

**Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 10, 2000**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Lee Whitmore. The Highlights of the September 12, 2000 meeting were approved as written.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the September 28, 2000 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board developed planning priorities for future DVRPC work programs. In addition, the Board endorsed the Upper Dublin Transportation Development District and approved a work program amendment for DVRPC to manage four PennDOT projects. The Schuylkill Valley Metro project was tabled until the October 26, 2000 meeting.
3. Judith Barnet, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented TIP Amendments PA 0101 and 0102.

PA 0101 - The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding two new projects:

(1) 41<sup>st</sup> St. Bridge Replacement: a recent court decision placed responsibility for this structure with the City and not the railroad as previously believed. The bridge has been closed to traffic for the past eight years. The City wants to replace the bridge and is requesting to add the design phase of the project to FY01 at a total cost of \$500,000 and the right-of-way acquisition phase to FY03 at a total cost of \$1.5 million; and

(2) Passyunk Avenue Signal Corridor (Broad St. to 63<sup>rd</sup> St.): The City has recently identified this corridor as a priority for traffic signal modernization. The proposed project would modernize a total of 14 intersections between 15<sup>th</sup> St. and 63<sup>rd</sup> St., in addition to coordinating with recently upgraded locations at Broad and McKean Streets and at Vare Ave. and I-76. The City is requesting to add the preliminary engineering phase of this project to FY01 at a total cost of \$100,000. It is anticipated that additional engineering funds will be needed in future years.

**MOTION 0010-01: Ravelli**

**SECOND: Brannigan**

*That the Board approve TIP Amendment PA0101, the City of Philadelphia's request to add two projects: (1) 41<sup>st</sup> St. Bridge Replacement and (2) Passyunk Avenue Signal Corridor.*

Motion Passed. One vote was cast against the motion.

PA 0102: Amtrak's request to amend the TIP to include a \$28.8 million loan under the U.S. DOT's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) of 1998 to be used for the re-manufacture of electric locomotives. An eligibility requirement for a loan under the TIFIA program is the project's inclusion in the TIP. The total project cost is \$120 million, and consists of

re-manufacturing 30 electric locomotives which are currently in service and are 12 to 15 years old. This project is critical to Amtrak's strategic business plan of initiating new and improved Acela Regional service along the Northeast Corridor.

**MOTION 0010 - 02: Thomas**

**SECOND: Winters**

*That the Board approve TIP Amendment PA0102, Amtrak's request to add the Re-manufacture of Electric Locomotives project to the TIP, which will enable them to receive the \$28.8 million loan from US DOT.*

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

The committee was also advised that a packet of nine TIP amendments submitted by NJ Transit was determined to fall within the Memorandum of Understanding for TIP Amendments and will therefore be handled administratively.

4. Ben Ginsberg, DVRPC Work Program Coordinator, presented an update on FY 2002 Planning Work Program Development. At their September 28 workshop, the Board identified four planning priorities as follows: 1) Suburban Sprawl, 2) Older Suburbs and Boroughs, 3) Infrastructure Priorities, and 4) Economic Development. DVRPC's efforts to formulate the FY 2002 Planning Work Program are now underway. Projects. PWP projects must be submitted by October 18th, and Transit Support Program and Supportive Highway Program projects must be submitted by October 27th. The PA and NJ Subcommittees will meet on November 6th to discuss.
5. Jeffrey Butler, DVRPC Regional Planner, presented an overview of the updated Regional Indicators report. This interim report reviewed the status of the twenty six refined indicators selected by the Board in 1999 to measure progress toward the Direction 2020 Plan's established goals. The review showed that 12 show an improving trend, 8 represent a decline in conditions, and 6 show mixed results. These trends identify areas where the region is making progress and areas which require renewed commitments. These indicators will be reviewed again in 2-3 years, depending on the availability of local data.
6. Ronald Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager, Office of Air Quality Planning, presented an update of efforts underway for the Year 2025 Long Range Plan. Lists of projects proposed for the Plan, a Vision for the Plan, Studies for the Plan, and proposed policies for the plan were distributed along with maps showing proposed projects and study locations. Members of the Committee were requested to review and comment on the materials no later than November 14th. These drafts will continue to be worked on by member governments for the next several months.
7. Taghi Ozbeki, DVRPC Database Administrator, and Joseph Fazekas, DVRPC Webmaster, presented an overview of the improvements which allow the public access to GIS maps and DVRPC traffic count data through the DVRPC website. An additional improvement includes a new search feature. Currently, online mapping is being tested and is not yet linked to the site. Information can be found under the Data Services section of the website.

8. John Madera, DVRPC Transportation Planner, gave an update on bicycle planning efforts. A draft of the Strategic Plan for Bicycle Mobility in Southeastern Pennsylvania will be released for comment in the second week of November and will be presented for RTC and Board action next year.
9. Jack Claffey presented the following reports:
  - A schedule of proposed meeting dates for Calendar Year 2001 was distributed. Committee members were asked to comment by the November meeting if any dates need to be changed.
  - The US DOT TCSP application deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup> for FY 2002. Grant awards for FY 2001 have not yet been announced.
  - The local Telework project design team will be meeting in late October or early November to begin work on protocol development and other related activities for the implementation phase of this initiative. The DVRPC region will be one of five demonstration cities.
10. Thomas Walker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Systems/ Corridor Planning, presented the 1997 Travel Simulation for the Delaware Valley. Since 1990 validation , several upgrades have been made to the Model. Because of requirements of ISTEA and TEA-21, the modeling process must test a wider range of planning options than in previous years, including non-motorized travel, and time of day. Enhancements include separate peak and off-peak models, refined speeds and capacities, speed feedback, new bridge and tunnel toll coding, and a toll booth queuing model. Additional model inputs in the near future will include DVRPC screen line, cordon line, home interview, and truck survey data, as well as year 2000 traffic counts, and preparations and underway for including the 2000 census data. The current model is appropriate for use until 2002.
11. Next meeting: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Meeting of October 10, 2000**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Voting Members

PA Department of Transportation  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
PA Governor's Policy Office  
NJ Department of Transportation  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
NJ Department of Community Affairs  
Bucks County  
Chester County  
Delaware County  
Montgomery County  
City of Chester  
Philadelphia Office of Transportation  
Philadelphia City Planning Commission  
Philadelphia Department of Streets  
Burlington County  
Camden County  
Gloucester County  
Mercer County  
City of Camden  
City of Trenton  
Delaware River Port Authority  
New Jersey Transit Corporation  
Southeastern PA Transportation Authority  
Delaware Valley Citizens' Transportation Committee  
DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee

Non-Voting Members Present

New Jersey TMAs  
Pennsylvania TMAs

Guests

Sue McNamara, John Pawson, Regional Citizens Committee  
Alan Maiman, Marianne Stock  
Al Prant, NJ DOT

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan, Greg Brown  
(not represented)  
Greg Brown  
Jerry Mooney  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
David Johnson  
Lee Whitmore  
Michael J. Farrell  
Susan Simpkins  
(not represented)  
Robert Ravelli  
Stephen Bartlett  
Thomas Branigan  
Carol Thomas  
Gail P. Elbert  
Morris Bayer  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
Hoggarth Stephen  
(not represented)  
Kathy Vossough  
Richard Burnfield  
Lorraine Brill  
Dennis Winters

Representative

William Ragozine  
Peter Quinn