

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2001

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the July 9, 2001 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the July 26, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board adopted the FY 2002-2004 TIP for New Jersey and amended the Planning Work Program to include the Valley Forge Area Transportation Study.
3. Judith Barnet, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following five Pennsylvania TIP items:

Action PA0143 - PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend and/or modify the TIP to reflect adjustments in the cost, schedule, or scope of three existing TIP projects and to add one new project: (1) US 30 Restoration (TIP #6803) - Chester County, to increase the cost of the construction phase by \$5.403 million to reflect the low bid and inspection costs. Funding for the construction phase has already been obligated, with an actual let date of June, 2001. This project involves road restoration including drainage improvements, curbing and shoulder reconstruction, milling, repaving, signal modernization, and guide rail improvements from PA 252 to the Delaware County line, as there have been several delays and cost increases; (2) Old West Chester Pike Bridge over Darby Creek, Replacement (TIP #7916) - Delaware County, to add a \$100,000 construction phase to FY01 for bridge removal, as damage from hurricane Floyd caused the structure to become unsafe, necessitating its immediate removal. Preliminary engineering and final design are also programmed in FY01, with right-of-way programmed in FY04, and construction in later fiscal years; (3) Red Hill Rd. Bridge over Branch of Tinicum Creek, Replacement (TIP #5717) - Bucks County, to add a \$200,000 preliminary engineering phase to FY02 to reflect the final negotiated cost for consultant services and to defer the right-of-way phase from FY01 to FY03, and the construction phase from FY03 to later fiscal years; and (4) North Broad St., Avenue of the Arts - New Project - Philadelphia, to add this project to the TIP, programming \$9 million for the construction phase in FY02 (\$5.9 million STU, \$3.1 million local.) This project will extend the Avenue of the Arts from Kennedy Blvd. to Somerset St., a distance of about 2.5 miles. The project scope includes new street lights throughout entire length, updated traffic signals at 22 intersections, streetscape improvements at selected heavy pedestrian locations (subway stops) and new median islands in selected locations.

MOTION 0901-01: Hannigan

SECOND: Branigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0143, PennDOT's request to (1) increase the cost of the construction phase of the US 30 Restoration project by \$5.403 million, (2) add a \$100,000 construction phase to the Old West Chester Pike Bridge project for bridge removal, (3) add a \$200,000 preliminary engineering phase to the Red Hill Rd. Bridge project, and (4)

add the new “North Broad St., Avenue of the Arts” project to the TIP at a cost of \$9 million.

Motion passed. There was one abstention.

Action PA0144 -The Borough of Pottstown’s request that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding the Bus Turn-around Facility project at a total cost of \$220,000. The facility will be constructed in an adjacent township where a segment of the High St. route ends. Currently, the buses turn around by backing into the driveway of a development.

MOTION 0901-02: Burnfield **SECOND:** Bagley

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0144, Pottstown’s request to add the Bus Turn-around Facility project to the TIP at a total cost of \$220,000.

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

Action PA0145 - SEPTA’s request that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding the Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS project at a total cost of \$845,364 (\$397,682 ITS Earmark, \$288,609 FTA, \$145,817 State, \$13,256 local.) This project will equip 24 buses with Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) devices for use on two Center City to King of Prussia bus routes (Routes 124 and 125). In addition, real-time schedule information kiosks will be installed at key passenger waiting areas along these routes.

MOTION 0901-03: Brown **SECOND:** Winters

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0145, SEPTA’s request to add the Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS project to the TIP at a total cost of \$845,364.

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

Action PA0146 - Montgomery County’s request that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding the Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS project at a total cost of \$3.2 million (\$1.6 million ITS Earmark, \$954,437 CMAQ, \$636,292 State.) This project will build on the ITS study currently underway in the Schuylkill Expressway corridor. The project will have several deployment phases, however the initial phases are planning phases. Planning work will include hiring a Design System Integrator to define implementation and operational strategies and develop a comprehensive strategic deployment plan (including costs) for the corridor.

MOTION 0901-04: Bagley **SECOND:** Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0146, Montgomery County’s request to add the Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS project to the TIP at a total cost of \$3.2 million.

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

Action PA0147 - Chester County’s request that DVRPC modify the TIP by adding a \$2.5

million construction phase (\$1.5 million state, \$1 million local) in FY02 for the PA 100 - Road Relocation project (TIP #6907) in the Village of Eagle, Upper Uwchlan Township. The relocated road will be a two lane facility with a center turn lane and will be adaptable for future widening if warranted. All preconstruction work (preliminary engineering, final design, and right-of-way acquisition) will be completed using local funds. It was originally anticipated that this construction phase would be funded 100% locally. However, supplemental funding is needed. PennDOT has approved state funding for this project.

MOTION 0901-05: Whitmore

SECOND: Brown

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0147, Chester County's request to add a \$2.5 million construction phase in FY02 to the PA 100 - Road Relocation project.

Motion passed. There was one abstention.

4. Candace Snyder, DVRPC Public Affairs Officer, presented a summary of the public outreach efforts and comments received to date on the Draft DVRPC Public Participation Plan. The public comment period was opened on July 31, 2001 and will close on September 12, 2001. DVRPC issued over 1500 notices of availability and copies of the plan to interested citizens, committee members, organizations, municipalities, elected officials, and made copies of the Plan available in more than 50 libraries, including the DVRPC library. Notices were sent to all major newspapers, and the Plan was made available on DVRPC's website. In addition, a public meeting is scheduled for September 4. To date three comments have been submitted. Staff plans to address all comments before forwarding the finalized document to the Board for their approval.

MOTION 0901-06: Winters

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board adopt the DVRPC Public Participation Plan as a strategy for citizen involvement and as the Commission's formal statement to the citizens of this region that we intend to deal fairly and equitably with the public.

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

5. Karin Morris, Regional Planner, presented an overview of the Transit Village Design in Burlington County study, a two year effort nearing completion this fall. The study focuses on station area planning and transit-oriented development (TOD) surrounding the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System (SNJLRTS). Seven stations along the 34 mile line connecting Camden to Trenton were studied, and recommendations for one town, Riverside, were presented in detail. Recommendations included new or amended zoning and master plan language, identification of redevelopment areas, and access improvements. Factors influencing TOD, barriers to implementation, and methods to encourage TOD were also summarized.
6. John Griffies DVRPC Contracts Manager and Work Program Coordinator presented the schedule for development of the FY 2003 Planning Work Program. Member governments were sent invitations to submit candidate projects on August 14, and DVRPC Committee

members are also welcome to submit candidates. The first Board Work Program Committee meeting will be held prior to the Board meeting on September 20. The second Work Program Committee meeting will be in mid-October, to vote on new projects and finalize the list, and the third meeting will be held prior to the October 25 Board meeting to approve the finalized list. In November, staff will develop the Draft 2003 Planning Work Program, which the Board is expected to release for comment at their Retreat in December. Final approval and adoption is scheduled for January of 2002.

7. Two Transportation Enhancements Projects status reports were presented as follows:

Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council presented an overview of the Manayunk Travel Awareness Campaign. The project is to develop and distribute an educational outreach program designed to promote a variety of travel options for people living, working, or visiting in Manayunk. The goal is to reduce automobile trips by 5%. To date, the Clean Air Council has conducted a household survey to determine current travel habits, and is working on a multi-media presentation, fact sheets, a workshop series, press releases, and a newsletter. The program was launched on April 19, "Car Free Day" with a complimentary continental breakfast for commuters at the SEPTA R6 Manayunk station.

Marjorie Wuestner of the City of Philadelphia School District presented an overview of the Bicycle Education Enhancement Program (BEEP) underway for middle school and 9th grade students in the District. The program, being conducted in conjunction with the Mayor's Commission for Health and Fitness and the Bicycle Coalition, is to address bicycle safety, facilities, and fitness education for the targeted grades. Components of the program include a safety education program, school mini-grants for purchase of helmets and locks for students who participate, staff development for teachers, and the purchase and installation of racks at selected schools where the program is in place. The program will also provide heart rate monitors to demonstrate the fitness benefit of bicycle riding.

8. The following status reports were presented:

- Jack Claffey reported that Acting New Jersey Governor DiFrancesco has established a Congestion Buster Task Force with the objective of reducing peak hour traffic on New Jersey roadways to 1999 levels as a means of encouraging economic development.
- Jack Claffey advised the Committee that the August 21 letter from John Coscia to Larry King regarding eligible Transit Planning Initiative project work programs has been superceded by a new letter dated August 31, 2001. Upon review, the City of Philadelphia requested that the Center City Public Transit Study be removed and Montgomery County requested that The Transit Improvement Plan project be removed.
- Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, referenced the list of New Jersey Transportation Enhancements projects in the folder.
- Ted Dahlburg, DVRPC Manager, Urban Goods Program, announced that DVRPC will host a national Freight Planning Workshop October 9-11 to address goods movement planning needs. Other MPOs from around the country have been invited to participate.

The workshop will focus on alliances and methods to integrate freight planning into the MPO process. Member governments are invited to attend the Goods Movement Task Force meeting on October 10, which will be part of the workshop.

9. Jack Claffey reported that the next meeting will be held on October 9, 2001 in the Board room of DRPA's offices in Camden. Pennsylvania members are invited to access the meeting via the ferry. A special early departure has been scheduled for 9:30. Participants from New Jersey or those who do not wish to use the ferry may access the building via PATCO and New Jersey Transit, or may drive to the site, where free, secure parking is available. After the meeting DRPA will offer a tour of the Ben Franklin Bridge anchorages. Tour participation is strictly limited and will be by RSVP only. Additional details will be provided with next month's mailed meeting materials.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of September 4, 2001
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

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Jerry Mooney, Al Prant
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lee Whitmore
Tom Shaffer
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Stephen Bartlett
Tom Branigan
Carol Thomas
J. Douglas Griffith
Morris Bayer
Danielle Tucker
(not represented)
Andrew Carten, Melissa Kaplan
Anisah Abiola, Linda Hayes
Kathy Vossough
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Non-Voting Members Present

New Jersey TMAs
Pennsylvania TMAs
Federal Transit Administration
South Jersey Port Corporation

Representative

William Ragozine
Peter Quinn
Janet Kampf
Hank D'Andrea

Guests

Michelle Smith, City of Philadelphia Streets Department
Brian Cuccia, NJ DOT
Marjorie Wuestner, City of Philadelphia School District
Joel Graeff, Volmer Associates