

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 12, 2002**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Greg Brown. The Highlights of the September 10, 2002 meeting were then approved.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the October 24 , 2002 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved all action items presented from the RTC. The Board Retreat will be held this year on December 4.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP action:

**TIP Action PA03-04 - Route 202, Section 300 (PA 252 to Exton Bypass)
(MPMS#13945) Chester County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY 2003-2006) by adding a FY03 preliminary design phase and a FY04 final design phase of Route 202, Section 300. The proposal includes final roadway design for the realignment of Cedar Hollow Road which requires widening of a bridge encroachment, and the preparation of final design write-ups (PS&E's) for the 4 portions of Section 300 that have been broken out into separate construction projects. The funding increase also includes an additional 1300 foot retaining wall. The request for funding would program \$1.436 million HWY/\$359,000 State in FY03 for preliminary design, \$4.396 million HWY/\$1.099 million State in FY04 for final design, and would acknowledge \$3.2 million in advance construct conversion funding.

MOTION 021101: Bagley

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-04, PENNDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by increasing the design phases for Route 202, Section 300 (Rt. 252 to the Exton Bypass.) The request would program a \$1.795 million FY03 preliminary design phase (\$1.436 million HWY/\$359,000 State), a \$5.495 million FY04 final design phase (\$4.396 million HWY/\$1.099 million State), and acknowledge \$3.2 million in advance construct conversion funding in FY03.

Motion Passed. One vote was cast against the motion.

4. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director, Transportation Planning Division, presented a request by Montgomery County to revise the functional classification of Lafayette Street in Norristown Borough by adding it to the system as an urban minor arterial. Currently, Lafayette

Street is one lane by direction between DeKalb Pike and Franklin Street along Norristown's industrial waterfront. The county intends to extend Lafayette Street to new interchanges with US 202 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

MOTION 021102: Bagley

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve the functional classification of the Lafayette Street (and its proposed extension) in Norristown, Montgomery County as an Urban Minor Arterial.

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

5. John Coscia, Jr, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented a request for two projects to be included in the New Jersey Local Scoping Program. Both emerged from DVRPC's problem identification effort. The first is Florence-Columbus Road (CR 656) - US 130 to I-295, located in Florence Township, for a study to identify traffic flow and turning movement improvements. The second is the Park Avenue bridge (CR 641) over the North Branch of Timber Creek, located in Haddon Township. The project will be to identify and design improvements to the existing bridge which has experienced road settlement.

MOTION 021103: Noe

SECOND: Thomas

That the board approve the inclusion of the Florence-Columbus Road (CR 656) - US 130 to I-295 project and the Park Avenue Bridge project into the Local Scoping program.

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

6. Michael Boyer, DVRPC Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the US 30 Corridor Study, which was completed this past summer. It addresses transportation issues along US 30 in Camden County by describing some key characteristics of the US 30 corridor and identifying problem locations. A separate section in the report identified several common issues along the corridor, and a wide range of potential improvement strategies were developed to address the corridor-wide problems and also 32 location-specific problems. Other elements in the corridor study included an Environmental Justice assessment, safety analysis and utilizing aerial photographs to identify problem locations.
7. Charles Dougherty reported that the evaluation of projects submitted for CMAQ funds is underway. Three million is available in New Jersey, and 12 projects have been submitted totaling \$12 million. In Pennsylvania, \$9 million is available, and 42 projects, totaling \$28 million, have been submitted. Staff will review projects for eligibility, and will forward those which are eligible to the CMAQ Subcommittee for its review in late November, along with an air quality analysis which will quantify emissions benefits of each project. The Subcommittee will rank projects and forward a recommended set of projects to the Board for their action this spring.

8. Richard Bickel, DVRPC Deputy Director, Regional Planning Division, briefed the RTC on the status of the FY 2004 TCDI competition. In FY 2003, \$1 million was available for this program in Pennsylvania, and \$.5 million in New Jersey. The grants are intended for projects which revitalize core cities and first generation suburbs. Applications for FY 2004 will be mailed in mid-November and will be due back to DVRPC on January 22nd. New eligibility criteria for FY 2004 will be based on DVRPC's Environmental Justice report's factors of disadvantage, which will expand the number of eligible communities.
9. Richard Bickel presented an overview of the pilot Smart Commute Mortgage Program. Philadelphia was selected to participate in a pilot effort for this program, which resulted from a TEA-21 initiative to give more favorable mortgages for properties within ½ mile of a rail station or bus route where pedestrian facilities are also available in 50% of that census tract. FNMA, through its "American Dream Commitment" is financing the program up to \$100 million nationwide, through Citizens Bank in the Philadelphia region. The program allows property buyers to qualify for higher loan values by assuming those who live close enough to transit to walk will not need as many household vehicles (perhaps none at all), thus enabling more of their income to be directed towards a mortgage. This pilot program is also underway in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
10. Charles Dougherty presented the following status reports:
 - ! A 4th quarter Implementation Report for the TIP is now available.
 - ! The Ardmore Streetscape project in Montgomery County has moved to the construction phase. The preliminary engineering work on this project was managed by DVRPC under the Non-Traditional Project management effort.
 - ! The I-295-276-US 42 Direct Connect project in New Jersey is going through local and stakeholder meetings. The project is in the DEIS/NEPA process.
11. Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented a status report on various FY 2004 Planning Work Program Activities. Core and Special Study work programs for both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Transit Support and Supportive Regional Highway Planning Programs have been submitted. In New Jersey, the budgets for both programs equals the funding available. The NJ Subcommittee and member government planning directors will be polled to ascertain their approval of the programs as proposed. The Pennsylvania programs are both oversubscribed. The Pennsylvania Subcommittee will meet on November 20th at 1:30 at DVRPC to address and resolve these issues. Also, Chapter 5 of the PWP consistent with federal regulations lists significant transportation planning/environmental clearance projects in the region which are not funded through DVRPC. Member governments were asked to review and update the list and submit changes to staff no later than December 15th.
12. Next meeting: January 7th, 2003.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of November 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 Strategic Planning
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

Guests

Warren Strumpfer - RCC
Andrea Jordan, Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia
Walter Green - Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority
Hank D'Andrea - South Jersey Port Corporation

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lee Whitmore
Larry Stokes
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Chris Zearfoss
Deborah Schaaf
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Morris Bayer
(not represented)
(not represented)
Melissa Kaplan
Anisah Abiola, Linda Hayes
Kathy Vossough
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Representative

William Ragozine
Peter Quinn