



March 4, 2014 Meeting Highlights

Attendees: Todd Baylson, Brett Blyshak, David Cohen, Michael DiVietro, Quibila Divine, Bradley Flamm, David Gunther, James Hopkins, Morgan Hugo, Micah Knapp, Dick Linderman, Peter Meyer, Chuck Romick, Andrew Seligsohn, Tahirih Smith, Peter Yull, Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Andy Sharpe (Guest); Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Karen Cilurso, Brett Fusco (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Jim Hopkins, PPTF Chair, welcomed members and guests to the meeting, and introduced Dick Linderman, a new PPTF member representing the City of Chester.

Presentations

Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI)

Karen Cilurso, PP/AICP, DVRPC Senior Regional Planner, presented the TCDI program. TCDI is an opportunity for DVRPC to support smart growth in the individual municipalities of the Delaware Valley through initiatives that implement the region's long-range plan, Connections 2040 Plan for Greater Philadelphia. Central to this effort is to ensure greater quality of life choices by providing and maintaining essential infrastructure, supporting local and regional economic development, and linking land use and transportation planning, through:

- Supporting local planning projects that will lead to more residential, employment or commercial opportunities in areas designated for growth or redevelopment;
- Improving the overall character and quality of life within the region to retain and attract business and residents;
- Enhancing and utilizing the existing transportation infrastructure capacity to reduce demands on the region's transportation network;
- Reducing congestion by promoting the use of transit and bike and pedestrian transportation modes;
- Building capacity in our older suburbs and neighborhoods;
- Reinforcing and implementing improvements in identified Centers and;
- Protecting our environment through growth management and land preservation.

TCDI provides a mechanism for local governments to undertake locally-directed actions to improve their communities, which in turn implements their local and county comprehensive plans and supports the goals and vision of the region's long-range plan. Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as a number of counties within the region, have current programs to support community development. TCDI seeks to

support and leverage those state and county programs, by providing funding to undertake planning, analysis or design initiatives which implement the long-range plan and enhance or improve the efficiency of the regional transportation system.

TCDI grants are now available to all municipal and county governments within the DVRPC region. TCDI applications must be made by the local government or county. Municipalities may apply for a maximum of \$100,000 in TCDI funds for any single project. County governments may also apply for individual projects or on behalf of several communities in the case of a multi-municipal effort. Projects involving two or more municipalities may apply for a maximum of \$175,000 in TCDI funds.

Additional information on TCDI and the current funding round may be found at www.dvrpc.org/TCDI. A mandatory pre-application meeting is scheduled for March 18, and applications are due to DVRPC by May 30. Ms. Cilurso also asked for PPTF members to volunteer to review TCDI applications. If anyone is interested, please contact Jane Meconi. Ms. Cilurso's presentation may be found at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2014-03.pdf>.

The Future of Scenario Planning at DVRPC

Brett Fusco, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, presented the future of Scenario Planning. Scenario planning plays an important role in the long-range planning process. It can foster strategic thinking about the future, help to deal with uncertainty, improve decision-making, and engage stakeholders and the public in the visioning process. Previously, DVRPC has conducted four scenario planning exercises and launched an online scenario application, "Choices & Voices," <http://www.dvrpc.org/choicesandvoices/>.

DVRPC staff is currently reviewing the Commission's scenario planning experience and how it can improve its practices, including:

- improving collaboration with regional stakeholders in scenario work;
- broadening public outreach and using social media to reach diverse constituents;
- continuing to build on the Choices & Voices framework, adding new options and allowing for more variance; and
- identifying action steps to achieve a desired future or to better prepare for drivers of change.

As part of developing the scenarios, DVRPC staff will facilitate a scenario working group to guide the effort. The goal will be to form a collaborative group that can:

- blend perspectives from the transportation, land use, economic, environmental, and health fields;
- challenge conventional wisdom and convene outside experts;
- brainstorm global drivers of change and regional game changers;
- analyze 4-5 differentiated scenarios;
- identify action steps; and
- guide public outreach efforts.

As part of the presentation, Mr. Fusco facilitated a discussion for PPTF members to discuss issues that will impact the region, as well as how to engage the public and what shape a working group may take (attached). Mr. Fusco's presentation may be found at:

<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2014-03.pdf>.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- Candace Snyder announced that the Chair and Vice Chair terms will expire June 30, which coincides with DVRPC's fiscal year and other committee schedules. There have been several volunteers for this position and that of Vice Chair; if more individuals are interested, an election will be held at the June PPTF meeting.
- Ms. Snyder also noted that DVRPC meetings, with the exception of the Board meeting, may not be audio- or videotaped.
- Upcoming meeting agendas: For the April 8 PPTF meeting, DVRPC staff is finalizing a tour to the SEPTA Operations Center. On May 15, Rutgers-Camden professor Paul Jargowsky has been invited to present on regional poverty issues. DVRPC staff will promote this meeting and guest speaker to a wider audience, including the DVRPC EJ Work Group.
 - Future agendas will be developed based on suggestions provided at January's meeting. If members have any additional suggestions, please contact Jane Meconi.
- The *Public Participation Programs, 2011-Present* handout was distributed last month to members to review DVRPC public participation activities. Members are encouraged to recommend new opportunities for DVRPC outreach and provide organization contacts.
- Jane Meconi announced that Pennsylvania residents may take advantage of a new program sponsored by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development: the Online Business and Technology Training program, which allows users to take online courses in various computer programs.
- DVRPC has expanded its social media opportunities by joining Facebook, LinkedIn, and Flickr.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

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

Tahirih Smith noted that the Mercer County Living Local Expo will be held on March 29 from 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Armory, 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrence.

Peter Yull reported that efforts continue to develop the Trenton master plan.

Todd Baylson encouraged everyone to attend the Philadelphia Flower Show and to support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Morgan Hugo reported that she has found DVRPC on Foursquare, another social media application. She reported on concern about a potential upcoming SEPTA strike and a proposal to later extend SEPTA OWL service.

David Cohen reported that Cheltenham Township is currently undergoing an update to its zoning code.

Bradley Flamm reported that Temple's Center for Sustainable Communities is working on some projects related to green infrastructure program impacts and travel demand management.

Public Comments and Questions

There were no formal public comments.

Scenario Planning Discussion
DVRPC Public Participation Task Force
March 4, 2014

Climate Change

Will rail-based transport increase in light of recent weather events? (trains more reliable in snow)
How will climate change/ significant weather events impact transportation infrastructure and its need for repair and replacement?

Millenials and Baby Boomers

How does adding public transit impact communities? Will additional public transit be added as a result of Millenial use?

What happens when Millenials have kids? Does having kids = moving to the suburbs if urban school systems have challenges?

While there is much talk about Millennial impacts on cities and transportation, Baby Boomers are politically active and decision-makers. The aging of the Baby Boomers will also have ramifications on land use and transportation.

Reports and Resources

Look at Pennsylvania Economy League future scenarios
ULI's "Coming and Going" report

Regional Development

Increasing meds and eds in south Jersey bring about other businesses and uses, such as age-restricted communities and doctors' offices.

Economic Development

How will the PGW sale impact the regional economy, as well as other natural gas development in PA?
How will financial institutions change in the future?
Looking at the shared economy, like Uber.

Transportation

Legalization of marijuana will increase transit use?
Changing use of infrastructure (crude oil on freight trains) and how that impacts adjacent residential uses.

Other

While DVRPC may not actively engage in arts/philanthropy, taxation policy, and education, they will be critical to all future scenarios.

How do we get the public/stakeholders involved?

Does engaging experts= more conventional thinking? Who should be part of this outreach process? Who will analyze the scenarios? Need to include people in a working group who may have not previously participated in the exercise.

- Interactive, hands on activities exercises
- Interact with organizations such as Young Involved Philly (YIP), Campus Philly, and the Citizens Planning Insititute (CPI)
- Look to college and high school students

- Present at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 2014 Conference at Penn