



Attendees: David Cohen, Nancy DeLucia, Quibila Divine, Harry Fox, James Hopkins, Elise Mannella, Aissia Richardson, Chuck Romick, Andrew Seligsohn, Joyce Smith, Tahirih Smith, Elizabeth Walsh (PPTF Members); Dennis Winters, Tom McHugh, Andy Sharpe (Guests); Candace Snyder, Sean Greene, Stacy Bartels, Joe Fazekas, Julia Strapp (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

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

Tracking Progress: Connections 2040

Sean Greene, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update to PPTF members on the contents of a new publication that explores the region's progress in achieving goals set by the long-range plan (LRP). The publication, *Tracking Progress*, is a simple breakdown of vast amounts of data using 31 discrete indicators as benchmarks, with 17 of them showing mixed or positive progress for our region. A convenient meter graphic is set next to each indicator to show at a glance whether the region is moving in a positive or negative direction.

Tracking Progress can be viewed at: http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/publicationabstract.asp?pub_id=13044.

The indicators included in this Tracking Progress report will help inform the policies and objectives of the *Connections* Long-Range Plan, which is currently being updated and expected to be adopted in July 2013.

The Greater Philadelphia region is showing encouraging progress in areas such as air quality, public open space preservation, and transit ridership. However, the region is reaching a critical point regarding equity issues between Developed Communities and Growing Suburbs, as well as transportation infrastructure degradation due to lack of funding. Visit <http://www.dvrpc.org/WhichWayNow/> to learn more about the state of the transportation network.

In addition to the publication, the online platform is also being developed and will allow for the information to be updated as new data becomes available. The regional indicators can be viewed at <http://www.dvrpc.org/trackingprogress>.

PPTF members had some questions about why certain candidates for regional indicators were omitted. It was explained that in order for a topic to become an indicator, it must meet stringent criteria, such as having application to all nine counties, and the raw data must be available.

RideECO and Commuter Services

Stacy Bartels, DVRPC Manager, Marketing and Commuter Services, presented an overview of the DVRPC-owned commuter benefits program. DVRPC has provided this service since 1991 when it was initiated as part of the Clean Air legislation, but just last year rebranded it as RideECO and began a new marketing campaign.

“Ride” is intended to signify the program’s promotion of shared commuting such as mass transit and vanpools, while “ECO” stands for Easy Commute Options. The update brings a fresh new logo, clever transit advertisements, and a stored value card that will eventually be compatible with SEPTA’s new fare system. However, the many aspects of the program that users have come to know will stay the same, such as the pre-tax benefits, balances that can carry over from year-to-year, and easy fare purchasing options. A phone application is being developed that would allow users to check balances and public transportation schedules.

Ms. Bartels asked PPTF members to consider how they can help with the new direction of RideECO and what staff can work on to better implement the program and spread the word.

The presentation may be found at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2013-05.pdf>.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach and Events

In light of declining attendance at PPTF meetings, Candace Snyder asked members to consider the structure of meetings, their frequency, and potential agenda items that could be incorporated in the future, such as guest speakers and a Work Program Project Development Workshop.

The public comment period for the NJ TIP is now open and will conclude on June 18, 2013. The TIP is the regionally agreed-upon list of priority transportation projects, as required by federal law. The draft document for Fiscal Year 2014 can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/capital/cpd/>.

A public meeting regarding the NJ TIP will take place on June 12 at the Cherry Hill Library at 4 p.m. More information about the meeting and online commenting is available on the DVRPC website at http://www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/PublicNotices/2013-05_TIP.htm.

Additionally, a long-range plan information session will take place on May 21 in West Philadelphia and a discussion of the Camden County Bike Plan on May 29 at the Camden County Boathouse. More information about these events may be found on the DVRPC calendar at <http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/cal>.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

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

Tahirih Smith reported that the Sustainable Jersey task forces known as “Green Teams” have been very successful in developing plans, implementing programs, and assisting with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community. She noted that the next step is to form larger, regional task forces in order to share resources and visions for greater efficacy.

Joyce Smith reported that the Community Design Collaborative has completed a conceptual design for the revitalization of the 4200 block of Viola Street in the Philadelphia neighborhood of East Parkside.

David Cohen commented that Cheltenham Township had completed a draft Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan in cooperation with Abington Township, Jenkintown, Springfield Township and Philadelphia, which upon adoption by the jurisdictions would provide for a means to implement improvements to the waste water systems in the area, and which would allow for increased development in the area.

Aissia Richardson reported that SEPTA's operating and capital budgets have been pushed back for approval until the June board meeting to allow the state time to cap the \$38 million budget deficit, an unprecedented occurrence for SEPTA but not unusual for comparable organizations. In the meantime, SEPTA will operate on a month to month extension of the previous budget.

SEPTA's Citizen Advisory Committee will meet on May 28 at 5:45 pm, 1234 Market, Room 718, to discuss SEPTA's harnessing of energy that it generates to use as well as sell back.

In celebration of the Route 3 bus extension into Smith Memorial Playground on weekends, the Clef Club Youth Jazz Ensemble will play John Coltrane's "My Favorite Things" as the bus loops into the playground on its first official run. The date of the event, titled "Jazz at Play", is yet to be determined.

Elizabeth Walsh noted that the federal government's sequestration will likely affect workforce development and asked whether DVRPC would be affected. Ms. Snyder replied that it is not likely to impact DVRPC.

Public Comments and Questions

Tom McHugh noted that there was much mention of greenhouse gas emissions in an older version of the long-range plan, *Connections 2030*, while the current draft version, *Connections 2040*, does not devote as much text on the topic. Similarly, while he enjoyed using the *Which Way Now?* online application, he suggested that more information on the levels of regional greenhouse gas emissions should have been provided so that users would be educated before providing input.