

**Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 9, 2001**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the September 4, 2001 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the September 20, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved all five TIP actions presented, and also approved the new Public Participation Plan as well as the Planning Work Program amendments presented.
3. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning presented the following TIP actions:

Action PA0148 - Chester County's request to reinstate the Exton Community Circulator project (TIP # 6871) by adding a total cost of \$500,000 for two additional years of operation of the West Whiteland "Whirl" bus service. Ridership has exceeded initial expectations and the county would like to continue the service for the additional two years permitted under CMAQ funding. Funds would be drawn from the competitive set-aside program.

**MOTION:** Brill

**SECOND:** Whitmore

*That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0148, Chester County's request to amend the TIP by adding back the implementation phase of the Exton Community Circulator project (TIP #6871) at a total cost of \$500,000 (\$400,000 CMAQ, \$100,000 local) in FY02 for two additional years of operation of the "Whirl" bus route.*

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

Action PA0149 - The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's request to add the preliminary engineering phase of the widening project from Downingtown to Valley Forge to the TIP. The project includes slip ramp projects, which will need local official approvals. The Turnpike Commission will supply all necessary funding.

**MOTION:** Whitmore

**SECOND:** Winters

*To Table the request in order to give the Chester County Planning Commission the opportunity to review the request with the Turnpike Commission.*

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

4. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Director, Transportation Planning, announced the schedule for the Transit Support Program (TSP) and the Supportive Regional Highway Program

(SRHP). Projects for the Special Studies components of both programs are due to DVRPC by October 23. The New Jersey Subcommittee will meet on November 9 at 2:00 at DVRPC to discuss and prioritize the New Jersey submissions, and the Pennsylvania Subcommittee will meet after the RTC meeting on November 13 to discuss Pennsylvania submissions. Staff will update core programs and present them at the meetings. Funding allocations, which are expected to be about the same as last year, will also be discussed.

Jack Claffey presented lists of potential new DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program (PWP) projects for discussion. The RTC was asked to recommend two of the projects to be submitted as candidates. The RTC selected a Bicycle and Pedestrian project, which would be a combination of work efforts in the three bicycle projects listed, and also a Safety and Mobility Program for corridor studies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Board Work Program Committee will meet on October 19 to discuss and prioritize the projects.

5. Stacy Bartels, DVRPC Marketing Manager, presented an overview of the ecommute Program to enlist southeastern PA companies in a program whereby emissions credits can be earned through a telework program for employees. Credits are based on the auto emissions saved by single occupant vehicle drivers who become telecommuters as a result of the program. They can later be traded or sold to companies who need the credits to offset exceedances, or donated to environmental organizations so that they can be retired. A value for credits has not been established.

The program is being administered nationally by the National Environmental Policy Initiative (NEPI), and Philadelphia is one of five pilot cities. DVRPC is working with the five suburban Pennsylvania TMAs to solicit participants for the pilot program.

6. Richard Bickel, Associate Director, Regional Planning Division, presented DVRPC's Environmental Justice strategy. The Strategy was developed in response to guidance from US DOT related to the MPO certification process and is in furtherance to DVRPC's ongoing public information and involvement activities. Its purpose is to mitigate potential impacts of plans, programs, and the planning process on defined minorities, handicapped, and lower income populations in the region. The Strategy evaluated the impacts of DVRPC's year 2025 long range plan and TIP on these groups found them to be sensitive to environmental justice concerns and to provide predominant geographic coverage of such areas. The Strategy recommends an ongoing pledge of action to accommodate the region's diverse needs.
7. Gerry Savidge, the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System's Director of Community Relations, presented an overview of construction activities. A significant amount of work is ongoing in the City of Camden because of the need to relocate utilities. Work is being undertaken at the same time in communities north of Camden to build stations and rehabilitate existing track. Although current plans call for termination of the line at the Trenton Amtrak/NJ Transit station, there are discussion underway for an extension to the Capitol Complex. Construction is on schedule.
8. Don Shanis reported that five 2025 Public Meetings are planned: October 10 in Camden, October 17 in Bordentown, October 23 in Philadelphia near the airport, November 7 in Valley Forge, and November 14 in Trevoise.
9. Next meeting November 13, 2001.

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Meeting of October 9, 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

Non-Voting Members Present

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

Guests

Brian Cuccia, NJ DOT  
Walter Green, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission  
Alex Dambach, Beth Waltrip, NJ Transit  
Gerry Savidge, SNJLRTS  
Thomas R. Hickey, PATCO  
Howard Rosen, ALK Technologies

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan  
(not represented)  
Greg Brown  
Jerry Mooney, Al Prant  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
Lee Whitmore  
(not represented)  
Leo Bagley  
(not represented)  
Robert Ravelli  
Debbie Schaaf  
Tom Branigan, Michelle Smith  
Carol Thomas  
J. Douglas Griffith, Gail Elbert  
Charles Romick  
Danielle Tucker  
Robert Wisniewski  
(not represented)  
Linda Hayes  
Brent Barnes  
Richard Burnfield  
Lorraine Brill  
Dennis Winters

Representative

William Ragozine  
Peter Quinn  
Gail McFadden-Roberts  
Hank D'Andrea