

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 5, 2002**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the January 8, 2002 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the January 24, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved the TIP actions presented and also approved the FY 2003 Work Program. The FTA approved the preliminary engineering of the Schuylkill Valley Metro and noted the federal share would not exceed 60%. The Draft EIS for this project is currently in the comment phase.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker-Shepherd, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

Action PA0157

A: Germantown Avenue Bridge (TIP #9308) - Philadelphia County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2001-2004 TIP for PA. The request is to increase the total cost of the project by adding \$3.625 million (\$3.44 million Fed/State and \$176,000 local match) to the FY02 construction phase. The cost estimate has increased due to scope changes requiring additional structure and approach roadway work combined with the delay in the construction schedule. Scope changes include measures to calm traffic, more extensive roadway resurfacing and striping than originally planned, several aesthetic additions (including an on-bridge pedestrian plaza area), new lighting and related measures. These changes were added due to concerns of the surrounding community. Further, there is additional work required to ease the construction process, including utility work and mitigation for the long detour. Three traffic signals will be upgraded and new striping patterns will be installed on the detour routes.

B: Ogontz Avenue Signal Improvement (TIP #9735) - Philadelphia County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2001-2004 TIP for PA. The request is to increase the total cost of the project by adding \$1.95 million (\$1.56 million CMAQ, \$390,000 local) to the FY02 construction phase. The project has grown to include street lighting modernization, as requested by elected officials and community groups. Additionally, the project, which as originally scoped included signal modernization at 29 intersections, has expanded to include additional channelization islands and other pedestrian safety/traffic calming measures. Also beyond the original scope is the complete realignment of 7 intersections which have multiple legs and odd-angle approaches for the purposes of more efficient/safe traffic flow and better-defined pedestrian paths.

MOTION 020201: Hannigan

SECOND: Ravelli

That the Board approve Action PA 0157a, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding \$3.625 million (\$2.9 million Bridge, \$544,000 State, \$176,000 local) to

the FY02 construction phase of the Germantown Avenue Bridge project (TIP #9308), and TIP Action PA 0157b, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding \$1.95 million (\$1.56 million CMAQ, \$390,000 Local) to the FY02 construction phase of the Ogontz Avenue Signal Improvement project (TIP # 9735).

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

Action PA0158 - Delaware County's request that DVRPC amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project to the TIP in FY02, consisting of a \$185,000 FY02 Engineering Phase and a \$935,000 FY02 Construction phase for Central Business District traffic improvements to Chester City. The project includes improvements for traffic circulation based on a traffic circulation study, in addition to pedestrian safety elements including signals, crosswalks, and better signage. The City has requested a Public Infrastructure Bank (PIB) Loan in the amount of \$1,120,000 to fund engineering and construction costs in FY02.

MOTION 020202:Shaffer

SECOND: Winters

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0158, Delaware County's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project to the TIP: the Chester City Central Business District Improvements project (TIP #7919). This project would be programmed with \$185,000 for engineering in FY02 and \$935,000 for construction in FY02. The source of the \$1,120,000 would be a Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) Loan.

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

Action NJ 0204

- A. Bus Acquisition Program (DB #T111) - NJ TRANSIT's request that DB #T111 be increased by \$12.63 million dollars in order to purchase 85 articulated and 116 cruiser buses. The articulated buses which are 60 feet long and include an "accordion," or bendable section in the middle, can carry 59 seated passengers and additional standees. The new buses will be used to replace existing articulated buses that were bought by NJ TRANSIT in 1985 and have exceeded their recommended 12-year useful life. The additional funding enables NJ TRANSIT to purchase vehicles (instead of leasing) and allows for more flexibility for meeting travel demands, particularly in light of September 11 events and the need to access New York City.

- B. Rail Rolling Stock Procurement (DB #T112) - NJ TRANSIT's request that program funding be increased in FY 02 by \$6.93 million for the purchase of 5 electric locomotives and 33 diesel locomotives. NJ TRANSIT has been involved in an aggressive campaign to address capacity issues. A significant component of that effort is the purchase of equipment to enhance and replace aging equipment. The additional funding enables NJ TRANSIT to purchase rolling stock (instead of leasing) and allows for more flexibility for meeting travel demands, particularly in light of September 11 events and the need to access New York City.

MOTION 020203:Burnfield

SECOND:Cuccia

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0204a, NJ TRANSIT's request to modify the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding \$12.63 million to the FY02 phase of the Bus Acquisition Program project (DB #T111). The cost increase will be funded by a combination of an increase in allocated Section 5307 funds (\$2.18 million), State Transportation Trust Funds (TTF)(\$6.89 million), and potential emergency funding provided to the state to accommodate post-September 11th impacts through FEMA and/or the Defense Appropriations Bill (\$3.56 million.), and that the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0204b, NJ TRANSIT's request to modify the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding \$6.93 million to the FY02 phase of the Rail Rolling Stock Procurement project (DB #T112). The cost increase will be funded by a combination of an increase in allocated Section 5309 funds (\$1 million), State Transportation Trust Funds (TTF)(\$2.57 million), and other non-federal funds (Certificates of Participation-COPs) (\$3.36 million.).

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

Action NJ 0205

- A. Gloucester County Trails Project (DB #D0106) - NJDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2002-2004 New Jersey TIP by adding a 2001 Transition Project back into the TIP. The request is to program the design phase of the Gloucester County Trails Project at a total cost of \$150,000 in FY02. The sixty day transition period expired while the county was waiting for state and federal authorization. This project is a multi-purpose trail along the abandoned Williamstown Branch of the Pennsylvania - Reading Seashore Line, which is located in Monroe Township and Glassboro. The trail will also provide linkages with the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area, Scotland Run Park, the Monroe Township Bike Path, and the Clayton Trails Bike Path. The \$500,000 construction phase will be funded through the State's Local Aid Bikeway Program.

- B. Route 30/73 Berlin Circle (DB #93109) - NJDOT's request DVRPC amend the FY2002-2004 New Jersey TIP by increasing the FY02 design phase by \$1.944 million due to a low and outdated original estimate. The project will eliminate the Berlin Circle and make other area improvements.

- C. Route 30 Section 17 (DB #X223) - NJDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2002-2004 New Jersey TIP by deleting a project from the TIP. DVRPC is doing a corridor study in this area of Route 30 and the community involved advocated holding off on advancing the Section 17 project until the study is further along.

MOTION 020204: Bayer

SECOND: Cuccia

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0205a, NJDOT's request to amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding back into the TIP the Gloucester County Trails project (DB #D0106) with a design phase of \$150,000 (STU) in FY02; that the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0205b, NJDOT's request to modify the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding \$1.944 million to the FY02 design phase for the Route 30/73 Berlin Circle project (DB #93109); and that the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0205c, NJDOT's request to amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by deleting the Route 30 (Section 17) Rehabilitation/Reconstruction project (DB #X223).

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

Action NJ 0206

- A. Central Jersey Transportation Forum (DB #02391) - DVRPC's request to amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding a new project, the Central Jersey Transportation Forum (DB #02391), with \$90,000 (STU) in FY02 as part of the DVRPC 2003 Work Program. The mission of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum is to develop a consensus for the appropriate planning strategies which will address critical issues and maintain consistency with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The study area covers 16 municipalities in Middlesex, Somerset and Mercer counties with an extended study area including selected adjoining municipalities. NJDOT will provide consultant services to conduct the primary technical aspects of the study, while DVRPC will provide technical support and coordinate Forum participation. This Work Program project previously had been funded with Metro Planning funds.
- B. Route 45 Corridor Study (#02384) - DVRPC's request to amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding a new project, the Route 45 Corridor Study (DB #02384), with \$90,000 (STU) in FY02 as part of the DVRPC 2003 Work Program. The corridor extends from Kings Highway (CR 551) in Woodbury to US 322 in Harrison in Gloucester County. The goal of the study is to enhance this corridor as a major transportation artery and economic center in the county, thereby discouraging the continuing trend of sprawl. The study area includes 6 municipalities: Woodbury, Woodbury Heights, Deptford, West Deptford, Mantua and Harrison. NJ 45 transitions from a four lane roadway to a four lane divided highway requiring the use of jughandles to accommodate left turns to one lane in each direction. This will be a typical DVRPC corridor study working with a study task force comprised of the County Planning Department, County Economic Development Office, the six municipalities, NJDOT, and NJ Transit, that will produce a set of transportation improvements and potential land use and economic development strategies for the corridor.

MOTION 020205: Bayer

SECOND: Cuccia

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0206a, DVRPC's request to amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding a new project, the Central Jersey Transportation Forum (DB #02391), with \$90,000 (STU) in FY02 as part of the DVRPC 2003 Work Program, and that the Board approve TIP Action NJ 0206b, DVRPC's request to amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding a new project, the Route 45 Corridor Study (DB# 02384), with \$90,000 (STU) in FY02 as part of the DVRPC 2003 Work Program.

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

- 4. Jack Claffey presented an update of the Transportation Enhancements program statewide project competition. The Transportation Enhancements subcommittee met and developed a list of projects in priority order that are recommended for this round of funding. The process is different this year - in previous years there was a statewide committee which determined all projects. Now each region is responsible for making it's own recommendations according to an assigned budget. The Secretary of Transportation retains funding for projects entered in a statewide competition to be funded at his discretion. The current recommend projects were

ranked according to applicant responses to a set of questions. In addition, two projects were submitted to Harrisburg for consideration by the Secretary of Transportation for discretionary funding.

MOTION 020206: Whitmore

SECOND: Burnfield

That the Board approve the list of recommended Pennsylvania TE projects, and direct staff to forward the list to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation, that the Board also ask that the Secretary consider the list of projects for the Secretary's discretionary funding, in the priority in which they are noted, and lastly, that the Board recommend that construction of the Butler Pike project (#42) be given top priority among projects submitted for the next round of TE funding.

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

5. Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, presented the Transportation Community Development Initiative (TCDI), an effort which grew out of the Long Range Plan. This program provides an opportunity to invest in planning, land use, and re-use and revitalization projects. Currently, there are 78 municipalities in the region which meet the guidelines for revitalization areas, along with 5 of the 12 city planning areas designated by the City Planning Commission. There is currently \$1 million federal funding available in Pennsylvania and \$500,000 in New Jersey. Projects submitted must cost \$100,000 or less. A 20% match is required. Projects will be solicited in late February and will be due back for review in early April. Board approval is expected in May.

MOTION 020207: Whitmore

SECOND: Winters

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0159 and TIP Action NJ 0207, DVRPC's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA and the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by adding a new project in each TIP, the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI). In Pennsylvania, TCDI (TIP #0597) would include \$1.25 million (\$1 million STU, \$250,000 Local match) in FY02 for project funding. In New Jersey, TCDI (DB #D0204) would include \$500,000 (\$400,000 STU, \$100,000 Local match) in FY02 for project funding and \$50,000 (STU) in FY02 for program administration.

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

6. Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the PennDOT Transportation Management Association Assistance Grant and Mobility Alternatives Program applications for FY 2003. For the Assistance Grants, each TMA may apply for up to \$160,000. Applications were submitted by the TMAs of Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties, as well as the Greater Valley Forge, Partnership, and Central Philadelphia TMAs. Work programs were prepared with the concurrence of their respective member governments. Performance reports will be based on an end of year "report card" to determine level of fulfillment of contract activities. Total budget for this program is \$960,000. There is a 20% match required.

MOTION 010208:Winters

SECOND:Hannigan

That the Board endorse and forward to PennDOT for their approval the FY 2003 Transportation Management Assistance Grant applications for a program total of \$960,000 (\$768,000 CMAQ, \$192,000 Contractor Match).

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

The Mobility Alternatives Program work programs and budgets are unchanged from last year. Applications were submitted by the TMAs of Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties, as well as the Greater Valley Forge and Partnership TMAs, for \$67,450. The City of Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation requested \$77,750 and SEPTA applied for \$150,000. DVRPC is also included in this work program for Share-A-Ride and MAP marketing and administration. The total program budget is \$816,000 and requires a 20% match.

MOTION 020209: Ravelli

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board endorse and forward to PennDOT for their approval the FY 2003 Mobility Alternatives Program for a program total of \$816,000 (\$652,800 CMAQ, \$163,200 Contractor Match).

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

7. Barry Seymour presented revised 2025 population forecasts. Based on more detailed analysis of Year 2000 census data, certain adjustments were made to regional and municipal population forecasts. Upon adoption, this amended data will now be used in all DVRPC transportation and regional planning activities.

MOTION 020210: Bagley

SECOND: Elbert

That the Board approve the various changes in the 2025 population forecasts at the municipal, county, and regional levels as recommended by staff.

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

8. Richard Bickel, DVRPC Associate Director of Regional Planning presented a schedule for FTA applications for the FY 2002/03 Job Access and Reverse Commute program. The project application timeline has been revised. Staff will review applications and submit to a Board Committee, appointed for this purpose, for review and ranking, and the process will be completed by the March Board meeting. DVRPC staff is facilitating the FTA application process.
9. Michael Ontko, DVRPC Deputy Director, Regional Planning Division, presented an update on the FY 2000 digital orthography program. The aerial photos are now complete and all counties have received their CDs. DVRPC is now developing a pricing policy, disclaimer, and member government policy on redistribution of images. Custom digital files will be available soon, and printed copies will be available from DVRPC. A class is scheduled for February 20th to train member government staffs in the use of the imagery.

10. The Following Status reports were presented:

- ! Theodore Dahlburg, DVRPC Urban Goods Program Manager, reported that DVRPC will host the Joint Rail and Freight Seminar on May 8-10. This multi-day conference will highlight and allow members of the Pennsylvania freight community to learn about the region's freight infrastructure.

- ! Donald Shanis, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported on the Valley Forge Park Area Transportation Study. The study will examine traffic and travel patterns within Valley Forge National Park to try and determine the optimal use of transportation resources. Members of the National Park Service, PennDOT, DVRPC as well as respective member governments are working to develop an MOU to work together.

11. Next Meeting is March 12, 2002.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting of February 5, 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

Non-Voting Members Present

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

Guests

Lynn Kirshenbaum, HUD
Nancy Goldenberg- Central Philadelphia TMA
Peggy Dawson Schmidt, Partnership TMA
Cecile Charlton, Delaware County TMA
Steve Noll, Bucks County TMA
Mark Cassel -TMA of Chester County
Ken Edmonds - East Coast Greenway

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
Jim Resta
Robert Ravelli
Deborah Schaaf
Michelle Smith, Tom Branigan
Carol Thomas
Gail Elbert
Morris Bayer
Danielle Tucker
(not represented)
Melissa Kaplan
Linda Hayes
Kathy Vossough
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Representative
Peter Quinn

William Ragozine
Keith Lynch
Hank D'Andrea