

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### October 11, 2005 Meeting Highlights

### DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

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

Brian Cuccia, PCC/RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

#### 2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC) informed the members that John Coscia, DVRPC's Executive Director, has tendered his resignation, effective March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Dr. Shanis continued by saying that Mr. Coscia will be working with the DVRPC Board on a plan to fill the position of Executive Director.

Dr. Shanis stated that there have been concerns raised about the availability of funding for the newly passed transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU), as a direct result from the recovery expenses related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The possibility remains that the transportation bill will not be fully funded.

Dr. Shanis reported that the Work Program Committee Meeting will be held on October 25, 2005, at 10:00 AM, in the DVRPC's main conference room.

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

Warren Strumpfer (RCC) addressed the members by saying that the RCC requested that the signals included in TIP Action PA05-41B - Norristown Signal System (See September 6, 2005 RTC Highlights) project, be configured to improve crossings for bicycles and pedestrians.

Mr. Strumpfer continued by stating the RCC presented a supportive resolution focussing on incorporating contingency ("What If") disaster planning into the DVRPC's FY 2007 Work Program.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**4. Highlights of the Meeting of September 6, 2005**

The highlights from the September 6 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough to adopt the highlights for the September 6 PCC/RTC meeting.*

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

**5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 6 TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

**a. TIP Action PA05-45: US 202 Expressway (Section 700) (MPMS #13484, 16731, 47395, 47396), Various Counties**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming \$38.3 million state funds for the preliminary engineering and right of way funds for Section 700 of US Route 202. The project has been under re-evaluation for the past year and a limited 4 lane section combined with a 2 lane parkway concept has replaced the original 4-lane limited access design. State funds for preliminary engineering and right of way are now being programmed for the advancing phases in FY06 and FY07 accordingly:

-\$4 million for MPMS #13484, Environmental Review and ITS Design (PE in FY06)

-\$19.3 million for MPMS #16731, PA 63 to 309/463 (Section 701) (ROW in FY06 and FY07)

-\$6 million for MPMS #47395, Pickertown Rd to PA 611 (Sec. 721) (ROW in FY06)

-\$9 million for MPMS #47396, PA 463 to Pickertown Rd.(Sec. 711) (ROW in FY06 and FY07)

Project descriptions will also be edited to properly reflect plans, limits and descriptions for the various sections.

Public meetings will be held on the new concept on October 25, November 1, and November 2, 2005.

*Motion: by David Johnson, seconded by Leo Bagley to approve TIP Action PA05-45, to modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming \$38.3 million state funds for the preliminary engineering and right of way funds for Section 700 of US Route 202.*

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

**b. TIP Action PA05-46a: I-476, Lawrence to Matson Ford Road (MPMS #16736), Delaware County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a \$24.442 million construction phase for the I-476 Lawrence to Matson Ford Road section of the Blue Route, phased over fiscal years 06, 07, and 08. The design of this project was added to the FY03 TIP last spring as a project to be drawn from the Preventive Maintenance (PM) line item, but construction was not programmed or included in the FY05 TIP. This PM project will fund bridge and pavement preservation along I-476 and I-76, including resurfacing, guiderail replacement, and deck repairs in Marple, Haverford, Radnor, Lower Merion, and West Conshohocken.

*Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by David Johnson to approve TIP Action PA05-46a, to amend the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by adding the \$24.442 million construction phase of the I-476 Lawrence to Matson Ford Road project (MPMS #16736) and drawing \$10.31 million federal/\$3.490 million state from MPMS #57622, combined with funds from other projects whose schedules have changed.*

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

**c. TIP Action PA05-46b: Media Downtown Streetscape (MPMS #61701), Delaware County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing construction costs by \$277,000 TE funds for a project selected through the TE Competitive Program in order for it to advance to construction. PENNDOT proposes to fund the cost increases by drawing unobligated FY05 funds from the DVRPC TE Line item.

*Motion: by David Johnson, seconded by Justin Dula to approve TIP Action PA05-46b, to modify the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by drawing \$277,000 TE funds from the DVRPC TE Line Item, MPMS*

*#64984, and transferring it to MPMS #61701, Media Downtown Streetscapes.*

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

d. **TIP Action PA05-47a: US 422 Interim Project (MPMS #74648, New Proposed Project) Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the US 422 Interim Improvement project (MPMS #74648) which received one of the DEMO earmarks in the recently passed federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU. \$240,000 DEMO/\$60,000 state would be programmed in FY06 to help continue the process of final design for the interim improvements. Final design for components of the 422 River Crossing Complex ( MPMS #'s 66952, 64798, and 70197) is currently underway, and this action enables the design process to continue. The full amount of the earmark totals \$800,000 DEMO/\$200,000 match, and unused funds will be put towards construction. SAFETEA-LU earmarks are not released in "lump sums" similarly to DEMO's in previous legislation, but instead are phased in over the life of the bill.

e. **TIP Action PA05-47b: Norristown Parking Facility (MPMS #74802, New Proposed Project) Montgomery County**

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Norristown Parking Facility project (MPMS #74802) which received one of the DEMO earmarks in the recently passed federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU. \$600,000 DEMO/\$150,000 state would be programmed in FY06 to contribute towards construction of the Norristown parking garage, a new 500 space facility at the corner of Main and Cherry Streets in Norristown. Preconstruction activities are underway and the engineering and balance of the construction costs are being handled and funded by Montgomery County (\$4.5 million) combined with state Redevelopment Assistance funds (\$4 million). Total construction is estimated at approximately \$10.5 million. The full amount of the earmark for this project totals \$2,00,000 DEMO/\$500,000 match. SAFETEA-LU earmarks are not released in "lump sums" similarly to DEMO's in previous legislation, but instead are phased in over the life of the bill.

*Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Lee Whitmore to approve TIP Actions PA05-47a, and PA05-47b, to amend the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by adding a new project to the TIP, the US 422 Interim Improvement project (MPMS #74648), programming \$240,000 DEMO/\$60,000 state for final design in FY06; and to modify the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by adding a new project to the TIP,*

*the Norristown Parking Facility project (MPMS #74802) and programming \$600,000 DEMO/\$150,000 match for construction in FY06.*

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

**f. TIP Action PA05-48: Deferral (Deletion) of Projects, Various Counties**

**Delete:**

**MPMS #16334, PA 73, Church Road, Greenwood-Rice's Mill, Montgomery  
MPMS #17464, Holme Avenue (Bridge) Over Conrail, Philadelphia**

**Defer:**

**MPMS #15345, PA 252, Providence Road, Delaware  
MPMS #62694, Passyunk Avenue Drawbridge, Philadelphia  
MPMS #57893, Lehigh Avenue East (Signals), Philadelphia  
MPMS #62717, Lehigh Avenue West (Signals), Philadelphia  
MPMS #47812, I-95 Betsy Ross Interchange, Philadelphia  
MPMS #13240, Old Bethlehem Road, Bucks County  
MPMS #57629, County Line Road Extension: Bustleton Pike to Philmont  
Avenue, Bucks County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by deleting two projects from the TIP. MPMS #16634 is not moving as there is disagreement between PENNDOT and the municipality regarding the configuration and right of way required for adding the left turn lane at the intersection. The Holme Avenue Bridge project appeared in the 1997 TIP for engineering in FY1997 and construction in FY2000 and has not advanced.

PENNDOT has also requested that DVRPC modify the TIP by deferring phases of several projects to either FY08 or Later Fiscal Years in order to maintain fiscal constraint of the program. Some of the projects are currently slated for construction in FY06 or FY07/FY08, but are not advancing, and are not expected to use the funds during the assigned year. PENNDOT must maintain financial constraint and proposes that the schedules of the projects be readdressed during the upcoming FY07 PA TIP update.

*Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Jim Mosca to approve TIP Action PA05-48, to amend the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by deleting two projects: (MPMS #16334) PA 73, Church Road, Greenwood-Rice's Mill; and (MPMS #17464) Holme Avenue (Bridge) Over Conrail; and deferring projects MPMS #'s 15345, 62694, 57893, 62717, 47812, 13240, and 57629.*

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

## **6. Congestion Management System (CMS) Update**

An Advisory Committee has worked with staff on a major update of the CMS for the DVRPC region. Zoe Neaderland (DVRPC) presented a draft Executive Summary and report for discussion and for recommendation of action by the Board. The CMS will be a significant tool in helping the region realize its goals.

*Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Jessica Savidge to recommend to the Board the adoption of an update to the Congestion Management System.*

Motion passed. 17 votes were cast in favor of the motion, none opposed, and 1 abstention (Brian Cuccia, NJDOT).

## **7. Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements (TE), Home Town Streets (HTS), and Safe Routes to School (SRS): 2005-2006 Selection Process Approval**

A competition for the TE/HTS/SRS programs for the Pennsylvania portion of the region began in July 2005 with applications due by September 30, 2005.

Ryan Gallagher (DVRPC) requested that the RTC take action on the following items:

- a. Formation of a Pennsylvania TE/HTS/SRS Subcommittee
- b. Adoption of a TE/HTS/SRS Project Evaluation and Selection Process

*Motion: by Kenneth Lomax, seconded by Lee Whitmore to approve the formation of a Pennsylvania TE/HTS/SRS Subcommittee; and to adopt a TE/HTS/SRS Project Evaluation and Selection Process. This motion is for the RTC only.*

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

## **8. Inclusion of the Long-Form Questionnaire in Census 2010**

Dr. Thabet Zakaria (DVRPC) recommended to the members that a resolution be submitted to the Census Bureau to urge the re-installation of the long-form questionnaire in Census 2010. The Census Bureau has decided to delete the long-form questionnaire from future censuses and to collect the same data annually from a proposed survey called the American Community Survey (ACS). DVRPC evaluation of the ACS data has indicated that the data cannot be used for transportation planning due to very large errors.

The RTC recommended that the proposed resolution should not only be addressed to the US Census Bureau, but should also include regional congressional representatives, and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC).

*Motion: by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Warren Strumpfer to submit to the Board for approval a resolution that will be submitted to the US Census Bureau, regional congressional representatives, and the National Association of Regional Councils, that urges the re-installation of the long-form questionnaire in the Census 2010.*

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **9. Regional Transportation Evacuation Plan Coordination**

Don Shanis informed the members of a new initiative that the DVRPC Board is considering, that would provide regional coordination for emergency evacuation planning. This new project would bring together appropriate agencies and organizations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware to work together to assure that the region's transportation operations are prepared for a disaster or major incident. The appropriate role and responsibilities of the planning commission were discussed.

### **10. New Jersey Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan**

The project team, Anthony DeJohn, Jr., Danielle Graves, and Gail Gimbel, provided an update on the preparation of *Transportation Choices 2030*, New Jersey's long range transportation plan. The plan will help develop a blueprint to move people and goods in the next 25 years. The presentation included an opportunity for RTC members to ask questions and provide input.

## **PRESENTATION ITEMS**

### **11. Journey-to-Work Trends in the Delaware Valley Region, 1980 - 2000**

Scott Brady of DVRPC discussed a report and analysis of the journey-to-work data contained in the 2000 US Census. The report presents data at the county level for the nine counties in the DVRPC region, as well as for the cities of Chester, Camden, Trenton, and Center City, Philadelphia. The report also contains demographic data from the 1980 through 2000 US Censuses, and historical trends in the work commute.

### **12. Development and Calibration of the UPlan Land Use Planning Model**

Tom Walker of DVRPC presented a report entitled, *Development and Calibration of the UPlan Land Use Planning Model*. UPlan is a GIS based land use planning model that spatially allocates new development for use in long-range land use planning and

scenario testing. This model is intended to estimate the effect of existing and proposed transportation facilities and development policies on land use patterns. It is useful for corridor and comprehensive planning studies.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **13. One Minute Reports**

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

### **14. Old Business and New Business**

### **15. Meeting Adjournment**

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is November 15, 2005.



**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

**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**

David Johnson  
 Carol Thomas  
 (not represented)  
 Lee Whitmore  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Judy Adams  
 Justin Dula  
 Linda Hayes  
 Warren Strumpfer  
 Lorraine Brill  
 Jessica Savidge  
 Matt Lawson  
 Leo Bagley  
 Brian Cuccia  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 James Schwarzwaldner  
 (not represented)  
 Jim Mosca  
 Linda Guarini  
 (not represented)  
 Michelle Webb  
 Kenneth Lomax  
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

**Representative**

Kelvin MacKavanaugh  
 Tom Caramanico  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 William Ragozine  
 (not represented)  
 Peter Quinn  
 (not represented)  
 Nick Walsh  
 (not represented)  
 Hank D'Andrea  
 (not represented)

**ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

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

**Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Tim Kelly - Clean Air Council  
Sue Herman - RRTS  
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA  
Randy Waltermeyer - Chester County Planning Comm.  
Darren Fava - CPTMA  
Alex Flemming - Delaware County Planning Comm.  
Larry King - Philadelphia Inquirer  
Andrew Levecchia - Camden County Improvement Authority  
Anthony DeJohn - Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.  
Danielle Graves - NJDOT  
Gail Gimbel - DMJM Harris

**DVRPC Staff**

Donald Shanis  
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Chris Gray  
Scott Brady