth and protecting resources, building an energy-efficient economy, and creating a modern multi-modal transportation system. Public outreach for the Plan update has begun with the launching of the Transportation Investment Scenarios report and the *Connections 2040: Choices and Voices* web application, available at [www.dvrpc.org/choicesandvoices/](http://www.dvrpc.org/choicesandvoices/). More public outreach events will also be announced soon.

#### Overview of the *Connections* Public Outreach and Education Campaign

Owen Franklin, Director of Research and Planning, Portfolio Associates and Bob Aretz, Principal and Creative Director, Paragraph, Inc. facilitated a discussion with Task Force members to gain their insight regarding how to effectively craft a public discussion on the transportation funding crisis, which is a focus of the public outreach and communications plan for the *Connections 2040* long-range plan update. Task Force members strategized how to best deliver the message of the transportation funding crisis, by focusing on urgency, the personal costs (lost time, etc.) associated with a lack of infrastructure, and balancing a regional vs. local perspective. The group also discussed the best outreach tools and visual representation methods to reach out to the public.

#### One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

Harry Fox attended the November 13, 2012 DVRPC Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) as a citizen representative. Mr. Fox noted that the RTC will be changing its name to the "Regional Technical Committee," reflecting that the RTC reviews more than just transportation planning.

Todd Baylson announced that Bill #120532, aka the Complete Streets Bill for Philadelphia, was introduced at a hearing of the Streets & Services Committee of Philadelphia City Council.

Aissia Richardson reported that SEPTA's new payment technology is being tested.

Chuck Romick was happy to see that the Mullica Hill Bypass project was awarded DVRPC's Regional Transportation Project of the Year.

Joyce Smith reported that Pennsylvania passed land banking legislation, Act 153.

## Upcoming Outreach and Events

- The 2013 PPTF meetings are currently being scheduled. Meetings will be held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Specific dates will be posted soon.
- PPTF members formally endorsed Harry Fox as the New Jersey PPTF representative to the DVRPC Regional Technical Committee. DVRPC is currently seeking a PA representative for the RTC. If no PPTF member is interested, the PPTF will take letters of interest from any interested member of the public and will then select a representative.
- A New Jersey Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) committee representative is needed. If no PPTF member is interested, the PPTF will follow the procedure outlined above.
- An EJ Work Group meeting will be scheduled in January or February. There will be a focus on providing countywide EJ data, as well as a release of the 2010 data for the current population groups in DVRPC's *Degrees of Disadvantage Methodology*.
- A presentation and panel discussion will be planned in February highlighting DVRPC's recent publication *African American Heritage Tour: Philadelphia's 7<sup>th</sup> Ward & Mother Bethel A.M.E.*

## Public Comments and Questions

John Scott asked if anyone in Portfolio Associates is a registered lobbyist in Pennsylvania. After the meeting, DVRPC staff consulted the list of registered lobbyists for PA (<https://www.palobbyingservices.state.pa.us/Act134/LobbyistDirectory.pdf>) and no employees of Portfolio Associates were listed.

Mr. Scott also noted his disappointment that there was such a focus on creating a transportation funding message to the public—there is no documented interest from the public to increase funding for transportation. Instead, the focus should be on prioritizing existing funding.

- PPTF members responded that they perceived the exercise as an opportunity to open a discourse on transportation needs, not just on funding, or to raise taxes. Mike Boyer also responded that DVRPC will ensure that this type of discourse will not be perceived as lobbying. DVRPC, as an MPO, cannot formally lobby for any particular interest.

Tom McHugh commented that his primary priority is to lower VMT (vehicle miles traveled), to focus more on moving people, not cars, and to focus less on congestion management, which increases VMT. Transportation planning needs to focus on a more European model—in that it is more efficient to live in already developed areas in the region. The current land development in the region is not sustainable.

Sue Herman presented various questions regarding citizen representation on the RTC (see attached). Candy Snyder clarified that there will be two citizen representatives at the RTC: one for New Jersey and one for Pennsylvania. Harry Fox is the current New Jersey representative, and a Pennsylvania representative is currently being sought. If no PPTF members are interested, letters of interest from the general public will be sought via announcement on the DVRPC website, and the PPTF will select the representative.

November 15, 2012 PPTF comment

Susan Hermer  
1977 Popwood Dr.  
Newtown, PA 18940

Public Participation Task Force (PPTF)  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Philadelphia, PA

November 15, 2012

Dear Public Participation Task Force Members,

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments orally tonight, as well as, submitting them to you in writing.

At the September 11, 2012 RTC meeting, John Ward said that three (3) PPTF members had been appointed to be representatives on the RTC. They were Harry Fay, Bill Fulton, and Kathy Scullen. Is this correct?

How many of these representatives will vote on the RTC?

John Ward stated that ~~the~~ RTC and DVRPC Board action items will not be on the PPTF agenda. Is this correct?

How will PPTF representatives on the RTC become knowledgeable about the RTC action items? I am concerned that the PPTF votes on the RTC will not represent consensus amongst the public throughout the DVRPC region. Sincerely,  
Susan Hermer