

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD APRIL 1, 2003**

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

TIP Action PA03-20a: Schuylkill Valley Metro (SVM) MPMS #60565 (SEPTA)

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY 2003 preliminary engineering phase to \$35.575 million to reflect the correct level of earmarked DEMO funds that were approved as part of the federal appropriations process. This request will program \$27.669 million of 5309 New Starts funding, which incorporates \$18.816 million DEMO funds being carried over from previous years (2001 and 2002) and an additional FY 2003 earmark of \$8.852 million DEMO funds which was recently approved. Further, an increase in state and local funds will serve as the match for the preliminary engineering work, and also to prepare a business plan (\$4.753 State Capital Bond funds/\$2 million State General funds/\$1.153 Local Match). It is estimate that this project will cost \$1.8 billion.

MOTION 030401: McDonough

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-20a, SEPTA's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006), by increasing the FY 2003 preliminary engineering phase for the Schuylkill Valley Metro (MPMS #60565) to \$35.575 million. This Action programs \$27.669 million of 5309 New Starts funding (\$18.816 million carryover DEMO plus \$8.852 million FY 2003 DEMO funds), and increases in state and local match (\$4.753 million State Capital Bond funds, \$2 million State General Funds, \$1.153 million Local Match).

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

TIP Action PA03-20b: Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) MPMS #60629 (SEPTA)

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY 2003 operating funds to reflect the correct level of earmarked DEMO funds that were approved as part of the federal appropriations process. This request will program an additional \$9.830 million dollars for a total FY 2003 programmed amount of \$24.830 million (\$12.415

million federal JARC/\$12.415 million State Department of Public Welfare). Approximately \$13 million will be used for the DVRPC list of previously Board approved projects which were selected last year. Thirty-nine JARC activities currently serve Southeastern Pennsylvania with monthly ridership figures for JARC services at 50,000 passenger trips. This program is intended to support transportation services to connect welfare and other transit dependent populations to employment activities.

MOTION 030402: McDonough

SECOND:Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-20b, SEPTA's request to modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY 2003 operating funds for the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program (MPMS #60629.) This Action programs an additional \$9.830 million dollars (\$4.915 million JARC/\$4.915 million DPW) for a total FY03 programmed amount of \$24.830 million (\$12.415 million JARC/\$12.415 million State Department of Public Welfare).

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

TIP Action PA03-21a: US 1 Bridges, Street Road, PA Turnpike to PA 413/213 MPMS #13549 in Bucks County (PennDOT)

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a final design phase to FY 2004 (\$1.104 million STU funds, \$276,000 State funds). The scope of the project has been expanded to include an additional structure, providing for replacement of four structures and rehabilitation of five structures. This project allows for bridge deck rehabilitation and interchange upgrades on Route 1 between Street Road and PA 213.

MOTION 030403: Johnson

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-21a, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006), by adding a final design phase to FY 2004 (\$1.104 million STU funds, \$276,000 State funds) for the US 1 Bridges, PA 413 to PA Turnpike project (MPMS #13549.)

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

TIP Action PA03-21b: I-95 SB Noise Walls, Neshaminy to PA 13 (New Proposed Project), Requested by PennDOT (Bucks County)

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP using DEMO earmarked funds for an FY03 \$500,000 (\$400,000 DEMO/\$100,000 State) preliminary engineering phase and a \$5.750 million construction phase (\$4.6 million DEMO, \$1.150 State) in FY 2005. This project would provide for noise walls on the southbound side of I-95 in the mile between PA 13 and the Neshaminy Creek in Bensalem

MOTION 030404: Johnson

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-21b, PennDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project into the TIP using DEMO earmarked funds for an FY 2003 \$500,000 (\$400,000 DEMO/\$100,000 State) preliminary engineering phase and a \$5.750 million construction phase (\$4.6 million DEMO, \$1.150 million State) in FY 2005 for the I-95 SB Noise Wall project between PA 13 and Neshaminy Creek (MPMS #67827.)

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

TIP Action PA03-21c: US 13 Signals, Morton Avenue MPMS #47990
Requested by PennDOT (Delaware County)

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a preliminary engineering phase to FY2003 (\$382,000 STU funds), shifting the final design phase from FY 2003 to FY 2004 and increasing it to \$352,000 (STU funds), and adding an FY 2004 right- of-way phase (\$40,000 STU.) This project provides for the design and installation of a closed loop traffic signal project in the City of Chester along 9th Street.

MOTION 030405: Johnson

SECOND:Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-21c, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a preliminary engineering phase to FY 2003 (\$382,000 STU funds), shifting the final design phase from FY 2003 to FY 2004 and increasing it to \$352,000 (STU funds), and adding an FY 2004 right-of- way phase (\$40,000 STU), to the US 13/Morton Avenue Signal project (MPMS #47990.)

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

TIP Action PA03-21d: PA 309 Connector Project MPMS #16438 Requested by
PennDOT (Montgomery County)

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a preliminary engineering phase to FY 2003 (\$858,000 DEMO, \$214,000 State), and decreasing the amount programmed in the FY 2004 final design phase to \$1.030 million DEMO, \$258,000 State. The scope of work for this project has increased with a new relocation of Sumneytown Pike between Old Forty Foot Road and Freed Road in Towamencin. This project also includes a new direct connect off of Southbound 309 to the Westbound connector near the intersection of County Line Road, Township Line Road, and Fairhill Road along the Bucks/Montgomery border in Hatfield. This connector will improve the road system serving the north/south movement between PA 309 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Lansdale Interchange.

MOTION 030406: Johnson

SECOND:Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-21d, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006), by adding a preliminary engineering phase to FY 2003 (\$858,000 DEMO, \$214,000 State), and decreasing the amount programmed in the FY 2004 final design phase to \$1.030 million DEMO, \$258,000 State for the PA 309 Connector Project (MPMS #16438.)

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

TIP Action PA03-22: US 422 River Crossing Complex Environmental Study (New Proposed Project), Requested by Montgomery County (Montgomery and Chester Counties)

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP. The US 422 River Crossing Complex Environmental Study project would program \$3.079 million DEMO, \$770,000 Match for a project development phase in FY 2003. The purpose of this project is to advance the environmental clearance work on a complex area of roadways, interchanges, intersections, and bridges in and around the Valley Forge National Historic Park as a whole rather than under separate projects. After overall environmental clearance for the River Crossing Complex is obtained, the individual components would need to be added to the TIP and/or plan as individual projects.

MOTION 030407: Bagley

SECOND: Whitmore

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-22, Montgomery County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project, the US 422 River Crossing Complex Environmental Study project, which would program \$3.079 million DEMO /\$770,000 Match for a project development phase in FY03. This action would also delete the existing project titled "Valley Forge Historical Society Museum" currently programmed with an FY 2006 construction phase as this project will serve as the source of funds for the River Crossing Complex environmental work.

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

TIP Action NJ03-04a: Chesterville Sykesville Road Bridge DB #L137 Requested by NJDOT (Burlington County)

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2005 TIP for New Jersey by adding a \$1 million FY 2003 design phase and deleting the \$1.4 million FY 2005 construction phase (Bridge funds.)The project had been on hold and is now ready to proceed. This funding scenario would be consistent with the current 2004 Draft TIP, which calls for construction in FY 2006.

MOTION 030408: Noe

SECOND:Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ03-04a, NJDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for New Jersey (FY2003-2005), by adding a \$1 million FY 2003 design phase and deleting

the \$1.4 million FY05 construction phase (Federal Bridge funds) for the Chesterville-Sykesville Road Bridge (DB #L137.)

All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

TIP Action NJ03-04b: United States Avenue, New Jersey Transit, Bridge CR 699 DB #98518, Requested by NJDOT (Camden County)

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-FY 2005 TIP for New Jersey by adding an \$800,000 design phase and a \$150,000 right of way phase (Federal Bridge Funds) in FY03. This bridge is currently closed, and this programming change will enable the project to proceed to final design and right of way acquisition in late spring.

MOTION 030409: Noe

SECOND:Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ03-04b, NJDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for NJ (FY2003-2005), by adding an \$800,000 design phase and a \$150,000 right of way phase (Federal Bridge Funds) to FY 2003 for the United States Avenue Bridge (DB #98518.)

All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

TIP Action NJ03-04c: Route 130 Westfield/Pochack Creek Drainage DB #9303, Requested by NJDOT (Camden County)

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-FY2005 TIP for New Jersey by deleting this project from the TIP by removing the \$5.94 million FY 2003 construction phase (STP funds.) Flooding of the area has been alleviated by cleaning of the basins. Property owners along the area do not support the project.

MOTION 030410: Noe

SECOND:Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ03-04c, NJDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for New Jersey (FY2003-2005), by deleting this project from the TIP. The Route 130 Westfield/Pochack Creek Drainage project (DB #9303) is currently programmed with a \$5.94 million FY03 construction phase (STP funds) .

All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

4. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, presented the CMAQ Subcommittee's recommendations for the FY 2004 Competitive CMAQ program. The application evaluation process began late last summer and was conducted using updated analysis software. Projects were screened for eligibility, scored and ranked based on subjective criteria and were then ranked again according to emissions reductions. \$9.3 million is available for the program in Pennsylvania, and there were 42 applications totaling \$28 million. In New Jersey there were 12 applications totaling 13 million, and \$3 million is available. The Committee will conclude their selection process before the April Board meeting.

MOTION 030411: Whitmore

SECOND: Noe

That the Board select the recommended projects as part of the DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program (2002-2003). Further, this action will amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) to include the list of 17 projects in MPMS #48201 (DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program) and will amend the FY2003-FY2005 TIP for NJ to include the list of seven projects in DB #X065 (Local CMAQ Initiatives).

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

5. Charles Dougherty presented the a request to authorize a public comment period for the Draft FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey. The NJ Subcommittee has worked since August to rank and select projects. Staff has also met with NJ DOT, NJ Transit, and DRPA. Funding was assumed to be the same as FY 03. From the Subcommittee recommendations, NJ DOT created a constrained list of projects, which after comments became the Draft TIP. It has already been sent to the NJ legislative delegation for review. It is now time to release the draft for a 30-day public comment period.

MOTION 030412: Noe

SECOND: Bayer

That the Board authorize staff to release the Draft FY 2004-2006 TIP for NJ for a 30-day public comment period in beginning in May, 2003, to issue proper notification, to publish the draft TIP on the Internet, to make copies available at certain public libraries, and to hold public meetings in New Jersey.

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

6. Karen Cilurso, DVRPC Regional Planner, presented the DVRPC Transportation-Community Development Initiative (TCDI) for FY 2004. A new round of funding applications were received in January. Based on available funding of \$.5 million in New Jersey and \$1 million in PA, a total of 9 projects, totaling \$499,800 were selected in New Jersey by the Review Committee, and 15 projects, totaling \$956,195 were selected in Pennsylvania.

MOTION 030413: Bagley

SECOND: Whitmore

That the Board approve the 9 projects selected in New Jersey, totaling \$499,800, and the 15 projects in selected in Pennsylvania, totaling \$956,195, for the FY 2004 Transportation and Community Development Initiative.

Motion passed. There was one abstention.

7. Charles Dougherty presented an update of the Urban Area Boundary and Functional Classification Update currently ongoing at DVRPC. FHWA funding eligibility can be impacted by whether collector roads are in rural or urban areas, and census tracts above a certain threshold population are considered urban. The new boundary now needs to be adjusted based on the 2000 census. It will be smoothed to remove irregularities, maintain administrative continuity and logical central

points, and to include terminals and transit service areas. Staff is working with Penn DOT and NJ DOT to accomplish this work.

8. Kevin Adams, DVRPC Regional Planner, presented "Three Decades of Job Growth and Decline in the Delaware Valley" analyzes the economic base of our region by sector. Using location quotients and cluster analysis, this report discusses our regional economic strengths and weaknesses, first by comparing the region to the nation and then comparing it to metropolitan areas such as Boston, Detroit and DC. Simply put this report delves into two questions, "What does our region do?" and "How well do we do it?" The report concludes that while our region is diverse with specialties in areas such as the life sciences, engineering and computer services the Delaware Valley does not have the degree of economic specialization as the other regions.
9. John Coscia, Jr., DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented a status report on the update of the Problem Identification and Prioritization Inventory in New Jersey. This effort tracks status of projects through the study and development process to determine which ones the counties want to pursue and which would drop off. An updated inventory will be distributed soon.
10. In an item of Old Business, Curt Noe of Camden County requested the opportunity to rescinded his abstention on TCDI action item and cast his vote in favor of the motion. Motion 030413 should therefore read " All votes were cast in favor of the Motion".
11. In an item of New Business, Lorraine Brill of the Delaware Valley Citizens Transportation Committee reported that a meeting was held March 13, 2003 of the Friends of Poquessing Creek with Scully and Loy, PennDOT's consultant on stone bridges in PennDOT District 6. Information on all these projects is available and the consultants would welcome comments.
12. In another item of New Business, Jack Claffey reported that there is a new PA legislative initiative to create Transportation Revitalization Reinvestment Districts. Additional information will be available soon.
13. In an additional item of New Business, Robert Ravelli of the City of Philadelphia Office of Strategic Planning reported that the City Planning Commission's Roosevelt Boulevard Study is completed and is available for presentation to the RTC.
14. Next meeting May 6, 2003.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of April 1, 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

Guests

Walter Green, Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority
Roger Sager, - DRJTBC
Bill Krebs - South Jersey Port Corporation
Herman Volk,- NJ Office of Smart Growth
Richard Stoolman, NJT

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lee Whitmore
Larry Stokes, Jr.
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Deborah Schaaf, A. Santaniello
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Morris Bayer
(not represented)
Robert Wisniewski
Melissa Kaplan
Linda Hayes
(not represented)
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Lorraine Brill
Ernest Cohen

Representative

Peter Quinn
Bill Ragozine, Sandra Brillhart
Keith Lynch

Heather Brinton - Sugarman and Associates
Laurie Actman - Central Philadelphia TMA