

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MARCH 12, 2002

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the February 5, 2002 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the February 28, 2002 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved the TIP actions presented and also approved the transportation Enhancements Program, the Mobility Alternatives and TMA Assistance Grant Programs, and the revised 2025 population and employment forecasts.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker-Shepherd, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

TIP Action PA 0161A - Control Center Centralization (TIP #S105): SEPTA's request that DVRPC amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project in FY02 for the completion of SEPTA's Control Center Centralization Program using \$3 million federal 5307 in FY02 combined with \$667,000 State T-Bond funds and a \$333,000 local match, totaling \$4 million in FY 02. The objective of this project is to relocate and consolidate the surface, subway/light rail and regional rail control centers within the 19th floor control center complex at 1234 Market Street. This project includes a communications and computer room with integrated communications capability, standardization and upgrading of equipment and reporting systems, and make ready construction for future tie-ins of planned communications and traffic control projects, such as audio/visual public address systems, closed circuit TV systems and automatic vehicle locator systems.

TIP Action PA 0161B - Automatic Vehicle Locator for Paratransit (TIP #S106): SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project in FY02 for \$1.033 million from a federal ITS earmark combined with an equal local match, totaling \$2.066 million.. This project provides for the installation of automatic vehicle locator devices, using Global Positioning Satellite technology, on SEPTA's Paratransit vehicles. The system does not currently have the efficient capability to locate vehicles that are misdirected, stuck in traffic or have broken down, which impacts service efficiency and reliability for SEPTA customers. The vehicle locator devices will interface with the existing system and will improve operations by transmitting the exact location of in-service Paratransit vehicles. This will provide real-time information to the control center for quick response to any service disruption.

TIP Action PA 0161C - Regional Rail Car Acquisition (TIP #S096): SEPTA's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by increasing the FY02 capital phase of this

project by \$18.750 million (\$15 million Section 5309/\$3.125 million T-STA Bond/\$625,000 Local Match) to provide for the acquisition of 100 new commuter rail cars for SEPTA Railroad Division service. These new electric multiple-unit (EMU) cars will serve to replace the existing Silverliner II and III rail cars, which are currently 34 to 38 years old and will provide additional cars to supplement the Railroad Division car fleet in response to current and projected ridership increases. The increase will allow for initial progress payments to the contractor for specific milestones in the contract.

TIP Action PA 0161D - Underground Storage Tank Removal (TIP #S107): SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding the underground Storage Tank Removal/Modification Project for a total of \$625,000 (\$500,000 Federal 5307/\$104,000 T-Bond/ \$21,000 Local Match) in FY02. It is designed to bring SEPTA's underground storage tanks into compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations concern leak control and spill control governing underground storage tank installation and their associated piping. Two locations will be addressed under this project in FY02: the removal and disposal of tanks located on the right of way along the R7 Chestnut Hill East Regional Rail Line and the removal and disposal of tanks at the Route 100 Bryn Mawr Station.

TIP Action PA 0161E -Bucks County TMA Capital Improvement (TIP #S108): SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project, on behalf of Bucks County, for a \$124,000 earmark (\$99,000 DEMO/\$25,000 local match) for the Bucks County Transportation Management Association for the purchase of four vehicles and associated capital costs for shuttle operations managed by the TMA.

MOTION 030201: Bagley

SECOND:Winters

That the Board approve TIP Actions PA0161A through E, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2001-2001 TIP for Pennsylvania to include five projects: PA0161A: to add \$4 million (\$3 million federal 5307/\$667,000 State T-Bond/\$333,000 local) to the TIP in the capital phase of FY02 Control Center Centralization Project (TIP # S105); PA0161B: to program \$2.066 million (\$1.033 million federal ITS earmark/\$1.033 million local) in the capital phase of FY02 Automatic Vehicle Locator for Paratransit Vehicles (TIP #S106); PA0161C: to add \$18.750 million (\$15 million Section 5309/\$3.125 million T-STA Bond/\$625,000 local) to the FY02 capital phase of Regional Rail Car Acquisition (TIP #S096); PA0161D: to program \$625,000 (\$500,000 federal 5307/\$104,000 T-Bond/\$21,000 local) in an FY02 construction phase Underground Storage Tank Removal Project (TIP #S107); and, PA0161E: Bucks County TMA Capital Improvement Project (TIP S108)to, on behalf of Bucks County, program a \$124,000 earmark (\$99,000 DEMO/\$25,000 local) for the Bucks County Transportation Management Association in the purchase phase of FY02.

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

TIP Action PA 0162a- Chester Waterfront Development Streetscape Project (TIP #7920): Delaware County's requested to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project in FY02. The City of Chester has obtained an earmark award of \$500,000 Transportation and Community System Preservation Program(TCSP) funds for streetscape improvements and enhancements in support of a brownfield redevelopment project along the Delaware River Waterfront between Highland Avenue and Flower Street. Funding would be programmed for a \$50,0000 FY02 Engineering Phase, and a \$450,000 Construction Phase, totaling a half million dollars.

TIP Action PA 0162b- Chester Exit 6 (I-95) Streetscape Improvement (TIP #7921): Delaware County's request to amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding a new project in FY02. The City of Chester has obtained an earmark award of \$350,000 National Corridor Planning and Development Program funds for Streetscape improvements and enhancements along Exit 6 of I-95. The City of Chester would provide a local match totaling \$87,500. Funding would be programmed with \$43,750 for engineering in FY02 (\$35,000 DEMO/\$8,750 local) and \$393,750 for construction in FY02 (\$315,000 DEMO)/\$78,750 local) for a total project cost of \$437,500.

MOTION 030202:Shaffer

SECOND: Winters

That the Board approve TIP Actions PA0162 A and B, Delaware County's request to amend the FY 2001-2001 TIP for Pennsylvania to include two new projects:

PA0162A: Chester Waterfront Development Streetscape Project (TIP #7920), programmed with \$50,000 for engineering in FY02 and \$450,000 for construction in FY02 funded by earmarked Transportation and Community System Preservation Program (TCSP) funds which do not require a local match; and PA 0162B: Chester Exit 6 (I-95) Streetscape Improvement Project (TIP #7921), programmed with \$43,750 for engineering in FY02 (\$35,000 DEMO/\$8,750 local) and \$393,750 for construction in FY02 (\$315,000 DEMO)/\$78,750 local.)

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

TIP Action PA 0163a - Route 309, Section 100 Reconstruction (TIP #8599A) (Montgomery County): PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by increasing the FY02 final design phase by \$5.1 million. Additional tasks required to complete the phase include environmental mitigation, utility coordination, design for a temporary railroad structure, and construction management of the project. PennDOT proposes to shift \$2.6 million (\$2.080 million DEMO/\$520,000 State) from the FY03 construction phase of this project into the FY02 final design phase, combined with \$2.5 million (\$2 million DEMO/\$500,000 State) from Route 309's Section 102.

TIP Action PA 0163b - I-95 International Airport Ramp Revision (TIP #9745) (Philadelphia): PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by increasing the FY02 construction phase by \$8.45 million. \$8 million dollars of the

increase will fund pavement patching and overlay of the section of I-95 in the area of the airport. Currently, the existing pavement is seriously cracked and potholed, and the repair will extend the service life by 8-10 years. The remaining \$450,000 increase is for materials and work on paving, curbs and signals along the project detour.

MOTION 030203:Burnfield

SECOND:Shaffer

That the Board approve Actions PA 0163 A and B, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA for two projects: to increase the final design phase of the Route 309, Section 102 project (TIP #8572A.) PA0163A: Route 309, Section 100 Reconstruction Project (TIP #8599A) by \$5.1 million. This change would require the shift of \$2.6 million DEMO from the FY03 construction phase of the project and a shift of \$2.6 million DEMO from the FY03 construction phase; and PA0163B: to add \$8.45 million (\$6.760 million federal/\$1.690 million Local) to the FY02 construction phase of the I-95 International Airport Ramp Revision project (TIP #9745.)

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

4. Theodore Dahlberg, DVRPC Manager, Urban Goods Program, presented a FY 2002 Planning Work Program Amendment for the Port Inland Distribution Network Study, a New Jersey initiative to examine alternatives to the ports in the New York City area. Currently these port operations are near capacity. The study will include a market analysis to assess conditions at other port sites around New Jersey, an examination of feasibility of using these ports instead of New York City, their infrastructure needs, and the traffic, local, and economic impacts of relocating a portion of incoming freight to these alternative sites. DVRPC will manage the study, which will be conducted by consultants. The budget is \$50,000 and funding is through the State of New Jersey.

MOTION 030204:Cuccia

SECOND:Shaffer

That the Board amend the FY 2002 Planning Work Program to include the Port Inland Distribution Network Study.

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

5. Glen McNichol, DVRPC GIS Analyst, presented an overview of the new ortho photography formats for year 2000 aerial photos of the region. Because the system used in 2000 was different from the previous photo years, a new grid system was developed. The 2000 photos are in uniform scale, and can be used for measuring distances. There are two types of digital image files, which can be viewed in ARCView and ARCEXplorer as well as MrSIDviewer. Digital files of the photos have been provided to the counties for their use, but they are not on the DVRPC website.
6. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the report "Traffic Trends in the Delaware Valley Region." Every 5 years DVRPC examines traffic at certain

points within and at the edges of the region to determine overall regional traffic trends. The study examined suburb-to-suburb and state-to-state trips, as well as trips into and out of Philadelphia and into and out of the region. The study examined all types of vehicles and compares the most recent data to past years.

7. Richard Bickel, DVRPC Associate Director of Regional Planning, presented a Job Access Reverse Commute Update. At their February meeting, the Board accepted staff's recommendation that all 9 of the Pennsylvania and all 4 of the New Jersey applicants were qualified and that the projects proposed were consistent with the JARC plan. The JARC committee will meet to prioritize the Pennsylvania projects. The New Jersey projects were ranked in last year's process and are ready for submission for March Board action.
8. Bert Westcott of Systra Consulting presented an overview of the R-5 Lansdale-Doylestown Line Regional Rail Improvement Study. This is the second of a series of studies which examines conditions along a designated rail line with the objective of identifying changes which can be made to improve speed and reliability of rail service. The study examined existing conditions and constraints to service and made several recommendations for improvements.
9. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, presented a review of the Year 2025 Plan Update process. DVRPC will update the plan at the same time as TIP updates so that public hearings can be concurrent. The Year 2025 Plan Update will have new forecasts and policies, and an implementation section. Board action will take place in June, at the same time as the TIP.
10. Jack Claffey announced that staff will provide the RTC with periodic updates of the Federal Transportation funding re-authorization process.
11. Next meeting: April 9, 2002.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of March 12 , 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

Mark McKee, UMT Planning Commission
Larry Stokes, Delaware County Planning Department
Walter Green, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Karen A Freidman, Marcy Conti, Warren Strumpfer, Citizens
John H. Smith, Schoor-DePalma
Tanya Seaman, Central Philadelphia TMA
Roger Sager, Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lou Hufnagel
Tom Shaffer
Leo Bagley
Jim Resta
Robert Ravelli
Deborah Schaaf
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
Gail Elbert
Morris Bayer
(Not represented)
(not represented)
Melissa Kaplan
Anisah Abiola
Kathy Vossough
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Representative

Peter Quinn
Bill Ragozine
Keith Lynch
Hank D'Andrea