

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD MARCH 6, 2001**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Lee Whitmore. The Highlights of the February 12, 2001 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the February 22, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved all TIP actions presented, authorized the release of the Draft 2025 Land Use and Transportation plans for public comment, and also amended the DVRPC Planning Work Program to include the Telework Pilot Project.
3. Judith Barnet, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented three TIP Actions as follows:

NJ 0106: Camden County's request that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding the preliminary engineering phase of the East Atlantic Ave. Bike/Pedestrian Trail project to the TIP at a total cost of \$300,000. The proposed eight to ten foot wide trail will run parallel to a freight rail line and link twelve municipalities from Oaklyn to Clementon, for a distance of about 17 miles.

MOTION 0301-01: Thomas

SECOND:Winters

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ0106, Camden County's request to add the preliminary engineering phase of the East Atlantic Ave. Bike/Pedestrian Trail project to the TIP at a cost of \$300,000.

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

NJ 0107: NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding one new project and adjusting the cost and schedules of two existing projects as follows:

(1) Add Route 195 Eastbound Resurfacing (DB #00334), Mercer County to the TIP, programming \$2 million for construction in FY01 and \$6.2 million for construction in FY02. The project spans from west of Rt. 206 to east of Robbinsville-Allentown Rd. in Hamilton and Washington Townships. This is the companion project to the Rt. 195 Westbound Resurfacing project that was authorized in FY2000. Financial constraint will be maintained in FY01 using funds available from the fiscal constraint bank combined with the right-of-way funds from the Rt. 9 Bridge over Bass River project (DB #077). The right-of-way funds for this project were authorized in FY00. Financial constraint in FY02 will be maintained using funds from the Route 41/42 Freeway project (DB #201). This project will be programmed with state funds instead of federal funds.

(2) Increase the amount programmed in FY01 I-95/Scotch Rd. Interchange (DB #9194), Mercer County from \$10 million to \$16 million. A pump station has been added to the project and

previously unknown utilities were discovered since the original cost estimate was made. Financial constraint will be maintained using funds from the Rt. 29 Boulevard Landscaping project (DB #551A) and the Marlton Circle Elimination project (DB #567), neither of which will be ready to advance in this fiscal year.

(3) Add the \$600,000 preliminary design phase for Rts. 70/73 Marlton Circle Elimination (DB #567), Burlington County back to the TIP in FY2002. Financial constraint will be maintained by deferring the design phase from FY01 to FY03 and the right-of-way phase from FY02 to FY04.

MOTION 0301-02: Mooney

SECOND: Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ0107, NJDOT's request to (1) add the Route 195 Eastbound Resurfacing project to the TIP, programming \$2 million for construction in FY01 and \$6.2 million for construction in FY02, (2) increase the amount programmed for the I-95/Scotch Rd. Interchange from \$10 million to \$16 million, and (3) add back to the TIP the \$600,000 preliminary engineering phase of the Rts. 70/73 Marlton Circle Elimination project.

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

PA 0117: DRPA's request to add TIP project (TIP #0576) back to the current TIP. DRPA has been awarded an ITS Deployment Program earmark for their Smart Bridges project in the amount of \$995,000. This former DRPA will match the earmarked funds in an equal amount, for a total cost of \$1.990 million. The Smart Bridges project will integrate various ITS applications from planning, systems engineering, and operations perspectives to enhance communication and incident response capabilities and support evolving regional and national ITS architecture.

MOTION 0301-03: Shaffer

SECOND: Mooney

That the Board approve TIP Action PA0117, DRPA's request to add the Smart Bridges project back to the TIP at a total cost of \$1.990 million (\$995,000 congressional earmark, \$995,000 DRPA match.)

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

PA 0118: PennDOT's request to amend the TIP by adding the Passyunk Ave. Drawbridge Rehabilitation project. The District Bridge Unit has determined that there are mechanical repairs needed to the hardware that operates the opening of the bridge. The preliminary engineering phase will be programmed in FY01 at a total cost of \$350,000 (\$280,000 federal, \$70,000 state.) The current construction estimate is \$1.7 million and will be shown in ~~ALater~~ Fiscal Years. Financial constraint will be maintained through adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed.

MOTION 0301-04: Bartlett

SECOND: Hannigan

4. Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the FY 2002 TMA Assistance Grant Work Programs and funding increase request. Last fall, the TMAs requested an increase of \$60,000 (\$48,000 CMAQ, \$12,000 local match) in their TMA Assistance Grant funding package. The increase was to be in the form of additional funding for additional work. The Pennsylvania Subcommittee agreed to consider additional work programs, and PennDOT staff agreed to make the extra funding available for these extra work programs and also \$100,000 (\$80,000 CMAQ, \$20,000 local) to fund an additional TMA for Philadelphia if the Subcommittee agreed this was appropriate. Work Programs from the five FY 2000 Grant Awardees as well as one from the newly-formed Central Philadelphia TMA were submitted as of March 1 and are being reviewed by DVRPC, PennDOT, and county planning staffs. The Pennsylvania Subcommittee will make the determination of eligibility and report to the Board.

MOTION 0301-05: Hannigan

SECOND: Burnfield

That the Board amend the FY 2002 Planning Work Program and approve work programs for a total grant of \$160,000 (128,000 CMAQ, \$32,000 local match) to the Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Greater Valley Forge, and Partnership TMAs, and furthermore to approve a \$100,000 grant (\$80,000 CMAQ, \$20,000 local match) to the newly-formed Central Philadelphia TMA for a total program of \$900,000 (\$720,000 CMAQ, \$180,000 local match, and to amend the current TIP to provide for these additional funds, pending approval of the Pennsylvania Subcommittee.

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

5. Richard Bickel, DVRPC Associate Director of Regional Planning, presented an overview of the Job Access and Reverse Commute application process. The Board approved the consistency of the applications received in Pennsylvania with the Job Access and Reverse Commute Plan. Seven applications, totaling 29 projects, were received, and the Board will prioritize them, as applications total \$3.9 million and SEPTA reports approximately \$2.9 million in federal funds will be available, along with a 50% match from the Department of Public Welfare. There is no current funding available in New Jersey, so the seven applications received, totaling 10 projects, will be competing for FY 2002 funds. The review committees will meet on March 16 to make recommendations to the Board.
6. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, and Ken Rimer, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the DVRPC Information System for Transportation Planning. A variety of roadway characteristic and traffic volume data is stored in computer databases at DVRPC for planning purposes. This system allows staff and other users to access this data, for individual roads or bridges as well as county or region-wide data, at computers throughout the Commission. Staff is currently planning to make the

information available on CD ROM for counties=use. Because of data transmission requirements, this information can not currently be accessed through the DVRPC website.

7. Charles Dougherty reported that the NJ Subcommittee is still reviewing the New Jersey Study and Development portion of the Draft TIP, but all other portions are complete and ready to be released for Public Comment. The full Draft should be ready in April for the Board to release it, with expected adoption in July.
8. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported that the Bicycle Committee has met to review and refine the Share the Road Transportation Enhancements project work program. The committee wanted a targeted marketing program for corridors where bicycle improvements are being made - the project would be for outreach in 3 selected corridors. The Committee will meet again on March 13.
9. In an item of New Business, Charles Dougherty presented the following three information items:
 - ! Information on proposed revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding for TIP Amendments has been provided to the Pennsylvania Subcommittee membership. Members were asked to submit comments on the proposal.
 - ! There has been some discussion of the schedules of the CMAQ, TE, and TIP processes. While the TE process is on the same schedule as the TIP, CMAQ is not. Members were asked to comment on if the CMAQ schedule should be changed to match the TIP.
10. In a second item of New Business, Jack Claffey presented a Planning Work Program Amendment to include a Transportation Needs Analysis project for the closing and relocation of PA Route 23 through Valley Forge National Park. DVRPC would hire a consultant for the work and form a steering committee with the National Park Service, Montgomery County, Chester County, PennDOT, and the appropriate townships. The \$150,000 project will be funded through a line item in the TIP. The Pennsylvania Subcommittee was asked to review the work program and make final recommendation to the Board.
11. Next meeting: Monday, April 9. Please note the change in date.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of March 6, 2001
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members

PA Department of Transportation
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Governor's Policy Office
Fullard
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

Pennsylvania TMAs
New Jersey TMAs
FTA Philadelphia Area Metro Office

Guests

Nancy Goldenberg, Center City District
Wayne Faulkner, Vollmer Associates

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown, Le Anne

Jerry Mooney, Al Prant
(not represented)
(not represented)
Lee Whitmore
Tom Shaffer
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Chris Zearfoss
Stephen Bartlett
(not represented)
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Anisah Abiola, Linda Hayes
Kathy Vossough
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Representative

Peter Quinn
Bill Ragozine
Robin Mayhew