Welcome and Meeting Overview

Eva Hayes, Vice-Chair of the PPTF, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and giving an overview of the meeting’s purpose: to have a discussion about youth involvement in planning and how younger populations can stay involved in shaping the region’s future. Shoshana Akins then gave a brief overview of the agenda.

Presentations

Susan Best... Future City
Susan Best gave a background on the Future City program, a fun and exciting educational engineering program for middle school students that combines a stimulating engineering challenge with a “hands-on” application to present their vision of a city of the future. The program is interested in engaging kids in engineering problem-solving and exposing them to the field of engineering.

Timmy Lawrence... Youth Leadership Council
Timmy Lawrence presented on the Youth Leadership Council with the Food Trust, which is an advocacy group for Philadelphia high school students. Timmy currently serves on the Youth Leadership Council and shared their experience with advocating for clean water in schools, feeling the power of advocacy, and learning the tools for young people to make a difference.
Megan Bucknum... Rowan University
Megan Bucknum presented on Rowan University’s Community + Environmental Planning program, providing a background on the program, course offerings, and experiences students have at the university. The presentation included examples of student projects to activate spaces on campus and researching access to food outlets in Salem County.

Q&A and Facilitated Panel Discussion
Shoshana Akins... All attendees participated
Attendees asked questions to the speakers and had a facilitated discussion about youth experiences in planning.

Breakout Discussion Groups
All attendees
Attendees broke out into six discussion groups, each assigned to a youth population and tasked with coming up with a way to engage that group in the Long-Range Planning process. Two groups were assigned to engage kids, two to engage teens, and two to engage young adults. Each group shared their engagement strategy at the end, which included a “Long-Range Plan Van”, a planning summer camp, a teacher/student council, community-based tabling events, creating a mobile app to submit ideas, and host a social media contest.

Member Discussion and Networking
Many attendees stayed after to network and gather additional DVRPC reports and resources.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News
Shoshana Akins announced that the next Task Force meeting will be September 25, 2018.