



January 15, 2014 Meeting Highlights

Attendees: Brett Blyshak, David Cohen, Michael DiVietro, Bradley Flamm, Harry Fox, David Gunther, Morgan Hugo, Rhonda Wardlow Hurley, Martin Johnson, Oakmond Jones, Micah Knapp, Elise Mannella, Peter Meyer, Aissia Richardson, Chuck Romick, Andrew Seligsohn, Tahirih Smith, Joyce Smith, Elizabeth Walsh, Peter Yull (PPTF Members); Andy Sharpe, Dennis Winters, J. Sandman (Guests); Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Christopher Linn (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Tahirih Smith, PPTF Vice Chair, welcomed members and guests to the meeting, including the seven new at-large members selected as part of the fall 2013 PPTF membership application round. She announced that election of the 2014 Chair and Vice Chair(s) will take place at the March meeting.

Presentations

Managing Municipal Infrastructure in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania

David Cohen, AICP, PPTF member, presented issues surrounding managing municipal infrastructure. Like many older inner ring suburbs, Cheltenham Township has older infrastructure, which often times has not been adequately maintained or upgraded and sometimes is past its life expectancy. The presentation focused on two primary issues in the township: Cheltenham Township's Sanitary Sewer Facilities - Act 537 Plan, which is a regional plan; and the School District of Cheltenham Township's efforts to upgrade their facilities.

The wastewater and sanitary sewer system in Cheltenham is old and in need of improvement. Currently, and estimated \$23.74 million in construction costs are needed for improvements. The system is governed by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) under the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, Act 537. Other jurisdictions in 537 plan area include Philadelphia, as well as Abington, Jenkintown, and Springfield, which are "upstream" communities with sewage that flows to and through Cheltenham. These other jurisdictions need to sign on to the 537 plan, and upstream communities need to pay parts of costs. Currently, new sewer connection limits are in place by the PA DEP until parts of the plan are implemented.

In the last decade, the Cheltenham Township School District has made efforts to upgrade its aging facilities. The primary challenges are that the older buildings have not experienced planned periodic upgrades, and that there is limited funding coupled with a limited ability to raise taxes. There has been

new construction and renovations have occurred, but the school district is operating without a long-term facilities plan, and long-term planning is a continued need, as the current improvements were made in response to crises without capital planning and lack of systematically upgrading and maintaining buildings.

These two examples show the challenge of maintaining municipal infrastructure and how under-maintained infrastructure and lack of long-term planning may lead to only responding to crises, or working on a project by project basis. While municipalities face funding restraints, putting off infrastructure maintenance may only increase costs.

A copy of Mr. Cohen's presentation may be found at:
<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2014-01.pdf>

Overview of DVRPC Environmental Planning Program

Christopher Linn, AICP, Manager, DVRPC Office of Environmental Planning, presented an overview of the myriad programs and projects of his office. Many projects are regional in scope, but DVRPC also supports more local environmental planning efforts. More information may be found at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/Environment/>. Some highlights of the presentation include:

- **Regional Open Space Planning**

DVRPC's long-range plan, Connections 2040 Plan for Greater Philadelphia, identifies a proposed Greenspace Network which identifies an inter-connected system of naturally-vegetated open space extending throughout the region. DVRPC's open space projects support implementation of the Network by maintaining a regional database of protected lands, tracking locally-funded open space programs, monitoring the use of municipal natural resource protection tools, developing open space goals and tracking progress towards meeting those goals, and by working collaboratively with partners across the region to maximize the effectiveness of preservation efforts. To date, 23 percent of the region is protected open space, with many gains in farmland preservation efforts as well as easements managed by local conservancies and land trusts.
- **Environmental Planning Services**

DVRPC offers open space and natural resource planning services to New Jersey municipalities and counties to help them identify the current state of their natural resources, articulate their vision for future stewardship and preservation, and develop specific planning tools to achieve that vision. All planning services are subsidized by DVRPC to reduce expenses to municipalities.
- **Greenway and Trails Planning**

DVRPC facilitates implementation of the proposed Greenspace Network by conducting local greenway implementation plans. To date, most greenway efforts have focused on stream corridors in New Jersey. Each greenway plan is a "how-to" guide to translate the broad goal of preserving open space into concrete implementation strategies.

DVRPC also manages the Regional Trails Program. Mr. Linn highlighted The Circuit, Greater Philadelphia's Regional Trails Network.

- Coastal Zone Management

DVRPC administers PA DEP's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program in the Delaware Estuary region. The CZM Program makes grants annually for planning, education, research, and project implementation. Through CZM funding, DVRPC also administers the Urban Waterfront Action Group (UWAG) which provides "one-stop shopping" for project sponsors seeking waterfront development permits.

- Climate Change and Energy Initiatives

DVRPC's Climate Change Initiatives program area leads, supports, and coordinates efforts in our region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change. DVRPC is currently working with a stakeholder group and the City of Chester to develop a climate adaptation plan to enable the community to understand the adaptive capacity of the local systems within their community; identify ways to address new risks and vulnerabilities from predicted changes in climate; and prioritize and plan actions to increase community resiliency to climate-related impacts.

A copy of Mr. Linn's presentation may be found at:

<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2014-01.pdf>.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- In 2014, PPTF members will be taking a more active role in forming agendas for meetings. The meeting today was a great indication of how members can bring issues of interest to the PPTF. Members reviewed the *PPTF Goals, Priorities, and Agendas sheet* (attached) and recommended the following topics for upcoming meetings:
 - Bike sharing in Philadelphia;
 - Transportation for older adults and disabled individuals;
 - Invite Paul Jargowsky, a professor at Rutgers-Camden, to present his recent study on regional poverty;
 - Invite Lucy Kerman, Vice Provost, University and Community Partnerships, Drexel University, to discuss initiatives in West Philadelphia, including the recently named "Promise Zone" in Mantua;
 - Discussion of Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) and its impacts on long-term affordability for communities, as well as how community land trusts can develop TODs;
 - Cleaning up taxi fleets and making them more accessible;
 - Effective Communication strategies for the public (Citizens Campaign)
 - Invite Eldar Shafir, Princeton University Psychology professor, to discuss his work in reasoning and decision-making;
 - Transportation operations; and

- Implications of the new Comcast tower on transportation and land use;
- 2014 Federal Certification Public Participation Evaluation
 - The *Public Participation Programs, 2011-Present* handout (attached) was distributed to members to review DVRPC public participation activities. Members are encouraged to recommend new opportunities for DVRPC outreach, provide organization contacts, point out where DVRPC should be conducting more participation events, and next steps. Candy Snyder noted that PPTF members will be invited to discuss public participation with the Commission's planning partners as part of DVRPC's upcoming federal certification. At an upcoming meeting, PPTF members will also be able to review a draft of DVRPC's participation evaluation process.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

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

Micah Knapp announced that the Urban Land Institute will be hosting an upcoming event in March on development around the Schuylkill River. More information may be found at: <http://philadelphia.uli.org/events/>

Michael DiVietro discussed efforts to increase stormwater management in Audubon, New Jersey

Peter Meyer noted that New Hope has been trying to address parking issues in the borough with proposed peripheral parking and shuttle buses

Marty Johnson described a movement of Trenton non-profits to begin addressing vacant lots in the city and developing a land inventory.

David Cohen announced that there is a proposal to transfer capital and debt assets from the Cheltenham School District to a newly created municipal authority. Non-profit entities in the township would be assessed a fee by the authority to help fund the debt service.

Bradley Flamm recently completed a working paper on understanding riders who combine cycling and transit trips. The paper will be available online soon.

Rhonda Hurley announced that Shoprite will be the new tenant at the closed Pathmark location in Lawnside. Also, Shoprite will be opening a store within the City of Camden, the first large grocery store to locate in Camden in 30 years.

Joyce Smith will be meeting with the Mt. Airy CDC to investigate how Act 135, *The Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act*, can help redevelop vacant properties in local communities.

Aissia Richardson announced that the 2014 Rail Users Network Conference will be held in Philadelphia in on May2, 2014. The topic of the conference will be the Economic Value of Public Transit.

Tahirih Smith noted that the Mercer County Living Local Expo will be held in March 2014.

Oakmond Jones said that PennDOT has been working to fix potholes throughout the region, and noted how potholes not only cause damage to individual cars, but may also contribute to accidents and other road issues.

Peter Yull, the Chair of the Trenton Planning Board, announced that the Trenton City Council recently approved the framework for the Trenton Master Plan. Issues of all operating departments, including the Board of Education, will be addressed in the Master Plan.

Chuck Romick attended the DVRPC Board Retreat on December 12. An especially interesting presentation was given by James Hughes, Ph.D., of Rutgers University, where he addressed how different generations perceive urban living, transportation, etc.

Morgan Hugo addressed the water issue in West Virginia and how our region can protect itself from a similar problem.

Harry Fox described that an open space preservation ballot measure was approved by voters, with some of the funding to be shifted to municipalities for open space and parks.

Elise Mannella reported that Mercer County freeholders voted to allow a food waste recycling company to move forward with its plan to purchase an unused sludge plant on Duck Island and convert it into a recycling facility that will turn food waste into methane and fertilizer. Another company, AgriArk, is also developing a food recycling facility in Lawrence.

Public Comments and Questions

Dennis Winters, representing the Clean Air Council, requested that meeting handouts be provided to the public prior to the PPTF meeting.

DVRPC Public Participation Programs 2011-Present

Communications and Outreach

Listed below are ongoing communications and outreach activities conducted by the Public Affairs office.

EJ/Public Participation/Partners Database

This database is used to mail/e-mail information related to DVRPC events, meetings, and public comment periods, and is expanded and updated on a regular basis. This year, the database has grown to over 11,000 organizations and/or individuals, and expansion will continue in FY 2014. Overall, DVRPC maintains contacts for more than 13,000 planning partners in the region. Contact information of interested individuals is gathered at DVRPC events, public meetings, and by researching local and regional civic, non-profit, and advocacy organizations.

DVRPC continues to utilize an e-mail “blast” program, which efficiently sends and manages DVRPC announcements to a wide audience. Each year, DVRPC e-mails 45 to 60 large-scale email announcements. As needed, DVRPC staff continues to mail flyers and other information to stakeholders who do not have email access.

DVRPC is on Twitter

DVRPC uses this social media outlet to share timely news, information, publications, and regional events. Twitter makes it easier for citizens, organizations, and those interested in planning for the Greater Philadelphia region to receive up-to-date information and connect them directly with the DVRPC homepage. As of January 5, 2014, DVRPC’s Twitter feed has 1,807 followers, and DVRPC staff posts approximately 25 Tweets or more per month.

DVRPC Newsletters and Publications

DVRPC’s monthly newsletter, *DVRPC News*, is primarily distributed as a paperless e-newsletter and reaches almost 13,000 recipients per month.

Throughout the year, DVRPC releases numerous publications and reports that are available to the public via our website and the Resource Center. Upon request, these publications can be translated into other languages or formats.

Public Participation/ EJ Resources Page on DVRPC Website

In an effort to disseminate Title VI, EJ, and public participation resources to DVRPC’s planning partners and the public, the Commission maintains a Title VI/EJ/Public Participation Resources page on its website at www.dvrpc.org/Links/Public.htm. This page highlights public participation strategies and best practices, and information related to Title VI and EJ. Many presentations and resources from DVRPC public events are also posted on the webpage.

Legal Notices

For all comment periods and meetings that require it, legal notices are sent to local and regional newspapers: The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Courier-Post, The Trentonian, Al Dia (regional

Spanish language newspaper), and The Tribune (Philadelphia-based African American newspaper).

Public Notices and Comment Periods

As per federal requirements, DVRPC provides adequate time for public review of draft documents. The length of review and comment period should be at least 30 days for the TIP, Long-Range Plan, and other major documents, and at least 45 days for review of major changes to the Commission's Public Participation Plan. Major Commission actions are advertised as legal notices in a variety of regional newspapers listed above. All Commission public comment periods are listed at <http://www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/PublicNotices/>.

Each public comment period may one to two public meetings, where applicable.

The following Public Notices were released in FY 2013.

- November 2012: DVRPC's Pennsylvania FY2014 JARC Funding Round
- December 2012: Draft DVRPC FY 2014 Work Program, Notice of 2013 Public Meetings of the DVRPC Board and Executive Committee
- January 2013: DVRPC's New Jersey FFY 2012 (Round 14) JARC and FFY 2012 New Freedom Funding Round
- March 2013: The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Pennsylvania FY2015 New Freedom Funding Round
- May 2013: Draft DVRPC Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey (FY2014-2017)
- June 2013: Draft Connections 2040 Plan for Greater Philadelphia Long-Range Plan, Draft Connections 2040 Transportation Investments Appendix, Draft Transportation Conformity Finding

Public Commenting on DVRPC Board Action Items

In July 2011, DVRPC launched an online commenting tool for the general public to comment on DVRPC Board action items via the DVRPC website, e-mail, U.S. Mail, fax, or in person at DVRPC Board meetings. Information related to Board action items is posted on www.dvrpc.org approximately 10 days before a scheduled Board Meeting. Board agendas and associated materials are mailed to approximately 30 area libraries, and an e-mail blast to DVRPC's contacts database announces when commenting is open. The online commenting feature is live until 12 noon the day before the Board Meeting. All comments are forwarded to DVRPC Board members at the Board meeting. DVRPC staff then contact commenters with a response from Board members or DVRPC staff. Comments and responses are then posted on www.dvrpc.org.

Online Comments Link For General Questions/Inquiries

In FY 2013, an additional outlet for the public to communicate with the Commission was added to the DVRPC website, as per the recommendation of the Public Participation Task Force. A "send us your comment" link was added to the "Get Involved" section on www.dvrpc.org. Public Affairs staff receive the questions and/or comments, and then forward to the appropriate staff. Commenters also have the option to sign up for DVRPC's mailing list.

Translation, LEP Services, ADA Accessibility of Communications

In accordance with Executive Order 13166, DVRPC is employing a strategy to provide translated information to the region's non-English speaking residents. DVRPC translates a number of Commission documents, and takes all reasonable steps in providing Commission documents in alternative languages or formats. Online information may be translated into 17 languages using a free service for "on-the-fly" machine translation provided by Google. The GoogleTranslate service replaces other online translation services that have been in place since 2006. Steps have been taken with DVRPC's website to ensure that the most pertinent Commission information is translatable online using this service, including information related to the Long-Range Plan, TIP, recent plans and studies and recently published newsletters.

Any DVRPC publication may be translated upon request into an alternate language or format, such as Braille. Special accommodation can be made for public meetings to have translation services available. This is noted in every DVRPC publication and meeting notice, as well as DVRPC's website.

DVRPC is committed to the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is DVRPC's policy to provide equal access for individuals with disabilities, which includes the DVRPC website. The DVRPC website is designed to comply with two different standards for website accessibility: compliance with the Priority Level One standards recommended by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and compliance with the legal requirements of Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Popular screen readers can be used effectively by the visually impaired on this website.

DVRPC Public Participation Task Force

Since the 1970s, DVRPC has maintained a continuous forum for the public to participate in the regional planning process. This forum has taken various forms throughout the years to respond to the outreach needs of the public and the Commission. DVRPC's current ongoing forum for public involvement is the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF). The mission of the PPTF is to provide ongoing access to the regional planning and decision-making process, to review timely issues, to serve as a conduit for DVRPC information to organizations and communities across the region, and to assist the Commission in implementing public outreach strategies.

The PPTF serves as a conduit for DVRPC to share information with citizens, communities, and organizations throughout the region; act as a review body for timely issues; and inform and assist with DVRPC's outreach activities.

Each member government on the DVRPC Board appointed one member and alternate, and twelve members were selected for at-large membership through an application process. An application was released in early 2012. The application was provided on the DVRPC website and mailed to individuals and organizations across the region. E-mail blasts, web announcements, Tweets, and other means of outreach and communication were used to promote the PPTF and encourage members of the public to apply. DVRPC received over 160 applications for the 12 at-large member positions. The selection process included DVRPC Public Affairs staff, as well as two external consultants. Applicants were evaluated on their diversity of experience and commitment to their communities and the region. Task force members were selected in April 2012.

Several orientation sessions have been held to familiarize Task Force members with their roles and responsibilities. Members serve a maximum of two, two-year terms. PPTF meetings were held on November 15, 2012, January 22, 2013, March 14, 2013, and May 16, 2013. As it was the first year of the PPTF, members spent time learning about DVRPC and its plans and programs, such as the Transportation Improvement Program. An additional focus was to review the public outreach and communications plan for the DVRPC *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan update.

As with our other committees, all meetings will be open to the public for attendance.

In the fall of 2013, a second application round to solicit new PPTF members was conducted. Over 50 applications were received for up to eight new members. New members were selected and will formally join the PPTF in 2014.

Regional Listening Sessions

This series of meetings brings DVRPC “to the public”, with a focus on meeting locations in suburban and non-Center City Philadelphia locations in the DVRPC region. An average of 35-45 people attend each session, which includes time for networking, a presentation on a DVRPC topic, and discussion. These listening sessions are part of an ongoing strategy to increase public participation in DVRPC programs and plans, as well as raise the profile of DVRPC with the general public. The meetings provided an opportunity for continuing dialogue between the public and DVRPC regarding the most important issues facing the region.

- March 2011: Chester County meeting in Phoenixville, PA: Topic: The Economic Value of Protected Open Space
- June 2011: Burlington County meeting in Moorestown, NJ. Topic: Making the Connection: Economic Development and Open Space
- October 2011: Delaware County meeting in Chester, PA. Topic: Environmental Justice and the Regional Planning Process
- October 2011: Camden County meeting in Collingswood, NJ. Topic: Regional Food Systems Planning
- November 2011: Gloucester County Meeting in Glassboro, New Jersey: Regional Safety Planning
- March 2012: North Philadelphia Meeting: Regional Transit Planning
- March 2013 in Lansdale, PA, with a focus on DVRPC’s Freight Planning Program. Over 35 people attended the event at the Lansdale Community Library.

DVRPC Regional Student Forum

The DVRPC Regional Student Forum provides students with the opportunity to discuss regional planning issues with planners, advocates, and government officials, as well as with other students from the Greater Philadelphia area. The Regional Student Forum allows DVRPC to work with the region’s next generation of planners, engages the academic community in regional planning issues, and provides an opportunity to reach out to a new audience for public involvement and collaboration. In FY 2011, three meetings of the Regional Student Forum were held:

- November 2010 (Topic: Environmental Justice)
- March 2011 (Topic: Career Development for Planners)
- April 2011 (Topic: Public Health Planning in Philadelphia)
- September 2011 (Student Forum Member Networking Session)

- October 2011 (Topic: Regional Transportation and Sustainability)
- November 2011 (Topic: Career Development/ Human Resources Roundtable)
- March 2012 (Topic: Social Media and the Workplace: Networking, Job Seeking, and Professional Development)
- April 2012 (Topic: Regional Transit Planning and Mini Charrette)
- November 2013 (Topic: *Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan*)
- October 2013 (Topic: History of Urban Planning in Philadelphia)

A blog containing information of interest to students, such as events and job postings, is available at <http://regionalstudentforum.blogspot.com>.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Work Group

The EJ Work Group acts as a resource to DVRPC staff on issues related to EJ and outreach to diverse communities in the region:

- October 2011: General Meeting
- February 2012: General Meeting
- September 2013: DVRPC hosted a training session for PennDOT's "Every Voice Counts" EJ training program. EJ Work Group members were invited to participate.
- October 2013: DVRPC hosted Leonardo Vazquez, Executive Director of the National Consortium for Creative Place Making, to discuss his new book "Placemaking in Latino Communities." Over 50 people gathered for the lunch, presentation, and networking session.
- April 2013: A meeting was held for the EJ Work Group to discuss the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan update. Over 20 people attended to discuss equity issues related to the long-range plan.

Outreach, Public Meetings, and Events

Throughout the year, DVRPC staff planned, facilitated, or participated in various public outreach events. DVRPC's focus for this type of outreach is to directly interact with Delaware Valley residents at popular locations to inform the public of DVRPC's mission and scope, and to promote public involvement opportunities.

Additional project- or program-based meetings and events may be found in *Environmental Justice at DVRPC*.

All DVRPC Committee meetings (e.g., Regional Technical Committee, Regional Safety Task Force, Aviation Committee, Good Movement Task Force, Regional Community & Economic Development Committee) are open to the public to attend.

A selected list includes:

- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Community Gardening Event (January 2010)
- Green Fair in Abington, PA (April 2010)
- The Economic Value of Protected Open Space event (November 2010)
- Greenfest Philly (September 2011)
- Temple University Campus Sustainability Fair (October 2011)
- Coordinated Human Services Transportation and New Freedom meeting (October 2011)

- Participated and tabled at an EPA Environmental Justice Conference at Drexel University (November 2011).
- *Breaking Ground 2011: The Power of Partnerships* Conference (November 2011)
- *Seniors on the Move* (March 2012) was a panel discussion/workshop hosted by DVRPC, with speakers from DVRPC, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities, and a keynote speaker from the National Center on Senior Transportation. The event provided over 40 participants an opportunity to learn about programs in the region, including the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, and what innovative models exist around the country.
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Competitive Program Meeting (April 2012)
- I-95/I-476 EJ Meeting (May 2012)
- Darby Borough Open House and Transportation Expo (June 2012)
- Parking Day (September 2012)
- Temple University Sustainability Fair (October 2012)
- Living Local Expo, Lawrence, New Jersey (March 2013)
- Amtrak Environmental Fair (April 2013)

Conferences, Academic Presentations, and Training

Throughout the year, DVRPC staff is invited to present on public participation, Title VI, and EJ issues and participate in training and conferences.

- Staff presentations at the **Philadelphia Corporation for Aging Urban Aging Conference** in 2011 and 2013.
- Staff participated in the **Chester Environmental Partnership's** July 2010 conference, with a keynote address by Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director.
- Staff regularly presents DVRPC's Title VI and EJ program to a graduate planning class at Temple University.
- Participated in **Pennsylvania Public Involvement Peer Exchange** (November 2011).
- **New Partners for Smart Growth Conference.** DVRPC's presentation proposal was selected to be a part of a panel entitled "Successfully Engaging Diverse Audiences in Regional Planning: Tools, Techniques, and Strategies" at a national conference in February 2011. Presenters focused on the Commission's work in Title VI, EJ, and Public Participation, including the Degrees of Disadvantage methodology. As conference participants, staff attended EJ-related panel discussions and workshops.
- Presenter at "Environmental Justice Best Practices" panel at the **American Public Transit Association (APTA) Conference** in June 2013.
- Guest speaker on public participation and planning at Cheyney University class in February 2013.
- In FY 2012, DVRPC was a member of **PennDOT's Environmental Justice Task Force** and participated in the development of *Every Voice Counts*, PennDOT's updated EJ guidance document.
- Guest Speaker at Cheyney University (February 2013)

Planning and Programs

The following is a selection of how public participation, Title VI, and EJ are conducted generally, as well as through specific programs, in the DVRPC Planning Division.

Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD)

As the MPO for the nine-county region, DVRPC is charged with evaluating plans and programs for environmental justice (EJ) sensitivity. This process includes:

- examining the allocation of benefits and burdens, both for the current context and for the planned future;
- ensuring that minority and low-income communities are treated equitably in the provision of transportation services and projects; and
- providing ample opportunity for full participation for minority and low-income communities to advise the MPO during its planning and decision-making process.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Executive Order on Environmental Justice (#12898) do not provide specific guidance to evaluate EJ issues within a region's transportation planning process. Therefore, MPOs must devise their own methods for ensuring that EJ issues are investigated and evaluated in transportation decision-making. In 2001, DVRPC developed an EJ technical assessment to identify direct and disparate impacts of its plans, programs, and planning process on defined population groups in the Delaware Valley region. This assessment, the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage, formerly called the Degrees of Disadvantage (DoD) Methodology, is utilized in a variety of DVRPC plans and programs.

Using U.S. Census data, a snapshot of the region is created, mapping the locations of identified EJ populations. The current list of populations identified by DVRPC's IPD methodology is:

- non-Hispanic minority;
- Hispanic;
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP);
- persons with a physical disability;
- elderly over 75 years of age;
- carless households;
- female head of household with child; and
- households in poverty.

Further information on the IPD may be found in *Environmental Justice at DVRPC*.

Online Environmental Justice Analysis Tool: Online Environmental Justice Analysis Tool

In May 2011, DVRPC launched an online interactive tool to make Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD) data available as a resource not just to DVRPC staff, but to the entire nine-county DVRPC region. The online map viewer allows users to view and identify EJ sensitive

areas within the DVRPC region. Users can search by population group, municipality, or by census tract. The EJ analysis tool can be found on DVRPC's website at <http://www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/TitleVI/>.

County EJ Technical Analysis

In addition to the regional EJ analysis, where individual census tract populations are compared to regional thresholds, DVRPC has also began county EJ technical analyses, where individual census tract populations will be compared to county-wide data. Developing new EJ resources is part of a focus in FY 2014 that will also include researching transportation and equity issues in the region.

Air Quality Partnership (AQP)

The AQP The Air Quality Partnership (AQP) is a public/private coalition dedicated to improving air quality in the Greater Philadelphia Region by providing air quality advisories and educating the public about air quality issues. The AQP is administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

The AQP provides air quality forecasts for ground level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Forecasts are provided on the website, www.airqualitypartnership.org, via email, and also by calling the Air Quality Partnership Information Line at 1.800.872.7261.

An AQP Awareness survey is available at www.surveymk.com/s/AirQualitySurvey to help staff develop news ways to outreach to impacted populations.

AQP contains a variety of outreach opportunities to educate the public about air quality issues. DVRPC regularly participates in Temple University Earthfest, a program for elementary school children, the Clean Air Council 5K run, the 2013 Dad Vail Regatta, and local community health fairs.

Web-based Outreach

Some DVRPC projects use web-based commenting, mapping, and surveys to complete outreach and information gathering, including:

- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). TIP projects can be searched for an mapped. During the public comment periods for the Pennsylvania and New Jersey draft TIPs, a commenting feature is also added.
- Participants could map and comment as part of the Mercer County Bikeability Project.
- The Shifting Gears Bicycle Survey was used to help define bicycling priorities and goals in the greater Philadelphia region.
- An online survey was used to gather information for the *Engage, Outreach, Improve: Strategies to Connect with New PATCO Ridership* report.

These online tools allow planners to expand their scope of outreach and to reach new audiences, and will continue to be used for projects as needed. It should be noted that web-based outreach is usually a supplement to more traditional forms of outreach, including in-person meetings, events, etc.

Choices and Voices

Connections 2040: Choices & Voices allows users to participate in developing a vision for growth and development in Greater Philadelphia between now and 2040. Participants are able to identify a preferred development pattern, and then select regional funding levels and major transportation projects they would like to see happen over the next 27 years. This application is crowdsourced, so participants are able to compare their scenario to the vision created by all other participants. This online web application allowed DVRPC to reach new participants and offered users an educational, in-depth experience.

African American Heritage Tour and Event

The *African American Heritage Tour* brochure details a walking tour dedicated to exploring African American life in Society Hill, or the "Seventh Ward," at the end of the 1800s. This free-black community was the largest of its kind in America and was the subject of W.E.B. DuBois' seminal work, *The Philadelphia Negro*. This tour was developed through a process of research and analysis with the goal of highlighting African American historic sites in Philadelphia. Work was guided by a steering committee comprised of professionals in the fields of historic preservation and tourism, such as the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, and professionals from city agencies and active transportation groups, such as the Mural Arts Program, the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities, and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia.

The African American Heritage Tour program event was held at the African American Museum in Philadelphia on February 25, 2013. This event contained a panel discussion on DVRPC's African American Heritage Tour project, as well as a presentation by Amy Hillier on WEB Dubois' study of the Seventh Ward of Philadelphia. Over 100 people attended this event.

Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan Update

Much of FY 2013 was dedicated to communications and public outreach related to DVRPC's *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan (LRP) update. In addition to specific events related to the LRP, a particular focus was connecting the LRP to other DVRPC events, programs, and projects.

Communications:

- DVRPC sent numerous newsletters and notices related to the LRP and transportation funding issues to our email database of over 11,000 individuals and organizations around the region. Paper mailings of newsletters and flyers were also conducted.
- A stakeholders group of approximately 250 individuals were identified.
- DVRPC's website contains a special page devoted to the *Connections* plan.

Public Meetings, Events, and Input:

- November 2012: Presentation and roundtable discussion to the DVRPC Regional Student Forum
- November 2012: LRP presentation to the Public Participation Task Force. Input was sought not just on the plan, but also feedback on how best to engage the public in the

development of the plan and how to maintain momentum and public interest after plan adoption.

- January 2013: Presentation to the PPTF on communication activities update.
- March 2013: DVRPC staff conducted LRP presentations at the Living Local Expo in Lawrence, New Jersey and with the Bucks County Workforce Investment Board
- April 2013: A roundtable discussion of EJ and equity issues related to the LRP at the DVRPC Environmental Justice Work Group meeting.
- April 2013: A brief presentation on the LRP opened the Chester County Public Transportation Plan workshop.
- May 2013: A public input session conducted at the Enterprise Center in West Philadelphia. A webinar option was also offered for people to participate remotely.
- A formal public comment period was held from June 7, 2013 until July 8, 2013. Draft documents were mailed to area libraries, an email blast over 10,000 emails was sent, and approximately 500 notices and Executive Summaries were sent via U.S. Mail. The public was able to comment by e-mail, mail, fax, and through an online commenting system (<http://www.dvrpc.org/Connections2040/PublicComment/>). Two public meetings were held within the comment period: on June 12, 2013 in New Jersey, and one on June 27, 2013 in Philadelphia.

Publications

Public Participation Plan

DVRPC's Public Participation Plan is designed as a resource for DVRPC's Board, staff, and the general public to better understand the Commission's overall public participation strategy and procedures, as well as the federal mandates that inform DVRPC's public participation efforts. The plan conveys DVRPC's commitment to a transparent and proactive public participation process that strives to engage all residents of the Delaware Valley.

A revised DVRPC Public Participation Plan was released for a 45-day public comment period in January 2012, and adopted by the DVRPC Board in April 2012. The plan outlines how the Commission meets all federal public participation mandates, and was updated to reflect the Commission's current outreach activities, particularly the development of the Public Participation Task Force. Last adopted in 2008, this revised Public Participation Plan also includes more recent outreach initiatives such as the Regional Student Forum and the Environmental Justice Work Group. The update provided an excellent opportunity for the Commission to reaffirm its commitment to a transparent, open, and inclusive planning process.

As part of the Plan update, DVRPC will be employing expanded evaluation of its public participation and associated activities, of which this memo is a part. This memo is sent to the DVRPC Board and planning partners, such as the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, and is posted on www.dvrpc.org for the public's information.

Title VI Compliance Plan

In January 2007, the DVRPC Board approved the Commission's Title VI Compliance Plan, which establishes a framework for DVRPC's efforts to ensure compliance with Title VI, as well as with other environmental justice and nondiscrimination mandates. The Plan outlines how Title VI and environmental justice considerations are reflected in the Commission's Work

Program, publications, communications, public involvement efforts, and our general way of doing business.

The Title VI Compliance Plan was updated in 2010, and is currently undergoing review and update. An updated version will be published in FY 2014.

DVRPC Citizen's Guide

In FY 2011, DVRPC updated and reissued A Citizen's Guide to the Regional Planning Process, which provides residents in the region with an overview of the Commission, its activities, and how an individual can get involved in the planning process. An online version of the Citizen's Guide was also launched (which can be translated into more than 17 languages), and can be found at www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/CitizensGuide.

An updated draft of the Citizen's Guide is currently under review by staff and the DVRPC Public Participation Task Force and will be updated in FY 2014.

Environmental Justice at DVRPC

This document outlines work related to DVRPC's Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD) method, formerly known as the Degrees of Disadvantage (DOD), and highlights other Commission activities pertaining to EJ and public participation. *Environmental Justice at DVRPC* is produced every fiscal year and replaced the previously released "And Justice for All," which was DVRPC's EJ technical report produced from FY 2001 to FY 2006.

Commission Publications

Throughout the year, DVRPC produces a variety of publications and reports that are available to the public via our website and our Resource Center. Upon request, these publications can be translated into other languages or formats.

Planner's Methodology

DVRPC has developed a Planner's Methodology, which is designed to provide guidance to staff in meeting Title VI and EJ mandates and structuring a public participation plan at the project or study level. How meaningful public participation is gathered and implemented into a planning process may differ widely, depending on the type and scope of the project. The Planner's Methodology sets a framework for developing individual public participation plans for specific projects, offers a "tool kit" of public participation strategies, and offers instruction on how to utilize DVRPC's IPD methodology, as well as an overview of Title VI and EJ mandates. Overall, the Planner's Methodology builds upon DVRPC's philosophy and intent to place public participation, Title VI, and EJ at the forefront of the Commission's priorities.

Municipal Implementation Tool (MIT) #22: Public Participation

The MIT brochure series describes specific tools and techniques that municipalities may use in their planning processes. This MIT, produced in November 2011, provides an overview of public engagement and participation and suggests strategies and techniques to engage the public in the planning process.

PPTF Goals, Priorities, and Agendas

At the December 4, 2013 PPTF meeting, participants were asked what motivated them to attend PPTF meetings, and what topics should be addressed at future meetings. The exercise helped members and staff continue to refine the PPTF, and to ensure that meetings are productive and useful to all.

An initial reading of these findings shows that PPTF members want more information on DVRPC programs (including funding programs) to bring back to their communities, and that there should be more sharing not just between DVRPC and PPTF, but among PPTF members. To that end we can focus on the PPTF member experience—by sharing information, proposing guest speakers (or asking that you speak about your own projects), and scheduling tours or other events around the region—as well as working on making the PPTF as member driven as possible.

Issues and Goals:

- Getting to know, understand, and participate in the process of regional development
- Promote and educate others about projects and regional resources and bring information back to my community
- Public transit interoperability
- More public engagement resources and education
- Cross county collaboration among PPTF members (in relation to public engagement)
- To help my community learn how DVRPC can assist with funding
- Exchange ideas and information
- Work toward and support regional cooperation
- “I joined DVRPC because I think DVRPC is under-valued, under-known for its role and impact of its actions. We should be changing that.”
 - I want us to be outspoken advocates on issues germane to accomplishing the above. We should have been part of getting the transportation bill passed.”
- More involvement: give back to the community, share lessons learned, foster public knowledge
- Support making the region an accessible place for all
- Look to technology to spread the message and programs of DVRPC—Google groups, Four Square

Future Agenda Topics:

- More speakers on “hot topics” related to transit, transportation, and planning
- DVRPC Work Program showcase
- Transportation bill analysis
- A featured presentation from each PPTF member
- Look at projects other than transportation
- Programs that can help with infrastructure, trails, and redevelopment projects
- Visit a completed trails project
- More transportation

- Executive Summary of draft Work Plan
- Update on transportation travel study
- Visits/meetings at: water/sewer authorities, PennDOT/NJDOT/SEPTA/PATCO
- Experts on: regional cooperation (Myron Orfield), historic preservation, real estate taxation
- See diversity of community initiatives
- Focus on PPTF member experiences
- Food access, accessible public transit