

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/ REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### May 10, 2005 Meeting Highlights

#### Conversation Hall, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA

#### 1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Michelle Webb, the PCC/RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Niya Blackwell, aide to Mayor John Street, welcomed the RTC members to Philadelphia City Hall.

#### 2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis announced to the PCC/RTC that the DVRPC offices have been successfully moved to the American College of Physicians (ACP) building located at 190 N. Independence Mall West in Philadelphia. Future transportation funding, at both the federal and state level, has yet to be designated (e.g. TEA-21, NJ State Gas Tax).

Mr. Shanis informed the members that the DVRPC will be conducting three open houses for public review of the DVRPC Draft Year 2030 Long-Range Plan *Destination 2030*; the Transportation Conformity Finding; and the Draft DVRPC FY 2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey. The open houses will be held at the following locations:

- May 17, 5:00 - 6:30 PM: ACP, Philadelphia, PA
- May 24, 4:30 - 6:00 PM: Four Seasons banquet hall, Norristown, PA
- May 26, 4:30 - 6:00 PM: Vogelson Branch - Camden County Library, Voorhees, NJ

#### 3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

Warren Strumpfer stated that many of the RCC comments about last month's TIP actions centered on bike/pedestrian concerns. He asked if the RCC is alone in voicing concern over this issue. He asked for reassurance that these issues are being addressed and also requested that bike/ped accommodations be stated in future TIP project statements.

Don Shanis (DVRPC) stated that these requests are engineering-level issues

and fall outside the scope of the TIP Actions. Robert Hannigan (PENNDOT) added that PENNDOT's policy and procedures require consideration of bicycle accommodations in the project design phase. Both Mr. Shanis and Mr. Hannigan stated that, due to these reasons, it is unnecessary for the RCC to continue asking for these provisions since many projects would contain these accommodations.

Mr. Strumpfer then reported that the RCC has concerns regarding the FY 2006 Work Program amendment on the Bucks County Regional Traffic Study. These included,

1. The RCC believes that the goal, tasks, and funding of this project should be expanded so the rail alternative for hauling quarry stone could be extended to additional quarries to alleviate quarry truck traffic through residential roads.
2. The RCC requests that the "Bucks County Regional Traffic Study Scope of Work" be included in the work program to ensure that additional concerns of the study are included in the work program tasks.
3. The RCC requests that a rail representative from the "Goods Movement Task Force" be added to the major stakeholders' list.

More detailed information regarding this amendment are located in the April 12, 2005 RCC Minutes.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **4. Highlights of the Meeting of April 5, 2005**

The highlights from the April 5 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Lee Whitmore, 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 5 TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

**a. TIP Action NJ05-14: Traffic Signal Video Camera Detection Retrofit Project (New Proposed Project), Gloucester County**

Gloucester County has requested that the DVRPC amend the FY2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, the Gloucester County Traffic Signal Video Camera Detection Retrofit project. The request is to program \$2.4 million STP-STU funds for construction in FY05, drawing down from the \$2.468 million programmed in the DVRPC Future Projects line item, DB #D026. Funds will be used to purchase video equipment, brackets, cable, and new communication panels as necessary.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Matt Lawson, to approve TIP Action NJ05-14 to amend the FY2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, the Gloucester County Traffic Signal Video Camera Detection Retrofit project.*

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

**b. TIP Action PA05-28: Philadelphia Port Access Enhancement (New Proposed Project, MPMS #72359), Philadelphia**

PENNDOT has requested that the DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Philadelphia Port Access Enhancement project (MPMS #72359), programming \$500,000 specially earmarked TCSP (Transportation and Community System Preservation) funds in FY05.

*Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Anthony Santaniello, to approve TIP Action PA05-28 to amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Philadelphia Port Access Enhancement project (MPMS #72359).*

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

c. **TIP Action PA05-29a: Route 313 Signals (MPMS #57638), Bucks County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Route 313 project to the TIP with a \$306,000 CMAQ FY05 utility phase and \$1.5 million construction phase (FY06 and FY07). The project will provide for a closed loop traffic signal system on Route 313 between Sawmill Road and East Court Street, in addition to a signal on Main Street between Ashland Street and Swamp Road.

d. **TIP Action PA05-29b: Merion Avenue Bridge over R5 (MPMS #16180), Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing and increasing the construction phase for the Merion Avenue Bridge project (MPMS #16180). This project was recently added to the TIP for final design and utility phases totaling \$2.45 million (Federal/State/Local), with construction expected in FY08 or later. The request requires that \$7.218 million (\$5.774 federal Bridge/\$1.083 State/\$361,000 Local) be programmed in FY05 for construction. This project will advance in conjunction with the Church Rd. Bridge in Lower Merion Township, MPMS #16155.

e. **TIP Action PA05-29c: Church Road Bridge over R5 (MPMS#16155), Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing and increasing the construction phase for the Church Road Bridge project (MPMS #16155). This project was recently added to the TIP for final design and utility phases totaling \$2.575 million (Federal/State/Local), with construction expected in FY08 or later. The request requires that \$5.664 million (\$4.531 federal Bridge/\$850,000/State/\$283,000 Local) be programmed in FY05 for construction. This project will advance in conjunction with the Merion Avenue Bridge in Lower Merion Township, MPMS #16180.

*Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Tom Shaffer, to approve TIP Action PA05-29a, PA05-29b, and PA05-29c to amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the*

*Route 313 project to the TIP with a \$306,000 CMAQ FY05 utility phase and \$1.5 million construction phase (FY06 and FY07); by advancing and increasing the construction phase for the Merion Avenue Bridge project (MPMS #16180); by advancing and increasing the construction phase for the Church Road Bridge project (MPMS #16155).*

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

**6. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2006 DVRPC PCC/RTC Officers**

A Nominating Committee was selected to appoint candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman, for the PCC/RTC for Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006). Following the suggestion of DVRPC staff, it was recommended that the committee be comprised of the following representatives: Michelle Webb, Don Shanis, and Carol Thomas.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough, to appoint the nominating committee of Michelle Webb, Don Shanis, and Carol Thomas for Fiscal Year 2006 DVRPC PCC/RTC officers.*

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

**PRESENTATION ITEMS**

**7. Surveying the Region and Assessing Community Opinion**

In conjunction with the development of the DVRPC 2030 Long Range Plan, a telephone survey of area residents was conducted to garner public input on a number of transportation and land use topics. Barry Seymour of the DVRPC presented the findings of the survey, which was completed for 675 households in the region (i.e., 75 per DVRPC county).

**8. SEPTA Capital Projects Update (City Hall Station Rehabilitation, Suburban Station Improvements and 13<sup>th</sup> Street & Juniper Station Improvements)**

One of the goals of SEPTA's Capital Budget is to restore the existing public transit network to a state of good repair. Terry Heiser and Jack McElwee of SEPTA highlighted three capital improvement projects that are underway in the City of Philadelphia: City Hall Station Rehabilitation, Suburban Station

Improvements and 13<sup>th</sup> Street & Juniper Station Improvements. These stations provide access to multiple modes of transit and are critical to the City and the Region.

**9. Guaranteed Ride Home Program**

Stacy Bartels of the DVRPC presented a proposal to initiate a Guaranteed/Emergency Ride Home program to complement existing alternate commute services and programs.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**10. Congestion Management System (CMS) Update**

The update of the regional CMS, which is being performed with the active participation of a CMS Advisory Committee, is nearing the half-way point. Zoe Neaderland reported on progress made to date and about an upcoming presentation she is making to the DVRPC Board.

**11. One Minute Reports**

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

**12. Old Business and New Business**

There was no old or new business discussed.

**13. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. Following lunch, a guided tour of Philadelphia City Hall was conducted by Richard Tyler, Historic Preservation Officer for the Philadelphia Historical Commission. The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is June 7, 2005. **The meeting will be held in the new DVRPC offices at 190 N. Independence Mall West.**

**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  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Judy Adams  
 Tom Shaffer  
 Linda Hayes  
 Warren Strumpfer  
 Lorraine Brill  
 Jessica Savidge  
 Matt Lawson  
 Brad Shelton  
 Brian Cuccia  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Jerry Lutin  
 (not represented)  
 Robert Hannigan  
 Linda Guarini  
 Anthony Santaniello  
 Michelle Webb  
 Kenneth Lomax  
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

**Non-Voting Members**

Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force  
 Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce  
 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 MacKavanaugh  
 Tom Caramanico  
 Joung Lee  
 (not represented)  
 Janet Kampf  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 William Ragozine  
 (not represented)  
 Peter Quinn  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Robert Ihlein  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)

**ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

US EPA - Region II

(not represented)

US EPA - Region III

(not represented)

**Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Jim Mosca - PENNDOT

Tameka Macon - FHWA, NJ

Andrea Jordan- City of Philadelphia Streets Dept.

Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia Streets Dept.

Terry Heiser - SEPTA

Raman Patel - SEPTA

Jack McElwee - SEPTA

Tim Kelly - Clean Air Council

Darren Fava - CPTMA

Jim McQuilkin - DRPA

Clayton Lane - Philadelphia Car Share

**DVRPC Staff**

Donald Shanis

Barry Seymour

John Ward

Matthew West

Ted Dahlburg

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Will Stevens

Zoe Neaderland

John Coscia, Jr.

Stacy Bartels