

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD MARCH 11, 2003**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Greg Brown. The Highlights of the February 11, 2003 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the February 27, 2003 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board adopted the TIP amendments presented to it. The Board also approved the DVRPC Policy on Reauthorization.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

TIP Action PA03-15 - Transportation and Community Development Initiative (PA TCDI - MPMS #64652)

TIP Action NJ03-03 - Transportation and Community Development Initiative (NJ TCDI - DB #D0204)

DVRPC requests to amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania and the FY2003-2005 TIP for New Jersey by adding the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) to FY03. Pennsylvania would program \$1.250 million (\$1 million STU/\$250,000 Local Match) for projects and New Jersey would program \$550,000 STU, including \$50,000 for program administration. The DVRPC Board took action on January 23, 2003, to add these projects to the DVRPC FY 2004 Work Program, and took action in September, 2002, to agree to provide the necessary funding for this program through the TIP. TCDI provides funds to selected municipalities, targeting core cities, inner-ring suburbs, and older boroughs of the region that have lost jobs and population. The purpose is to generate growth and redevelopment, and to improve or enhance the regional transportation system. The funding cannot be used for construction or capital improvements, but can support local planning, design, market studies or feasibility analyses that may lead to those improvements.

MOTION 030301: Noe

SECOND:Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Actions PA03-15 and NJ03-03, DVRPC's request to amend both the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), and the FY 2003 TIP for NJ (FY2003-2005), by adding in the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI.) Pennsylvania (MPMS # 64652) would include \$1.25 million (\$1 million STU/\$250,000 Local Match) in FY03 for project funding. Also in FY03, New Jersey will program \$550,000 STU funds from DVRPC Local Scoping Line Item DB #X80B, including \$50,000 for program administration.

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

TIP Action PA03-16a - Route 313 Corridor, Ferry Rd. - Broad Street (MPMS #57619) Requested by PENNDOT Located in Bucks County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding an FY03 preliminary engineering phase (\$546,000 HWY/\$137,000 State), increasing the final design phase (\$634,000 STU/\$159,000 State) and shifting it to FY05, and deferring the right of way phase to later fiscal years. These costs are based on the resulting negotiated consulting contract. Improvements include turning lanes on Route 313 at Ferry Road and a truck Climbing lane from Curly Hill Road to Broad Street.

MOTION 030302: Hannigan

SECOND: Johnson

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-16a, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding an FY03 preliminary engineering phase (\$546,000 HWY/\$137,000 State) and increasing the final design phase (\$634,000 STU/\$159,000 State) and shifting it to FY05, and deferring the right of way phase to later fiscal years for MPMS #57619, the Route 313 Corridor from Ferry Road to Broad Street.

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

TIP Action PA03-16b - Edge Hill Road Reconstruction
(MPMS #57865) Requested by PENNDOT- Located in Montgomery County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding an FY03 preliminary engineering phase (\$636,000 HWY/\$159,000 Local), increasing the FY04 final design phase (\$1.063 million HWY/\$266,000 Local), and deferring the FY06 right of way phase to later fiscal years. The original reconstruction project of approximately one mile on Edge Hill Road has been expanded to include Tyson Avenue. This project addresses serious drainage issues in the area.

MOTION 030303: Hannigan

SECOND: Bagley

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-16b, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding an FY03 preliminary engineering phase (\$636,000 HWY/\$159,000 Local Match), increasing the FY04 final design phase (\$1.063 million HWY/\$266,000 Local Match), and deferring the FY06 right of way phase to later fiscal years for MPMS #57865, Edge Hill Road Reconstruction.

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

TIP Action PA03-17 - West Philadelphia Congestion Mitigation
(MPMS #17830) Requested by Philadelphia Streets Department

The Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding this project back into the TIP with an FY04 construction phase (\$379,000 DEMO funds/\$95,000 Local Match.) \$369,000 was originally programmed for an FY02 design phase, but the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia is now doing all of the design work. This project consists of converting a portion of the abandoned Breyers ice cream plant into a parking

area to serve students and public transit commuters. The 11 acre tract of land, adjacent to and owned by the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, is located along 43rd St. and runs from Woodland Ave. to the Schuylkill River. The project area runs between 43rd and 45th Streets on the northwest side of Woodland Avenue

MOTION 030304: Smith

SECOND:Noe

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-17, City of Philadelphia Streets Department's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the West Philadelphia Congestion Mitigation project (MPMS #17830) back into the TIP. This amendment will program \$379,000 specially earmarked DEMO funds and \$95,000 Local Match for construction in FY 2003.

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

TIP Action PA03-18 - West Chester Transit Center (MPMS #67851) Requested by Chester County

Chester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the West Chester Transit Center, with a \$1,000,000 construction phase in FY03. This project was originally approved for CMAQ funds through the previous DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program (1999-2000), was awarded funds and placed in the 1999 TIP (as "Transportation Center Development"), but lapsed because agreement could not be reached on the location. Since that time a partnership has been developed to advance this project, and the selected location is the first floor of a garage that the county is building on the same block as the new Justice Center (which is not yet under construction.) Chester County is requesting that the project be given consideration to advance quickly as the parking garage (where the Transit Center will be located) is ready to go under construction this spring. If this request for funding is approved now, the design of the parking garage can be modified to include the bus transit center on the first floor. Leo Bagley, of Montgomery County, reported that there are three bicycle improvement projects in Montgomery County which are no longer being pursued by the respective township managers, and suggested that the funding allocated to these projects could be used as an alternative source to fund this request.

MOTION 030305: Whitmore

SECOND:Bagley

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-18, Chester County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the West Chester Transit Center back into the TIP with a \$1 million CMAQ funded FY03 construction phase.

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

4. Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented a request from PennDOT to remove McCoys Lane, in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, from the Federal Aid Highway System. This is a private road and was inadvertently included.

MOTION 030306: Bagley

SECOND:Hannigan

That the Board approve a change to the Pennsylvania Functional Classification System to delete McCoy's Lane, in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, from the Pennsylvania Federal Functional Classification System.

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

4. Roger Moog, DVRPC Manager, Aviation Planning, presented the Regional Policy Position on Reauthorization of the FAA Airports Development Program. Called "Air 21" it is the companion aviation funding legislation to the surface transportation appropriation, and it is due for reauthorization on the same cycle. The DVRPC Regional Aviation Committee drafted a policy position on reauthorization for regional airports and heliports. Recommendations include increasing capital grants, separate budgets for security investments, a reduction in required number of aircraft based at a facility, zoning and easement protections for general aviation facilities, and revised block grant distribution formulas.

MOTION 030307:Cuccia

SECOND:Bagley

That the Board approve the Regional Policy Position regarding the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Capital Grant Program.

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

5. Karen Cilurso, and Mary Ng, DVRPC Regional Planners, presented the DVRPC effort to examine common issues with neighboring planning commissions at the borders of the DVRPC region. DVRPC's activities began as part of a WILMAPCO effort to bring planners together to identify trends and issues across regional boundaries, to foster planning and project consistency, and improve communication between agencies. To this end, staff met with planners from all areas bordering the DVRPC region. Continuing work will include developing a draft communication and coordination strategy, completing the demographic analysis, and additional meetings of relevant organizations.
6. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the I-95 cordon survey which was conducted in 2001 just south of the Pennsylvania/Delaware border, in New Castle, Delaware. Data collected from the survey yielded information about trip origin and destination, purpose, occupancy, and also freight information from trucks.
7. George Alexandridis, Chief Engineer with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission presented an overview of their Southerly Crossings Corridor Study. The study examined a variety of conditions on the four southernmost bridges of the DRJTBC's service area: the Scudders Falls, Calhoun Street, Lower Trenton, and US 1 Toll Bridges. The objectives of the study were to determine deficiencies, needs, potential solutions, and cost estimates, as well as a plan for public involvement. The study concluded that capacity enhancements are needed on all bridges, and a variety of improvement scenarios were developed. The Commission selected the most preferred

options and will work to implement them.

8. The Following Status reports were presented:

- ! Rosemarie Anderson, DVRPC Transportation Planner, reported on activities of the Legislative Committee of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum. The Forum was initiated in 1999 as a way for multiple municipalities in central New Jersey to address local transportation issues. A recently formed Legislative Committee is beginning to address an action agenda which has several points, including tax reform, transfer of development rights, travel demand management, and enhanced regional planning. Committee activities have commenced on all of these issues.
- ! Donald Shanis, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported that TransAction, the New Jersey statewide transportation conference, will be held this year on April 7, 8, and 9 in Atlantic City.
- ! Jack Claffey reported that due to the conflict with TransAction, the RTC meeting originally scheduled for April 8 will be held instead on April 1, 2003.

10. In an item of New Business, Robert Hannigan reported that PennDOT has started a program called "E-TIP", whereby requests for TIP action can be forwarded to PennDOT via email, which expedites the FHA/FTA approval process.

11. Next meeting APRIL 1st, 2003.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of March 11, 2003
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

Pennsylvania TMAs
New Jersey TMAs
FTA

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lee Whitmore
Justin Dula
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Anthony Santaniello
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Morris Bayer
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Linda Hayes
(not represented)
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Lorraine Brill
Warren Strumpfer

Representative

Peter Quinn
Bill Ragozine
Keith Lynch

Guests

Andrea Jordan- City of Phila.
Walter Green, Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority
Roger Sager, George Alexandridis - DRJTBC
Hank D'Andrea - South Jersey Port Corporation
Herman Volk,- NJ Office of Smart Growth

Mason Austin - Student