

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD JANUARY 8, 2002**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the November 13, 2001 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the December 5, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved the TIP action presented, and the Draft FY 2003 Work Program was released for public comment.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker-Shepherd, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

Action PA0153 - PennDOT's request to amend and/or modify the 2001-2004 TIP for PA to reflect adjustments in cost, schedule, or scope of the following three existing TIP projects:

1) Route 202 (Section 701) PA 63 to Route 309 (TIP #8729) - Montgomery County: Add a \$10 million right of way phase to FY02 and decrease the FY03 construction phase by the same amount; 2) Route 202 (Section 700), 202 Bypass to PA Route 63 (TIP #5354A) - Bucks County: Increase the total cost of the project by adding a \$7.448 million preliminary design phase to FY 02 for design management services; and 3), Route 202 (Section 402), (TIP #6799) - Chester County: Increase the FY02 construction phase by \$3 million in order to build three additional noise walls within section 406, and acknowledge change to project description to include section 406.

MOTION 010201: Whitmore

SECOND: Johnson

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0153, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA to add a \$10 million right of way phase to FY02 and decrease the FY03 construction phase by the same amount to Route 202 (Section 701) (TIP #8729) - Montgomery County, increase the total cost of Route 202 (Section 700), (TIP #5354A) - Bucks County by adding a \$7.448 million preliminary design phase to FY 02 for design management services, and increase the FY02 construction phase of Route 202 (Section 402), (TIP #6799) - Chester County by \$3 million and acknowledge change to project description to include section 406 .

Motion passed. Three votes were cast against the motion. There was one abstention.

Action PA0154 - The City of Philadelphia's request that DVRPC amend and/or modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA to reflect adjustments in cost, schedule, or scope of three existing projects: 1) Increase FY03 construction phase by adding \$4.6 million to the Market Street Signal and Pedestrian Initiatives (TIP #9625) - Philadelphia County by transferring funds TIP #9766 and #9767 and "flexing" the FHWA construction funding to the FTA for SEPTA to manage; 2) Move \$2.35 million of available DEMO funds (\$3.75 million originally

earmarked for this project) to TIP project #9625-46th/Market Transportation System #9766) - Philadelphia County in order to advance street scape work with SEPTA's Elevated Reconstruction Project, while leaving \$1.4 million for engineering and construction in FY03, and 3) Move \$2.25 million of available DEMO funds (\$3.75 million originally earmarked for this project) to TIP project #9625, 52nd/Lancaster Ave. Enhancements (TIP #9767) - Philadelphia County in order to advance street scape work with SEPTA's Elevated Reconstruction Project, while leaving \$1.5 million for engineering and construction in FY03.

MOTION 010202: Winters

SECOND: Brill

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0154, The City of Philadelphia's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA to 1) To increase the FY03 construction phase of the Market Street Signal and Pedestrian Initiatives (TIP #9625) - Philadelphia County by adding \$4.6 million transferred from TIP #9766 and #9767 and "flex" the FHWA construction funding to the FTA for SEPTA to manage; 2) Move \$2.35 million of \$3.75 million DEMO funds originally earmarked for the 46th/Market Transportation System (TIP #9766) - Philadelphia to TIP project #9625, leaving \$1.4 million for engineering and construction in FY03; and, 3) Move \$2.25 million of available DEMO funds of the \$3.75 million originally earmarked for the 52nd/Lancaster Ave. Enhancements project (TIP #9767) - Philadelphia County to TIP project #9625, leaving \$1.5 million for engineering and construction in FY03.

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

Action PA 0156 - PennDOT's request to amend and/or modify the 2001-2004 TIP for PA to reflect adjustments in cost, schedule, or scope of three existing TIP projects:

1) A Route 41, ITS Enforcement Initiative (TIP #6963), Chester County- PennDOT requests that TIP #6963 be split into two separate projects:

1-A: Add an \$84,000 Preliminary Engineering Phase to (TIP # 6963) PA Route 41 ITS Enforcement Initiative, for pull off and check point areas to improve safety through better traffic monitoring and enforcement, particularly for heavy truck traffic through this area, in FY02 as increased coordination is required between State and Federal departments in order to develop an RFP for the Technology Deployment. Further, the FY02 construction funding would be changed from 100% federal funding to an 80/20 split using ITS set aside state funding as match; and

1-B: Add a 1.5 million FY02 construction phase to (TIP # 6963A) Route 41 ITS Technology Deployment, including the purchase and installation of equipment such as an advisory radio system, and devices for speed and traffic signal enforcement;

2) Increase the Preliminary Design phase US Route 422, Section M01 Chester County Line to Park Road (TIP # 8767) -Montgomery County, in FY02 by \$550,000 to allow for the expansion in project scope; and,

3) Add an \$880,000 Preliminary Design phase in FY02 to US Route 422, Section M02 Berks County to Schuylkill River (TIP # 6920) - Chester County allow for the expansion in project scope.

MOTION 010203: Whitmore

SECOND: Winters

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0156, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA to reflect adjustments in cost, schedule, or scope of the following three

existing projects:

1. *PA Route 41, ITS Enforcement Initiative (TIP # 6963) - Chester County That TIP #6963 be split into two separate projects with funding increases as follows: A. (TIP # 6963) PA Route 41, ITS Enforcement Initiative - Chester County Increase the FY02 Preliminary Engineering Phase by \$84,000. Further, change the FY02 construction funding from 100% federal funding to an 80/20 split using ITS set aside state funding as match, and B. (TIP # 6963A) PA Route 41, ITS Technology Deployment - Chester County Add this project to the PA 2001-2004 TIP with a \$1.5 million construction phase in FY02;*
2. *Increase the Preliminary Design phase of US Route 422, Section M01 (TIP # 8767) - Montgomery County in FY02 by \$550,000; and,*
3. *Add an \$880,000 Preliminary Design phase to US Route 422, Section M02 (TIP # 6920) - Chester County in FY02.*

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

4. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, presented a City of Philadelphia request to change the Pennsylvania Functional Classification System of four (4) roadways, as follows: Add to Urban Collectors, formerly local roadways Swanson Street: Snyder Avenue to Oregon Avenue - 0.53 mile, Water Street: Reed Street to Snyder Avenue - 0.57 mile, and Reed Street: Front Street to Columbus Boulevard - 0.11 mile, while at the same time deleting from Urban Collector status, returning to Local Roads Randolph Street: Oregon Avenue to Walt Whitman Bridge on-ramp, south of Bigler Street - 0.25 mile. This segment no longer connects to a bridge on-ramp and serves solely as a local street.

Staff has reviewed the request and found it to be consistent with the federal Functional Classification System and its continuity. The additions provide a northbound component to Front Street, which is one-way southbound throughout most of the area. This “couple” additionally provides distribution service for local traffic between the I-95 interchanges at Oregon Avenue and Washington Avenue, either end of the corridor.

MOTION 010204: Branigan

SECOND: Ravelli

That the Board approve the following changes to the functional classification system in Philadelphia: From Local to Urban Collector: Swanson Street from Snyder Avenue to Oregon Avenue; Water Street from Reed Street to Snyder Avenue; Reed Street from Front Street to Columbus Boulevard; and, From Urban Collector to Local: Randolph Street from Oregon Avenue to the Walt Whitman Bridge on-ramp, south of Bigler Street.

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

5. Charles Dougherty presented the PennDOT request to change the Pennsylvania Functional Classification of the proposed Sumneytown Pike/ PA 309 Connector, located in Lower Salford, Towamencin, Hatfield, and Franconia Townships in Montgomery County and Hilltown Township in Bucks County. This project will provide a continuous east-west connector on partial new alignment between Sumneytown Pike (Route 63) and PA Route 309, generally by connecting existing Wambold Road (Urban Collector) to existing Township Line Road (part Local, part Urban Collector) with a new connection to Route 309

(existing ramp is Rural Minor Arterial). The proposed facility will connect an Urban Principal Arterial (Sumneytown Pike) with both an Urban Minor Arterial (Bethlehem Pike) and a Rural Principal Arterial (Route 309). PennDOT recommends the proposed facility (SR 1058, length 4.8 miles) be classified an Urban Minor Arterial.

Staff has reviewed the request and found it to be consistent with the federal Functional Classification System and its continuity.

MOTION 010205: Bagley

SECOND: Johnson

That the Board approve the functional classification of the Sumneytown Pike/ PA 309 Connector (SR 0158) in Bucks and Montgomery counties as an Urban Minor Arterial.

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

6. John Griffies, DVRPC Contracts Officer, presented the Draft FY 2003 Planning Work Program for approval. It was released by the Board in December for a 30-day public comment period which is nearing completion. All comments received before the close of the period will be addressed; comments which are received after the close can be resolved, if necessary, through amendments to the work programs in question. The approved document must be submitted to FTA by March 1, 2002. Adoption of this document includes TIP actions to fund the Central New Jersey Forum project and the Route 45 Corridor study.

MOTION 010206: Hannigan

SECOND: Cuccia

That the Board adopt the FY 2003 Planning Work Program, authorize the Executive Director to submit applications and documentation as may be required to fund the program, and enter into, negotiate, and execute all required contracts and agreements and to amend the TIP to provide funds for Central New Jersey Forum and Route 45 corridor.

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

7. Laurie Matkowski, DVRPC Transportation Planner and Stanley Platt, DVRPC Manager of Congestion Management Programs presented an overview of the City of Chester Access Plan. Based on plans for upcoming development of a major brownfields site, access issues for Chester City were examined in order to give better truck access to the site while minimizing impacts of this traffic on surrounding residential uses. Recommendations included designation of specific truck routes, better signage on I-95 northbound south of Chester City, corridor improvements to make traffic flow more efficient, and increased access to and from the Commodore Barry Bridge.
8. Robert Dean, DVRPC Regional Planner, presented an overview of the Route 202 Section 100 Land Use and Access Management Plan. Using the premise that multiple access points add to congestion issues in this corridor, DVRPC examined four areas and developed conceptual plans for managing the number of driveways as a land use policy which promotes improved traffic flow. The study was conducted in conjunction with the EIS process now underway to study the widening of this corridor.

9. Status Reports. The following status reports were presented:
 - ! Charles Dougherty reported that the NJ TIP development process is underway for the preliminary Study and Development portion. Also, the Pennsylvania Subcommittee will meet after the RTC to discuss FY 03 TIP development. A preliminary draft list of candidate projects is available.
 - ! Jack Claffey reported that New Jersey Transportation Enhancements project applications are due February 28. The Pennsylvania evaluation is currently underway. The Pennsylvania Subcommittee will meet on January 16th to refine scores.
10. Pat Imperato and Lynn McConville of the Pennsylvania Resources Council presented an overview of their project Protecting Pennsylvania's Aesthetic and Scenic Values by Controlling Outdoor Advertising. The project examined outdoor advertising signs in the five county area and inventoried illegal and non-conforming signs. The next step in the process is to develop a manual for the public to use in regulating outdoor advertising in their communities. A model ordinance will also be developed. As part of their overall mission, the PRC works with communities to control their outdoor advertising signs as a way to reduce blight and encourage community pride.
11. Next meeting: February 5, 2002. Please note this is a change from the originally scheduled date.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of January 8, 2002
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, Le Anne Fullard
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lee Whitmore
Tom Shaffer
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Deborah Schaaf
Tom Branigan, Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Linda Hayes
Kathy Vossough
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Non-Voting Members Present

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

Representative

Peter Quinn
William Ragozine
Keith Lynch, Janet Kampf
Hank D'Andrea

Guests

Pat Imperato, Lynn McConville - Pennsylvania Resources Council
Tanya Seaman - Central Philadelphia TMA
Warren Strumpf - Regional Citizens Committee
Walter Green - Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Ken Edmonds - East Coast Greenway
Roger Sager - Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
John H. Smith - Schoor - DePalma Engineers