

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD JUNE 10, 2003**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Greg Brown. The Highlights of the May 6, 2003 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the May 22, 2003 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board adopted the TIP amendments presented to it. The Board also approved all of the other actions presented. Mr Claffey announced his retirement and turned his RTC Position over to Donald Shanis, who will assume the temporary title of Acting Assistant Executive Director for Transportation upon Mr Claffey's final day of June 12, 2003.
3. Donald Shanis, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning, requested volunteers for a Nominating Committee for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the RTC for FY 2004. Interested parties will convene at the conclusion of the RTC. A slate will be presented for election at the beginning of the July meeting, at which time the new RTC chair will take over and run the meeting.
4. Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

**TIP Action PA03-27: Section 5310 Program Capital Assistance (MPMS #62150)
Requested by PENNDOT**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by programing funds for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Program (formerly Section 16(b)(2)), which provides capital assistance to private nonprofit corporations that provide transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Every year PENNDOT coordinates an application process for this program and this year has selected 6 agencies in the DVRPC region to program a total of \$1,077,300 for the purchase of 19 vehicles.

MOTION 030601:Hannigan

SECOND:Whitmore

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-27, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) by adding funds into the TIP for the FTA's Section 5310 Program (MPMS #62150). This amendment will program a total of \$1.077 million (\$861,840 Section 5310 funds/\$215,460 Local Match) in FY03.

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

TIP Action PA03-28a: Downingtown Pedestrian/Bikeway (MPMS #65902) (Chester County) Requested by PENNDOT

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by removing this project which is currently programmed with \$472,000 TE funds in FY04. The Borough is unable to complete this project which was selected as a Transportation Enhancement project, and has requested to withdraw from the process as there have been severe staff cuts in the Borough.

MOTION 030602:Hannigan

SECOND:Whitmore

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-28a, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) by deleting the Downingtown Pedestrian/ Bikeway project (MPMS #65902) from the TIP. The project was programmed with \$472,000 TE funds in FY04.

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

TIP Action PA03-28b: Cayuga Street Bridge (MPMS #17722) (Philadelphia) Requested by PENNDOT

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by removing this project. The City of Philadelphia has elected to cancel this bridge removal project as it was determined that the sufficiency rating of the bridge is better than originally stated. The project is currently programmed with an FY04 right of way phase (\$80,000 Bridge/\$15,000 State/\$5,000 Local Match) and an FY05 construction phase (\$1.6 million Bridge/\$300,000 State/\$100,000 Local Match).

MOTION 030603: Hannigan

SECOND: Whitmore

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-28b, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006) by deleting the Cayuga Street Bridge project (MPMS #17722) from the TIP. The project was programmed with an FY04 right of way phase (\$80,000 Bridge/\$15,000 State/\$5,000 Local Match) and an FY05 construction phase (\$1.6 million Bridge/\$300,000 State/\$100,000 Local Match).

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

TIP Action NJ03-10: Camden County Civic Center Access Study, Pennsauken, New Project Requested by Camden County (DB #03340)

Camden County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project into the TIP, the Camden County Civic Center Access Study. The request is to use \$800,000 from the DVRPC Local Scoping line item (DB #X80B) to begin assessing the need for improvements to local roads and highway access modifications in the surrounding areas of the site of the proposed Civic Center in Pennsauken in the vicinity of NJ Routes 73, 90, 130 and County Route 644/Haddonfield Road.

MOTION 030604:Cuccia

SECOND:Noe

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ03-10, Camden County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for NJ (FY2003-2005) by adding a new project into the TIP, the Camden County Civic Center Access Study, Pennsauken (DB #03340). The project will be programmed with \$800,000 STP-STU funds which will be drawn down from the DVRPC Local Scoping line item, DB #X80B, for an FY03 Local Preliminary Design (LPD) phase.

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

TIP Action NJ03-11: Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis, New Proposed Project Requested by DVRPC on behalf of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum

The analysis is the first step in determining whether BRT would be a viable alternative for relieving congestion and enhancing mobility in the Route 1 corridor area including Lawrence, West Windsor, Princeton, Plainsboro and South Brunswick Townships. It will be a multi agency effort undertaken by NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and DVRPC, with NJ TRANSIT taking the lead. All agencies will contribute funding to the total project cost of \$916,000. This request is to draw down \$260,145 STP-STU funds from the DVRPC Future Projects line item (DB #D026) to fund DVRPC's contribution to this project of which \$151,800 would be used by DVRPC for the Public Involvement, Scoping and Agency Coordination component, with the balance (\$108,345) to be contributed to financing the other tasks in the study (e.g. alignment, land use, travel demand, and environmental issues).

MOTION 030605:Cuccia

SECOND:Noe

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ03-11, DVRPC's request on behalf of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, to amend the FY 2003 TIP for NJ (FY2003-2005) by adding a new project into the TIP, the Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis. The project will be programmed with \$260,145 STP-STU funds which will be drawn down from the DVRPC Future Projects line item, DB #D026, for an FY03 PLS (Planning Study) phase.

Motion passed. There were two abstentions.

5. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, presented the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey. The public comment period closed on June 5, all comments received have been addressed and the document is now ready for Board approval. There were no major changes from the Draft.

MOTION 030606: Brill

SECOND: McDonough

That the Board adopt the FY 2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey (FY2004 - FY2006) as the region's official selection of transportation projects for federal funding, by passing Resolution B-FY03-xxx

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

6. Donald Shanis presented the DVRPC Annual Self Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process. The final Rulemaking on the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) Metropolitan Planning Requirements dated October 28, 1993 requires that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) annually certify to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration that its transportation planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

MOTION 030607: Whitmore

SECOND:Noe

That the Board adopt Resolution No. B-FY03-xxx certifying that the DVRPC transportation planning process is in conformance with federal regulations implementing TEA-21, the Clean Air Act Amendments, and other federal legislation.

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

7. Donald Shanis presented a request to amend the FY 2004 Planning Work Program to include the Bus Rapid Transit System Analysis. Through the studies of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, it was determined that bus rapid transit (BRT) may be viable in the study region and could provide a needed option to the single occupant vehicle. BRT was incorporated in the Forum's Action Plan as a way to enhance mobility and relieve congestion. The primary study area consists of Lawrence Township, West Windsor Township, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, Plainsboro Township and South Brunswick Township in the US 1 corridor. Sponsorship of the study will be a multi-agency effort -- New Jersey Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. NJ Transit will be the lead agency with DVRPC undertaking Public Involvement, Scoping and Agency Coordination. The public outreach program will meet all state and federal requirements concerning public involvement.

MOTION 030608: Cuccia

SECOND: Angarone

That the Board amend the FY 2004 Planning Work Program to include the Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis.

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

8. Jienki Synn, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an update of the "What-If" scenario analysis currently underway. The DVRPC Board has instructed staff to study potential regional, national, and global changes that should be considered in the development of the 2030 Regional Long Range Plan. Staff has identified a set of 12 future scenarios derived from the region's overall socio-economic and spatial perspective, and has completed preliminary, qualitative analyses on the initial set. For Phase II, a set of 5 future scenario was selected for detailed quantitative evaluations. A final report will be ready by the end of June, 2003.

9. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an update of the FY 2003 Shuttle evaluations. For this evaluation, the Pennsylvania data was updated, and New Jersey data was added. Shuttle operations were ranked according to operational cost per rider and also degree of funding utilization. These analyses will be updated periodically.
10. Donald Shanis initiated a discussion among the members present for suggestions on potential new directions for the RTC. A survey will be sent to all voting and non-voting members before the July meeting to request opinions on various topics. In addition, it was agreed that DVRPC should create a Members Handbook, similar to the document distributed to new DVRPC Board members, to help new members understand the purpose of the meetings and their role within the meetings.
11. In an item of Old Business, Lorraine Brill reported that Scully and Loy, PennDOT's consultant for stone arch bridge analyses, will present the results of their public outreach efforts to the RTC.
12. In an of New Business, Jacob Mallikal reported that the schedule for the Transportation Enhancements Project process will be available soon.
13. Next meeting July 8, 2003.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of June 10, 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

NJ TMAs
South Jersey Port Corporation

Guests

Sue Herman - Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
Claudia Gordon, Andrea Jordan - City of Philadelphia

Representative Present

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

Representative

William Ragozine
Hank D'Andrea