

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE DVRPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE
JANUARY 22, 2013**

Attendees: Todd Baylson, Lorraine Bradshaw, David Cohen, Nancy DeLucia, Quibila Divine, Harry Fox, Morgan Hugo, Joel Johnson, Elise Mannella, Aissia Richardson, Charles Romick, Andrew Seligsohn, Tahirih Smith, Elizabeth Walsh, Peter Yull, Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Tony DeSantis, Andy Sharpe, Sue Herman (Guests); Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Michael Boyer, Joe Fazekas, Chris Puchalsky, Rich Bickel (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director of Public Affairs, welcomed members and guests to the PPTF meeting and reviewed meeting procedures. Tahirih Smith, Acting Vice Chair, facilitated the meeting.

Connections 2040 Public Participation and Communications Activities

Michael Boyer, DVRPC Manager of Long-Range Planning and Economic Development, provided an update to PPTF members on communications and public participation activities since the November 2012 PPTF meeting. Outreach and communications regarding the Long-Range Plan (LRP), as well as the transportation funding issue, will ramp up early in 2013, and continue until the planned Board adoption of the LRP in June.

DVRPC staff and its consultants have been devising tailored messages to various stakeholder groups, as well as the general public to inform them of transportation funding issues and how it impacts day-to-day life in the region.

The *Connections 2040: Choices and Voices* web application, available at www.dvrpc.org/choicesandvoices/ will continue to act as a cornerstone of outreach, education, and information gathering. Staff will also be developing newsletters, fact sheets, and correspondence to bring the DVRPC, LRP, and transportation funding to a larger audience.

In addition to two scheduled public outreach meetings as part of the LRP's public comment period in June, additional meetings will be scheduled between March and May for DVRPC staff to present the four key plan principles of the LRP as well as transportation funding. A meeting will be scheduled for Philadelphia county, one suburban Pennsylvania location, and one suburban New Jersey location. DVRPC is requesting assistance from PPTF members to recommend venues, support outreach and promote the meetings to members of their communities. In addition to these meetings, DVRPC staff will be available to present at local community meetings and events, if requested. Jane Meconi will follow up with Task Force members to begin the event planning process.

DVRPC Household Travel Survey

Chris Puchalsky, Ph.D., DVRPC Associate Director, Systems Planning, presented an overview of the Household Travel Survey. This year-long effort will gather travel information from 10,000 households across the region. Random potential participants are recruited by telephone or advance letter. The household travel survey is conducted for a variety of purposes:

- helps build a fuller, more accurate picture of transportation needs;
- enables us to make wise transportation investments;

- smart transportation investments can provide better access to jobs & housing;
- reduce traffic congestion;
- improve walking and bicycle paths;
- enhance public transportation;
- ultimately increase mobility; and
- improve our economy, environment, and quality of life.

Mr. Puchalsky asked PPTF members to spread the word about the survey to members in their constituencies, and to “answer the call” if they receive a phone call to participate in the survey.

The presentation may be found at:

<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2013-01.pdf>.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

Task Force members were invited to provide updates on the activities of their organizations/municipalities/neighborhoods.

Jim Hopkins, along with other members of the PPTF, attended the DVRPC Board Retreat in December. He found the event to be informative and rewarding. Afterwards, he attended the Board meeting, where the PPTF was identified as up and running. On behalf of everyone, he told the Board we appreciated this opportunity, thanked staff for their support, information and guidance, and noted that the group hopes to quickly be contributing to the overall goals and objectives of DVRPC.

Peter Yull announced that the Trenton Planning Board is developing a new comprehensive plan for the city, and pointed to recent data that “Millenials” are choosing to live (and remain) in urban centers.

David Cohen reported that Cheltenham Township released its draft Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, which establishes waste planning for current and future needs, and the process included the collaboration of surrounding municipalities.

Aissia Richardson reported that Philadelphia is in the process of adopting a Complete Streets policy. A presentation on this topic may be of interest to Task Force members at a later meeting. SEPTA is also accepting comments on its FY 2014 Capital Budget—more info may be found at <http://www.septa.org/notice/capital.html>.

Todd Baylson noted that Allegheny County will begin to enforce an ordinance that requires officials to review individual parcels of tax-exempt land at least once every three years to ensure they are used for solely charitable purposes.

Quibila Divine announced some upcoming meetings of Tioga United to discuss vacant urban land and the Brown’s ShopRite development.

Elizabeth Walsh announced that the Bucks County Workforce Investment Board submitted a five-year strategic plan and noted this was the first time that the Department of Labor requested migration and travel patterns.

Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- DVRPC will host an event highlighting the African American Heritage Tour project at 5:30 PM on Monday, February 25, 2013 at the African American Museum in Philadelphia, 701 Arch St. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Jane Meconi.
- The next Regional Listening Session will be held at 6 P.M. on March 7, 2013 at the Lansdale Community Library. The topic will be regional freight planning, with guest speaker Ted Dahlburg, Manager, DVRPC Office Freight and Aviation Planning.
- As per PPTF request, DVRPC IT staff is moving forward with developing a general online commenting feature for the public to submit questions or comments on DVRPC plans and projects.
- *EJ at DVRPC: FY 2012*, DVRPC's annual Environmental Justice update, has been issued with updated 2010 census data. To receive a copy, contact Jane Meconi, or the publication is available online at:
http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/publicationabstract.asp?pub_id=TM13023
- Pennsylvania TMA Assistance Grant Program Comment Period Announcement: The Comment Period for work scopes for PA's FY 14 TMA Assistance Grant Program will open February 5, 2013. This program was developed to provide operating assistance to these public-private partnerships to support their travel demand management promotional work as a means to mitigate traffic congestion and improve regional air quality. PennDOT requested that DVRPC assume joint oversight of work program development and execution in FY 2002. There are currently five TMAs serving suburban areas in southeastern Pennsylvania: The Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Greater Valley Forge, and Partnership TMAs, and one which serves central Philadelphia.

As part of their assistance grants, each suburban TMA undertakes generally similar work. The Central Philadelphia TMA's work program is tailored to the particular transportation needs of Center City and partners with the City of Philadelphia. Applications submitted describe the efforts each of them plan to undertake if their application is approved. Applications are reviewed and by the respective County Planning Commission staffs, as well as DVRPC, SEPTA, and PennDOT.

Staff will make copies of the draft work programs available to any member of the committee interested in commenting. The comment period concludes February 15, 2013 at 4:00 PM. Interested committee members may contact Sarah Oaks (soaks@dvrpc.org) directly.

Public Comments and Questions

Sue Herman presented the attached letter. A response to Ms. Herman's letter from DVRPC is also attached.

R.R.T.S.
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Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) Members
c/o DVRPC
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January 22, 2013

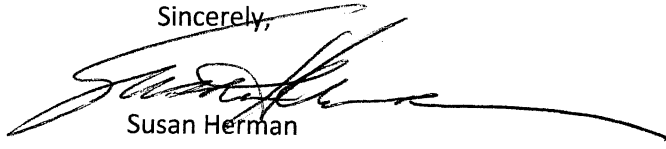
RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable

Dear Ms. Snyder and PPTF Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to read the following letter into the public record at tonight's PPTF meeting. The letter, dated January 8, 2013, is from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. to Mr. Barry Seymour, Regional Technical Committee Members, and DVRPC Board Members. The subject is ***RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable.***

We ask (a) that the reading of this [1/8/13] letter be referenced in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and (b) that the [1/8/13] letter be included in the minutes in its entirety. We also ask that the video of tonight's meeting that will appear on the DVRPC's website include the reading of the 1/8/13 letter.

Sincerely,


Susan Herman
President

CC: Barry Seymour; Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Regional Technical Committee Members: c/o Michelle Webb, Chair
DVRPC Board Members; c/o Terence Farrell, Chair
Brigid Hynes- Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III*
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division*
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division*
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III*
Jim Mosca, PennDOT*
David Kuhn, NJDOT*
R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)
Regional Citizens

R.R.T.S.

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

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Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
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Regional Technical Committee Members
c/o ~~Stephen Buckley~~, Chair, *Michelle Webb*
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DVRPC Board Members
c/o Terence Farrell, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

January 8, 2013

RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable

Dear Mr. Seymour, Regional Technical Committee Members, and DVRPC Members,

I am president of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS), a regional citizens group with members from Lower Makefield, Upper Makefield, Newtown, Wrightstown, and Northampton Townships. Our organization represents well in excess of 9,000 residents. We are concerned that a critically important part of the recently implemented Public Participation Plan (Plan) is not workable.

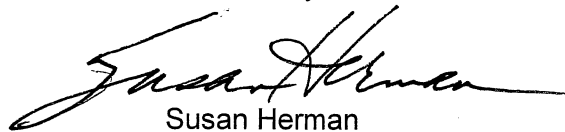
With the current Plan, it is NOT possible for the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members who sit on the Regional Technical Committee (previously the Regional Transportation Committee) to cast their votes by taking a "regional perspective", as they have been asked to do. The September 11, 2012 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Highlights state, "John Ward began by welcoming one of the new Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members, Harry Fox. Mr. Fox is from Burlington County, and is a civil engineer who has been involved in numerous Boards and Commissions in Burlington County and Gloucester Counties, including chairing the Delran, NJ Zoning Board. Mr. Ward explained that the PPTF members represent a county or community but have been asked, in their role at the RTC, to take a regional perspective in their thoughts and their votes. He anticipates that they will eventually be voting members. Because the PPTF will not be taking action on RTC or Board items, their views will be as 'citizens of the region', and not representing a consensus of the PPTF. They will provide their feedback regarding the PCC/RTC meetings to the PPTF."

It is a fallacy to think that a PPTF member can vote with a "regional perspective" when he/she has no prior opportunity to discuss RTC action items in an open forum with other informed citizens in the region. At the November 15, 2012 inaugural PPTF meeting, Candace Snyder (Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs and Communications) confirmed that PPTF members who sit on the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) would be receiving their packet of information for preparation for the RTC meeting just prior to the meeting. This process does not enable the voting PPTF representatives on the RTC to gather formalized public input regarding action items that they will vote on, thus the process is flawed.

We respectfully request that PPTF representatives on the RTC abstain from voting on action items unless they have followed a formalized process of obtaining public input on the proposed action. Without this, the Public Participation Task Force must rethink its approach or it will fail in its effort to have genuine regional public input.

We appreciate the opportunity to read this letter into the public record at today's RTC meeting. We ask that this letter be referenced and included in its entirety in the minutes of today's meeting. We respectfully ask that the RTC and DVRPC Board respond to our request.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman
President

CC: Candace Snyder; Director – Office of Public Affairs & Communications
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III
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R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)
Regional Citizens

January 16, 2013

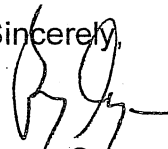
Ms. Susan Herman
President, Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940

Dear Ms. Herman,

I am writing in response to your comment at the January 8, 2013 Regional Technical Committee (RTC) meeting and letter of the same date concerning citizen representation on the RTC. To correct a quote attributed to Candace Snyder, the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members who serve on the RTC receive a packet of information at the same time as every other RTC member. They do not receive information "just prior to the meeting." Citizen representatives are tasked with bringing their knowledge as a citizen to the RTC and to participate in those discussions with the other RTC members. Their responsibility is not to gather formalized public input on action items. This has never been the responsibility of any citizen representative on the RTC, including past Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) members, as you will recall.

Since 2011, DVRPC has instituted a "Public Comments to Board Actions" web commenting feature that gathers public input to be delivered directly to Board members, planning partners, and DVRPC staff. Members of the public may also submit emails, letters, or faxes on DVRPC actions, and are invited to directly comment at Board meetings. The Board, after all, is the final vote on all action items.

Sincerely,



Barry Seymour
Executive Director

cc: Candace Snyder; Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, FTA
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, FHWA NJ
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, FHWA PA
Tony Cho; Community Planner, FTA
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