

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 6, 2004 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Curt Noe, the RTC Chair, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the PENNDOT trainees as guests. He reminded everyone of next month's special RTC/PCC meeting time, location, luncheon, and train excursion. All those planning to attend must fill out and return the required attendance commitment form. In addition, next year's officers will be discussed at next month's meeting.

2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis stated that all proposed March 2004 TIP and Work Program amendments were approved by the Board. He informed the members of his STB Conrail Shared Asset Area testimony regarding associated concerns, promises, and commitments. He also reminded everyone of the April 8th forum entitled, *Destination 2030: The Future in Transit* and the May 19th Annual DVRPC Dinner. After the next Board meeting a tour of the National Constitution Center is scheduled. In addition, DVRPC is on the search for new office space.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

RCC recommendations to the Board for March 25, 2004 were distributed. Local Safety Initiatives, such as caution signs with reflectors, should be looked into because of the high safety value. A resolution has been sent to the Board to consider the testing of diesel-hybrid locomotives ("Green Goat" vehicles) which would reduce emissions in the region. There is a need for an educational campaign to increase public awareness of good land use. In addition, planned construction of a shopping center at Roosevelt Boulevard and Grant Avenue, which was designated in DVRPC's 2025 plan as a "no growth" area, brought dismay at the lack of support the long-range plan receives from politicians.

ACTION ITEMS**4. Highlights of the Meeting of March 9, 2004**

The highlights from the March 9th meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: *by Greg Brown, seconded by Robert Hannigan, to adopt the PCC/RTC meeting highlights as presented.*

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented six TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

a. TIP Action PA03-50a: Girard Point Bridge Over the Schuylkill River, Philadelphia (MPMS #17605)

PENNDOT requested to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding the construction phase to the Girard Point Bridge project (MPMS #17605) and programming \$1.088 million federal Bridge/\$272,000 state Bridge in FY04, \$2.4 million federal Bridge/\$600,000 state Bridge in FY05, and \$3.2 million federal Bridge/\$800,000 state Bridge in FY06.

b. TIP Action PA03-50b: Route 291/Governor Printz Boulevard, Delaware County (MPMS #47409)

PENNDOT requested to modify the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project to the TIP. The Route 291/Governor Printz Boulevard bridge project (MPMS #47409) programs a \$300,000 final design phase in FY04 using state funds.

c. TIP Action PA03-50c: Candidate Bridge Scoping, Various Counties, New Proposed Project (MPMS #70462)

PENNDOT requested to modify the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project to the TIP. The Candidate Bridge Scoping project (MPMS #70462) programs a \$300,000 preliminary engineering phase in FY04 using state funds.

Motion: by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Tom Shaffer, to approve TIP Action PA03-50a, PA03-50b, and PA03-50c to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the above projects.

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

d. **TIP Action PA03-51a: Market Street Elevated Reconstruction Program, SEPTA (MPMS #60281)**

SEPTA requested to modify the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by increasing the FY04 construction phase by \$20.458 million. The Market Street Elevated Reconstruction Program (MPMS #60281) will be programmed by reducing the FY04 federal Section 5309 funds by \$1.233 million and adding \$17.6 million in federal Section 5307/\$3.408 million state Capital Bond/ \$683,000 Local match in FY04 for construction. The net result is a \$70.458 million FY04 construction phase.

e. **TIP Action PA03-51b: SMART Stations, SEPTA, New Proposed Project (MPMS #70691)**

SEPTA requested to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project to the TIP. The SMART Stations project (MPMS #70691) will be programmed with \$8.1 million state Act 26 funds/\$279,000 Local match in FY04.

Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Carol Thomas, to approve TIP Action PA03-51a and PA03-51b to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the above projects.

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

f. **TIP Action NJ04-09: Guiderail Safety Project, Gloucester County (New Proposed Project)**

Gloucester County requested to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a new project to the TIP. The Guiderail Safety Project programs \$100,000 STP-STU funds for a FY04 preliminary engineering phase, drawing down \$100,000 from the DVRPC Local Scoping Line item, DB #X80B.

Motion: by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Brian Cuccia, to approve TIP Action NJ04-09 to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey by adding the \$100,000 federally funded preliminary engineering phase in FY04, drawing down \$100,000 from the DVRPC Local Scoping Line item, DB #X80B.

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

6. Endorsement of New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Revised Functional Classification Maps

DVRPC had been working with NJDOT, in cooperation with our NJ counties, on revisions to the federal functional classification of roadways. Revised maps are now ready for a recommendation for Board approval.

Motion: *by Carol Thomas, seconded by Brian Cuccia, to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the revised functional classification maps.*

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

7. Authorization to Conduct Public Comment Outreach on Draft FY2005 DVRPC TIP for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and Amendments to the DVRPC Year 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan for the Delaware Valley

DVRPC will have a draft FY2005 DVRPC TIP ready for public comment by early May. In conjunction with the TIP update, it will be necessary to amend the 2025 Horizons long range plan for projects which would move from the "study" to "project" status in the plan. Staff sought Board authorization to open a 30-day public comment period, to publish the draft documents (including those pertaining to conformity), to conduct public comment meetings, and to obtain comments from member agencies, interest groups, and the public on the following:

- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania FY2005-2008
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey FY2005-2007
- Amendments to the DVRPC Year 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan for the Delaware Valley for the following projects:
 - 1.) I-95 at Scudders Falls Bridge
 - 2.) US 422 from Route 202 to Limerick
 - 3.) PA Turnpike from West of Valley Forge to east of Exton

Motion: *by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough, to recommend that the DVRPC Board authorize the 30-day public comment period.*

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

8. NJ Transportation Enhancements Program 2004

As part of the TE selection process for New Jersey, DVRPC is represented on the NJDOT Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is charged with applying the selection criteria and preparing the recommended list of projects from the 43 applications submitted by DVRPC to NJDOT. The recommended list will be sent to the Commissioner of Transportation for approval. Staff sought RTC approval of these projects before forwarding them to the Board on April 22nd, 2004 for approval. The Advisory Committee meeting at NJDOT to review applications is scheduled for April 27, 2004.

Motion: *by Nick Angarone, seconded by Warren Strumpfer, that the affected New Jersey counties review the list of TE projects, choose their top two priorities, and that in future years the PCC/RTC members will play a larger role in project selection.*

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

9. Pennsylvania Public Transit Association (PPTA) Funding Proposal

PPTA proposed a dedicated funding program of \$250M annually for transit service stabilization and maintaining transit in a state of good repair. SEPTA asked DVRPC to support the proposal.

Motion: *by Carol Thomas, seconded by Lorraine Brill, to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the PPTA funding proposal and authorize staff to send a letter of support, with the understanding that this funding proposal does not cover everything that is needed, but is just a first step in securing necessary transit funding.*

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

DISCUSSION ITEM

10. DVRPC Congestion Management System (CMS) Methodology

An update of the 1997 CMS started in January and is expected to take approximately a year and a half. The CMS provides information on transportation system performance and on a range of strategies for minimizing congestion and enhancing the mobility of people and goods. It coordinates with the update of the Long Range Plan and other planning efforts. A presentation of the CMS methodology was made by Zoe Neaderland of the DVRPC Congestion Management Office.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

11. Planning at the Edge: Highway Travel Analysis

Scott Brady and Tom Walker presented the process used to develop 2000 cordon highway traffic necessary for the travel simulation model. Included were automobile and truck traffic for all facility types traveling through the region or to destinations within the DVRPC counties. Traffic counts, travel survey data, and the models used were also discussed.

12. The River Line

Joe North, New Jersey Transit's General Manager of Light Rail, provided an overview of the recently opened River LINE. This 34 mile light rail line with 20 stations operates along the Delaware River between Camden and Trenton. The River LINE has the potential to enhance the region's economic development and increase the personal mobility of residents throughout the 130 Corridor.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. New Design of DVRPC Website

Joseph Fazekas, Webmaster of the DVRPC, gave a brief overview of DVRPC's new website design, which was launched on April 1st.

LUNCH

14. One Minute Reports

PCC/RTC Members and guests provided updates on the activities of their agencies.

14. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is May 11, 2004.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Bucks County
Burlington County
Camden County
Chester County
City of Camden
City of Chester
City of Trenton
Delaware County
Delaware River Port Authority
DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee
Delaware Valley Citizens' Transportation Com.
Gloucester County
Mercer County
Montgomery County
NJ Department of Transportation
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Transit Corporation
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Department of Transportation
PA Governor's Policy Office
Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Philadelphia Department of Streets
Philadelphia Office of Strategic Planning
Southeastern PA Transportation Authority

Representative

David Johnson
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Lee Whitmore
Bob Wisniewski
(not represented)
Andrew Carten
Tom Shaffer
Linda Hayes
Warren Strumpfer
Lorraine Brill
(not represented)
Nick Angarone
Leo Bagley
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
James Schwarzwalder
(not represented)
Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown
(not represented)
Michelle Webb
Kenneth Lomax
Catherine Popp-McDonough

Non-Voting Members

Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force
Federal Highway Administration - NJ division
Federal Highway Administration - PA division
Federal Transit Administration - Region III
ITS Technical Task Force
NJ Turnpike Authority
New Jersey TMAs
Pennsylvania Bus Association
Pennsylvania TMAs
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Pottstown Urban Transit
South Jersey Port Corporation
South Jersey Transportation Authority

Representative

Kelvin MacKavanagh
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
William Ragozine
(not represented)
Peter Quinn
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

US EPA - Region II (not represented)
US EPA - Region III (not represented)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Laurie Actman - CPDC
Judy Adams - City of Trenton
Charles Campbell - SEPTA
Eric Cheung - Clean Air Council/Greater Phila. Clean Cities
Dave Cox - Urban Engineers
Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia
Sue Herman - RRTS, Inc.
Kawah Ibrahim - PENNDOT
Naga Soilakehmi Koganti - PENNDOT
Jeanne Neese - SEPTA
Joe North - NJ Transit
Roger Sager - DRJTBC
Kathleen Zubrzycki – SEPTA

DVRPC Staff

Kathleen Belmonte
Ted Dahlburg
Charles Dougherty
Zoe Neaderland
Jim Resta
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Donald Shanis
Jienki Synn
John Ward
Thabet Zakaria