DVRPC Region

- Population = 5.8 million people
- Employment = 3 million jobs
- Governance = 351 municipalities
- Daily Traffic = 112 million VMT
- Transit = 1.2 million trips / day
Who is DVRPC?

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state, 9-county Philadelphia region
- Created in 1965
- Well-established multi-modal transportation network
Who is DVRPC?

• Home rule region: 352 municipalities
• Many layers of government (federal, state, county, municipal)
• Representative Democracy: 18-member board of local elected officials
• Issue areas – Transportation, Land Use, the Economy, and the Environment
• Help the region prioritize more than $2 Billion in transportation funds a year
LIBERTY RESOURCES
INDEPENDENCE FOR EVERYONE
About Liberty Resources:

Liberty Resources, Inc. (LRI) is the Center for Independent Living for the Philadelphia area. LRI advocates for and works with Persons with Disabilities to ensure their civil rights and equal access to all aspects of life in our community. Majority of the employees are people with disabilities.
“Independent Living is not doing things yourself; **it is being in control** of how things are done.”

- **JUDITH HEUMANN**
Advocacy

Advocacy is a key part of LRI’s mission to assist people with disabilities to obtain and maintain an independent lifestyle.

LRI provides individual support to help people with disabilities learn how to advocate for themselves for whatever they need or want.

LRI engages people with disabilities in systems advocacy efforts so that they may learn that nothing will change for the better until the system is changed to benefit all disabled people.
Information & Referral

This service provides information about disability issues within Liberty Resources and within the Philadelphia community.

To get in touch with the on-call Independent Living Specialist with any other questions, please call 215-634-2000 Ext. 325.
Peer Support

Peer Support is information or support from another person who has had similar experiences.

This can be individual peer support or group run peer support where people with disabilities plan and run groups with assistance from staff at LRI.
Skills Training

The Independent Living Skills Training Program offers classes on basic skills such as Money Management, Managing Your Personal Assistant, Health, Wellness, and Nutrition, Consumer Rights and Responsibilities and How to Use Public Transportation. The classes also offer Consumers the opportunity to learn from and share with other Consumers.
Youth Services ensures a successful transition of youth with disabilities into the workplace and adulthood. LRI does this through mentorship, peer support, and skills training.
Ms. Melvina McSpadden is a fighter!

After becoming disabled in 2016, Melvina resided in a nursing facility but knew right away that she wanted the freedom to live in the community in a setting of her choice.

LRI’s Housing Consultant and Nursing Home Transition Coordinator worked closely with Melvina to help her secure affordable, accessible and integrated housing, acquiring a security deposit, purchasing essential household items and connecting her to the necessary auxiliary services needed to maintain her independence.

Melvina’s emancipation from the nursing facility took place on September 16, 2020.
How to Contact Liberty Resources

• Information and Referral Hotline: 215-634-2000 ext. 325
• Website: www.libertyresources.org
• E-Mail: info@libertyresources.org
• Lauren Alden, Manager of Independent Living Services
  215-634-2000 ext. 123 / laurenalden@libertyresources.org
• Morgan Hugo, Independent Living Specialist
  215-634-2000 ext. 124 / morganhugo@libertyresources.org
• Latoya Maddox, Independent Living Specialist
  215-634-2000 ext. 114 / latoyamaddox@libertyresources.org
LIBERTY RESOURCES
INDEPENDENCE FOR EVERYONE
Get out the Vote Efforts and Food Project
LRI’s REV UP CAMPAIGN

Register * Educate * Vote
Use Your Power

Empower the Community

- A projected 38.3 million people with disabilities are eligible to vote in the November 3rd 2020 election. The number of eligible voters with disabilities has increased 19.8% since 2008!

- In 2016 voters with disabilities turnout to the polls was 6.3 percentage points lower than voters without disabilities.
REV UP/LRI Outreach

• The pandemic has changed our outreach efforts significantly
• Getting our consumers virtual-Internet resources and donated laptops
• One on One support – virtually
• The LRI RevUp Video: https://vimeo.com/469871213
Food Distribution Project

• Saw immediate need for access for our community and quickly put a plan in place
• Took advantage of direct door access and added flyers and info to food boxes about Voting and Census

• Over 150 TONS of food delivered since April
• Over 9,000 deliveries completed since April
• Current waitlist: 500+
Cleaner Air in Camden

Recent environmental developments in Camden and New Jersey and how you can get involved

Benjamin Saracco, MLS, MAIT
Camden Shade Tree Advisory Board Member
Camden for Clean Air Volunteer
Research & Digital Services Librarian Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
What’s in the air in Camden, NJ?
Camden is overburdened with air pollution...

According to the EPA’s National Emissions Inventory data 2020, the city of Camden is home to many of the top ten industrial air polluters in Camden County, including the number one industrial air pollution source the Covanta trash incinerator in South Camden. Other industrial sources of air pollution include:

- The Sapphire natural gas power plant.
- The Camden County Sewage Treatment Plant
- Two Cement Factories
- Several scrap operations
- The South Jersey Port
- Metal smelting operations

Image Source: https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/feb/01/schools-across-the-us-exposed-to-air-pollution-children-are-facing-risks
Camden is overburdened with air pollution...

Camden is also home to multiple sources of mobile air pollution from highways, trucking operations between industrial sites and the port, and even diesel fumes from the New Jersey Riverline Light Rail system.
Camden is overburdened with air pollution...

Other factors that exacerbate air quality in Camden include:

- Large amount of impervious surfaces
- Lacking in tree canopy

Together these factors create heat islands that exacerbate already poor air quality conditions

This map displays impervious surfaces (purple), tree canopy (green), high traffic areas (red lines).

Image Source: Trust For Public Land Climate-Smart Cities Camden Mapping Tool
What is the air Camdenites breathe leading to...?
Camden residents are almost 5 times more likely than your average NJ state resident to visit the emergency room for an asthma attack.

Source: NJ Department of Health Asthma Profile report
https://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/chronic/documents/asthma_profiles/camden.pdf
A 2018 study featured in an online Guardian news report found that Camden’s school district was the third worst in the entire country for levels of air pollution.

Sources: Guardian Article

Out of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protections 15 Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) monitoring sites across New Jersey, Camden’s site had the highest average levels of PM2.5 of any site, 9.17 µg/m. A recent Harvard study has found that even a very small increase in PM2.5 pollution in the air was enough to cause a 15% increase in death from COVID-19.

What is being done about it?
New NJ State
Environmental Justice
Cumulative Impact
Bill S232
What is this new bill? An EJ holy grail?!

- It is the first of its kind in the country. (lawmakers have introduced the environmental justice bill every year since 2008, but the legislation always succumbed to industry opposition.)
- It allows the state DEP to deny permits for power plants, incinerators, landfills, large recycling facilities and sewage treatment plants in certain minority and impoverished neighborhoods if the projects pose health and environmental risks in conjunction with the threats those communities already face.
- Rules still need to be written for how this bill will be implemented...

Get involved in the implementation of S232

- The NJ DEP EJ office is holding Public Rulemaking Information Sessions to allow YOU to help decide how this law will be implemented in New Jersey (public planners are especially welcome 😎). Visit https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/action.html to learn more.

- Learn about when new air permits are coming up for initial application or renewal moving forward and request a public hearing! Email DEP Division of Air Quality staff member Danny Wong and ask to be placed on his air permitting email list: Danny.Wong@dep.nj.gov
Clearing the Air: Educating the Camden Community about Air Quality and Respiratory Health

- The purpose of this project is to provide the people of Camden, NJ with environmental health information that will help them learn more about the links between the air quality in their community and their respiratory health.

- The Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) Library is planning a community outreach program that educates members of the public about the impact that air quality has on health in general, and its specific role in triggering asthma and other respiratory diseases. This health information will be presented in easy-to-understand, user-friendly ways that will make it accessible to all: The centerpiece of the project will be a free, public website that showcases National Library of Medicine information resources such as MedlinePlus and Tox Town.
Clearing the Air: Educating the Camden Community about Air Quality and Respiratory Health

Workshops on:

Recognizing and reporting environmental issues in your neighborhood, learning more about respiratory health, and citizen projects utilizing tools used to measure odor and PM2.5.

Workshops will be taking place online, this upcoming Spring 2021 geared towards Camden residents and will be captioned in Spanish.
Air pollution doesn’t respect borders or boundaries. It goes where the wind takes it.
Take action in your community

Learn about pollution sources, consider cumulative impacts, learn how to report environmental issues, get involved in how local laws are written and enforced in your city, state, and region.
List of resources in order of appearance:

1. EPA EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
   https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen
2. Trust for Public Land Mapping Tool
   https://web.tplgis.org/camden_csc/
3. NJ DEP Division of Air Quality and Air Monitoring web page
   https://www.state.nj.us/dep/airmon/
4. Links to the WARNDEP Application
   https://www.nj.gov/dep/warndep.htm
5. NJ DEP Division of Environmental Justice web page
   https://www.nj.gov/dep/ ej/action.html
Community Engagement to Shift Power Beyond the Ballot Box
Presentation to DVRPC’s Public Participation Task Force - 10/28/20
Hello!

I am Marisa Jones.

I am the Policy and Partnerships Director at the Safe Routes Partnership.


You can reach me at marisa@saferoutespartnership.org.
MISSION

The mission of the Safe Routes Partnership is to advance safe walking and rolling to and from schools and in everyday life, improving the health and well-being of people of all races, income levels, and abilities, and building healthy, thriving communities for everyone.
We lock in change by advancing policies and increasing funding for active transportation and healthy, equitable communities at the federal, state, and local levels.

We provide one-on-one consulting and coaching to organizations and local agencies seeking to advance walking, biking, and equitable, active communities.

We support Safe Routes to School program development and implementation through partnerships with local advocates, community leaders, neighborhood residents, and coalition partners.

We share our deep expertise and learn from the field to provide solutions through webinars, reports, fact sheets, toolkits, and relevant resources that are accessible to everyone.
• Build the capacity of public agencies to meaningfully engage their communities (power over)
• Build capacity of community members to fully engage and participate – even during a pandemic (power to)
• Lead or support community-led efforts to untangle bureaucracy (power with)
• Trust and cultivate youth leadership (power within)
Build capacity of community members to fully engage and participate – even during a pandemic

- Park access and comprehensive planning processes were underway as the pandemic took hold
- Rather than pushing forward as if times were normal, Tuolumne River Trust surveyed and spoke with community residents about their ability and capacity to participate in virtual planning
- Surveys revealed that people had computer/tablet access, but needed to develop skills/knowledge to use the internet & connect virtually

POWER TO

Tulomne River Trust, Modesto, CA
• Hosted a virtual workshop focused on how city departments can work together to meaningfully and authentically engage with the community members they are trying to serve.

• Living Streets Alliance then invited project managers from the city and an engineering firm on a bike ride with neighbors from Pueblo Gardens to discuss a potential Prop 407 greenway project.

• Shift Power Over
Break down bureaucratic barriers to public participation, and create a model for future community-led efforts.

Video Credit: Blue Zones Hawaii
https://www.facebook.com/bzpmmmm/videos/1542367729232444/
We asked D.C.’s young people to help us design strategies for keeping people safe as they walk, roll, and ride around the city. Youth leaders shared their ideas with peers, District officials, community members, and local organizations working to improve street safety.
Students used their products to start an important conversation around safety. They encouraged their peers to stay alert while walking (phones down, eyes up!) and urged drivers to slow down.
Student business owners sold their uniquely crafted designs at an after school pop-up shop. Products included t-shirts, jackets, fanny packs, phone cases, sweatbands, slide sandals, and gym bags. Each product contained an apparel tag with the hashtag #SlowDownDC.
The Vision Zero campaign culminated with a glow-in-the-dark dance party.
Shifting power through community engagement leads to creativity, innovation, and can help create a more just and equitable world.
Resources

- Safe Routes for Youth: Supporting and Empowering Teen Leaders in Vision Zero
- Facilitating Community Engagement During Safe Routes to Parks Visioning Activities
- At the Intersection of Environmental Justice and Safe Routes to School in Muscoy, CA
- Safe Routes Community Engagement Cards