

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD JULY 8, 2003**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Greg Brown. The Highlights of the June 10, 2003 meeting were approved with the following change: Lorraine Brill, of the Delaware Valley Citizens Transportation Committee requested that the vote tally for TIP Action #NJ0310 be corrected to reflect two abstention votes. Lorraine Brill also requested that item #11 be corrected to reflect that she only reported that Skelly and Loy had held public outreach meetings. She did not report that a presentation to the RTC was upcoming.
2. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the June 26, 2003 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board adopted the TIP amendments presented to it and also adopted the resolution of self-certification. In addition, the following officers were elected: Thomas J. Gurick, of Camden County, as Chair; Allen D. Biehler, PennDOT, as Vice Chair; Jerold R. Cureton, Esq., of Burlington County, as Secretary; and Charles H. Martin, of Bucks County, as Treasurer. The Board also confirmed the appointment of Donald Shanis as Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning.
3. Greg Brown, who chaired the Nominating Committee for FY 2004 RTC officers, presented the following slate: Curt Noe, of Camden County, as Chair, and Greg Brown, of the Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office, as Vice Chair. No other nominations were put forward from the floor.

MOTION 030701-A: Hannigan

SECOND: Thomas

To close the nominations for FY 2004 RTC officers.

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

MOTION 030701-B: Hannigan

SECOND: Thomas

To elect the slate of RTC officers for FY 2004 as presented.

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

At this time Curt Noe took over chairmanship of the committee, thanked the members for their confidence in him, and continued to run the meeting.

4. Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

TIP Action PA03-30a: I-76 Westbound Noisewalls (MPMS #68064), (New Proposed Project) Montgomery County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, I-76 Westbound Noisewalls. This project, funded by specially earmarked state DEMO funds would program a FY03 final design phase of \$600,000, and a FY03 right-of-way phase of \$150,000. The project location is on westbound I-76 in Upper Merion between Henderson Rd. and Weadley Rd. With an estimated construction cost of \$3 million, it is expected that the project would move to construction in conjunction with the I-76 Henderson Road Interchange improvement project (MPMS #16211.)

MOTION 030702:Hannigan

SECOND: Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-30a, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project into the TIP, I-76 Westbound Noisewalls (MPMS #68064). This amendment will program a \$600,000 final design phase in FY03, and a \$150,000 right of way phase in FY04, using specially earmarked state demonstration funds.

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

**TIP Action PA03-30b: I-95 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets (MPMS #67756),
(New Proposed Project) Philadelphia**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new safety project to the TIP, the I-95 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets in Philadelphia. This project, funded by federal highway funds, would program a FY03 final design phase of \$750,000 for 19 structures on I-95. The purpose of this project is to redesign a particular type of concrete bridge parapet (side wall) which was identified as a safety hazard, in order to improve the structural integrity of the bridge. This will eventually lead to replacement or retrofit of bridges throughout the state.

MOTION 030703:Hannigan

SECOND:Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-30b, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new safety project to the TIP, I-95 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets in Philadelphia (MPMS #67756). This project, funded 100% by federal highway funds, would program a FY03 final design phase of \$750,000.

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

**TIP Action PA03-30c: I-76 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets (MPMS #67762),
(New Proposed Project) Philadelphia and Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new safety project to the TIP, the I-76 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets in Philadelphia and Montgomery County. This project, funded by federal highway funds, would program a FY03 final design phase of \$750,000 for 27 structures on I-76 in Philadelphia and Montgomery County. The

purpose of this project is to redesign a particular type of concrete bridge parapet (side wall) which was identified as a safety hazard, in order to improve the structural integrity of the bridge. This will eventually lead to replacement or retrofit of many bridges throughout the state.

MOTION 030704: Hannigan

SECOND: Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-30c, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new safety project to the TIP, I-76 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets in Philadelphia and Montgomery County (MPMS #67762). This project, funded 100% by federal highway funds, would program a FY03 final design phase of \$750,000.

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

TIP Action PA03-31: Section 5311 Capital Assistance, Capitol Trailways Intercity Bus Terminal, (New Proposed Project) Montgomery County

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, a Section 5311 Capital Assistance project for the Capitol Trailways Intercity Bus Terminal in Willow Grove, Montgomery County. Funding would be programmed for an FY03 construction phase (\$26,500 Section 5311 funds/\$21,200 State Act 10 funds/\$5,300 local match funds.) The property owner will pay for and construct a 25' x 23' intercity bus terminal on the piece of property currently used by Capitol Trailways. Jointly sponsored by Capitol Trailways and Montgomery County, this portion of the project would be funded by the Non-Urbanized Area Program (formerly Section 18) and would provide for certain elements of the construction fit of the terminal on Fitzwatertown Road. Specifically, an office/ticket booth area, small waiting room, and a unisex ADA compliant restroom would be constructed using the Section 5311 funds. Participation in the program by private for-profit enterprises is encouraged.

MOTION 030705: Bagley

SECOND: Popp-McDonough

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-31, Montgomery County's request to amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, a Section 5311 Capital Assistance project for the Capital Trailways Intercity Bus Terminal in Willow Grove. Funding would be programmed for an FY03 construction phase (\$26,500 Section 5311 funds/\$21,200 State Act 10 funds/\$5,300 Local Match funds.

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

TIP Action NJ03-13: Gloucester County Restriping Program (New Proposed Project)

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2005 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, the Gloucester County Restriping Program and at the same time

deleting an existing project, the Gloucester County Sign Management Program (DB #01301) which has been deemed ineligible for federal funding. Funding for the Restriping Program would be programmed for an FY03 construction phase (\$850,000 STP-STU funds) and would use the \$850,000 that was originally programmed for the Sign Management Program, thus maintaining fiscal constraint and putting funds to use before the close of the fiscal year. The Restriping Program will be implemented on county roads that are part of the Federal Aid System in order to improve the safety of those roadways by installing long-life, highly reflective traffic stripes.

MOTION 030706: Bayer

SECOND:Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ03-13, Gloucester County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for New Jersey (FY2003-2005) by adding a new project to the TIP, the Gloucester County Restriping Program programmed for a FY03 construction phase (\$850,000 STP-STU funds) and simultaneously deleting an existing project, the Gloucester County Sign Management Program (DB #01301), currently funded at the same level.

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

5. Ted Dahlburg, DVRPC Manager, Urban Goods Program, presented a FY 2002 Planning Work Program Amendment to add the second phase of the Southern New Jersey Port Inland Distribution Network Site Evaluation and Feasibility Development Study. The initial phase of the study is now complete and the purpose of Phase II is to further refine the development of the site selected in Phase I. A number of committee members were reluctant to approve this amendment as no information on Phase I was provided, and no members of the committee were asked to participate in the Study. It was agreed to table this request until such time as the Committee is better informed on the process and findings of Phase I and is provided with a consultant scope of work for Phase II.

MOTION 030707: Schaaf

SECOND: Strumpfer

That the RTC defer recommendation for Board approval of the FY 2004 Planning Work Program amendment request for Phase II of the Southern New Jersey Port Inland Distribution Network Site Evaluation and Feasibility Development Study until such time as the Committee has had the opportunity to receive, review, and comment on Phase I of the study, and also until such time as a consultant scope of work for Phase II is provided.

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

6. Carol Thomas, Principal Transportation Planner for Burlington County, presented a FY 2004 Planning Work Program Amendment for the Targeted Advertising for the BurLink-Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System Connection marketing program. NJ DOT has requested that the FY 2004 Planning Work Program be amended to carry over project #3-03-025 from FY 2003. Although the work was expected to be completed during FY 2003, the delayed opening of the SNJLRTS postponed the need for the work. The line is now expected to open this fall. The project is to create an advertising campaign to inform the residents of Burlington County that the BurLink

Shuttle System will connect with the SNJLRTS Work will be carried out on behalf of Burlington County by the Cross County Connection TMA, and was originally funded as part of the FY 2003 DVRPC Transit Support Program in New Jersey.

MOTION 030708: Cuccia

SECOND: Thomas

That the Board approve the amendment to the FY 2004 work program to add the Targeted Advertising for the BurLink- Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System Connection project.

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

7. Doug Dinsmore, from Skelly and Loy, presented an overview of PennDOT's Stone Arch Bridge Management Program. The purpose of the program is to identify stone arch highway bridges in the region for long term preservation. The collection of stone arch bridges in this region is the largest in North America, including both the oldest, the 1697 Frankford Avenue bridge over Pennypack Creek in Philadelphia, and the second longest, the Germantown Pike bridge over the Perkiomen Creek in Montgomery County. Many of the bridges can be preserved, and even widened, but most were built for traffic prior to motorized vehicles. Bridges were ranked according to the following criteria: physical condition of the bridge, the type of traffic and traffic volumes, historic significance, development pressures, sufficiency of clearance beneath the bridge, maintenance costs, and public sentiment. There are 126 bridges of 20' or longer currently in the region a matrix will be available shortly which will represent preliminary assessment of the bridges to identify the most likely for preservation.
8. Karen Cilurso, DVRPC Regional Planner, presented an overview of The White Horse Pike Economic Redevelopment Coalition's activities. DVRPC has been assisting the Coalition's efforts to revitalize the White Horse Pike in Camden County from the Borough of Barrington to the Borough of Clementon. This past year, staff has been working with the coalition on an economic development and land use assessment of the corridor to build a case for future redevelopment efforts and funding sources. The assessment outlines zoning and land use inconsistencies, aesthetic issues, transportation deficiencies, and an implementation schedule, and will serve as the initial planning study as the Coalition moves toward recommendations set forth within the assessment. Marketing and visioning studies will be conducted through grants received from the NJ Smart Future Program and DVRPC's Transportation and Community Development Initiative.
9. Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, presented the results of the RTC member survey conducted in June, 2003. All voting and non voting members were sent a survey. A total of 40 copies were mailed, and 14 returned. There were 10 questions which asked satisfaction with various aspects of the meetings. Respondents were generally satisfied with current start and end times, meeting format, and levels of information as presented. An additional member from the freight community was recommended, as were the highlights from the RCC meetings, and some sort of training or orientation materials for new representatives to the RTC.

10. Matthew Gates, DVRPC Transportation Engineer, presented an overview of the data in the Media Release entitled, "Car Ownership Grows in the Delaware Valley Region" dated June 24, 2003. More than 1.2 million vehicles were added to the region's household fleet between 1970 and 2000 while in the same period the population increased by only 26,000 persons, the average household size decreased from 3.26 to 2.67 persons per household, and the number of vehicles per household increased from 1.14 to 1.49. Data was derived from the Year 2000 Census and from studies done at DVRPC.
11. Scott Brady, DVRPC Transportation Engineer, presented an overview of the data in the Media Release entitled, "Getting Around in the Region" dated June 17, 2003. The information was derived from Journey to Work data in the 2000 Census and DVRPC's Household Travel Time survey conducted in 1997. Since 1980, travel times in the region have increased by 13%, with trips averaging 20 minutes. Lowest average speeds are in Philadelphia, and the highest speeds are in the New Jersey suburbs. Philadelphia also has the slowest average transit speeds.
12. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an update of the FY 2003 Shuttle evaluations for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Additional information was added from the data presented at the June meeting, and the table now includes the requested information on the time in service, inception dates, levels of public and private funding, and fees charged.
13. Stacy Bartels, DVRPC Marketing Manager, presented an overview of the TransitChek program. Since its inception in 1992, over \$21 million worth of cheks have been sold. A month-by-month analysis of FY 2003 indicated the highest sales month was December, a spike attributed to companies taking expenses in 2002. April, May, and June of FY 2003 have seen sales of over \$2 million. Overall, over FY 02, there has been a 40% increase in sales dollar volume, a 35% increase in the number of vouchers sold, and a 1% increase in participating employers.
14. In an item of New Business, Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported that 2005 TIP outreach will begin shortly and requested the opportunity to meet with each county in the fall. The Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission will meet on September 26 to gather input. In addition, the New Jersey Transportation Enhancements statewide committee reviewed applications and a decision is expected in August. For Pennsylvania TE applications, PennDOT will be conducting a web-based application process.
15. In an item of New Business, Linda Hayes of DRPA reported that PATCO is now operating a free shuttle for High Speed Line riders to access the waterfront from the Broadway station.
16. Next meeting September 9, 2003.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of July 8,, 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
FTA

Guests

Sue Herman - Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
Shahidah Sabrel, Kara Russell - PennDOT
Ethan Norris - Montgomery County Planning
Joe Deitreich - Vollmer Associates
Roger Sager - Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Kathleen Durham - Philadelphia Historical Commission
Pierre Ravaçon - Baker Engineering

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
Richard Brahler
Lee Whitmore
Tom Shaffer
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Kenneth Lomax
Deborah Schaaf, Anthony Santaniello
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Morris Bayer
Nick Angarone
(not represented)
(not represented)
Linda Hayes
James Schwarzwaldner
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Lorraine Brill
Warren Strumpfer

Representative

William Ragozine, Sandra Brillhart
Bill Krebs
Keith Lynch

Laurie Actman, CPTMA
Doug Dinsmore, Skelly and Loy