

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### November 15, 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 the DVRPC Board Retreat is scheduled for December 2, 2005 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He encouraged interested members to contact the DVRPC offices.

Dr. Shanis commented on the SEPTA strike that lasted for one week, and stated that the issue of dedicated transportation funding has yet to be resolved. Dr. Shanis also encouraged members to keep abreast of future transportation funding issues, as both Pennsylvania and New Jersey will be addressing these issues in the near future.

Dr. Shanis informed the members that the DVRPC will be hiring a consultant to help determine key transit issues within the DVRPC region.

Dr. Shanis stated that the DVRPC recently completed a region-wide Bicycle Survey. He stated that this survey was among the first of its kind to gather the various types of data that was collected.

Lastly, Dr. Shanis stated that the TMAs have asked for a 20% increase in the funds allocated to them by PENNDOT/DVRPC.

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

Warren Strumpfer presented a brief report during the One Minute Reports portion of the meeting. (Please refer to the One Minute Reports section of the highlights for specific comments.)

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **4. Highlights of the Meeting of October 11, 2005**

The highlights from the October 11 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

*Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Edward Williams to adopt the highlights for the October 11 PCC/RTC meeting.*

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

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

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 2 TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

#### **a. TIP Action PA05-51: I-95, Bleigh to Academy (MPMS #47783), Philadelphia**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction phase of the I-95 Bleigh Avenue to Academy Road project (MPMS #47783) by adding \$7.290 million (\$5.832 million federal/\$1.458 million state) to FY06. Cost increases to the project are the result of necessary revisions to the portion of the structure which passes over Amtrak (including additional Amtrak labor costs), grouting work required for an abandoned quarry, and temporary repairs necessary for the State Road viaduct. Additional fees (\$3.5 million) may be incurred in the future due to interference in Amtrak service caused by the construction project. This section of the I-95 reconstruction project entails the rehabilitation of approximately 2.5 miles of roadway. Improvements for this section of I-95 include the rehabilitation of six bridges and 1.2 miles of repaired/resurfaced roadway at an estimated cost of \$83 million.

*Motion: by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Kenneth Lomax to modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction phase of the I-95 Bleigh Avenue to Academy Road project (MPMS #47783) by adding \$7.290 million (\$5.832 million federal/\$1.458 million state) to FY06.*

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

b. **TIP Action PA05-52: High Arch Bridge (MPMS #16630), Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by deleting the Norristown Farm Park High Arch Bridge project (MPMS #16630) currently programmed for construction in FY07 with \$800,000 state funds and \$200,000 match provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The High Arch Bridge is one of four bridges in the park that belong to DCNR slated for repair or replacement, and bridges will proceed one after the other. DCNR has indicated that the Stanbridge Street Bridge (which just advanced to preliminary engineering in July, 2005) and Hospital Bridge are the top 2 priority bridges, and that the Meadow Bridge and High Arch Bridge are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> priorities, respectively.

*Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough to amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by deleting the Norristown Farm Park High Arch Bridge project (MPMS #16630) currently programmed for construction in FY07 with \$800,000 state funds and \$200,000 match provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).*

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

6. **New Jersey Local Scoping Highway Program**

The New Jersey Local Scoping Program provides federal funds directly to member governments for the advancement of projects through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and preliminary engineering processes. By developing solutions to a defined problem, projects may then be eligible for advancement in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). John Coscia, Jr. presented the following two projects, which are proposed to draw funds down from the DVRPC Local Scoping Line Item in FY06:

a. **CR 670 Bridge over the Assiscunk Creek, Burlington County - \$150,000**

b. **Bisham Street Bridge over N. Branch of Rancocas Creek, Burlington County - \$150,000**

*Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by Jerry Lutin to recommend to the Board the approval of the two projects to draw funds down from the DVRPC Local Scoping Line Item in FY06.*

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

## 7. Work Program Amendments

To respond to the needs of member governments and agencies, work program changes and additions are brought to the RTC to permit the timely undertaking of technical activity.

### a. **US 202 Section 700 Traffic, Phase II**

Matt Gates (DVRPC) presented information about Phase II of the US 202 Section 700 Traffic Study. For Phase II of this project, the study area will be expanded to include the remainder of the US 202 Section 700 corridor, including its parallel routes, and adjacent municipalities. The DVRPC will provide daily and AM and PM peak hour traffic forecasts, including peak hour intersection turning movement forecasts for the proposed US 202 parkwy, its at-grade intersections with cross streets, and other selected facilities. This phase will be initiated in FY2006 and completed in early FY2007.

*Motion: by David Johnson, seconded by Leo Bagley to recommend to the Board for approval, the DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment: the US 202 Section 700 Traffic Study, Phase II.*

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

### b. **Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Management System**

Ted Dahlburg discussed a proposed study entitled, *Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Management System*. The purpose of the project is to improve the accuracy and availability of rail and highway grade crossing information for both freight and passenger lines in the region. The concept for the project arose from DVRPC's freight advisory committee, the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force.

Creating this new grade crossing management system will tap into 2 key resources: the DVRPC GIS system and the Federal Railroad Administration's national crossing inventory. FRA is the custodian for the file, and the states and the railroads maintain the data. This proposed study will focus on creating a GIS grade crossing layer and updating information for the public at-grade crossings on active rail lines. The updates will adhere to the prescribed, formal update process, and will be closely coordinated with FRA and PennDOT.

*Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Lee Whitmore to recommend to the Board for approval, the DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment: Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Management System.*

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

**c. Route 202 - Section ES 1/100 Land Use Implementation Project**

In 2001, DVRPC completed a US Route 202 Land Use Strategies Study that recommended various land development and traffic management techniques, including public transit, to manage future development, access and traffic flow in conjunction with the potential widening of US 202. The study also included sample ordinances for consideration by municipal officials to achieve implementation of the recommended strategies. This new project is intended to reestablish the study advisory committee that was in place for the 2001 study process, composed of local, county, PennDOT, SEPTA, TMA, and DVRPC officials and staff to revisit the previous study's recommendations for municipal implementation activities, and to determine whether local officials are interested in achieving a Smart Growth corridor in the future by taking proactive and affirmative steps to implement study recommendations. The study is also intended to provide "customized" plans and ordinances for those municipalities interested in achieving a Smart Growth corridor.

*Lee Whitmore (Chester County) stated that Chester County is hesitant to move this project forward, due to funding issues. Mr. Whitmore explained that, due to limited staff size, Chester County has not had sufficient time to address the funding required by this project. Mr. Whitmore asked that this project be tabled until Chester County has had adequate time to understand and agree to the funding for this project.*

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Curt Noe to table the DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment: Route 202 - Section ES 1/100 Land Use Implementation Plan.*

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

**d. Identification of Bus Pull-outs on Camden County Roads**

This project will develop a county-wide "Master Plan" to identify potential locations for bus pull-outs on county roads. A set of general design standards related to the length and width of the pull-out areas as well as decel/accel tapers will also be developed. The Master Plan will enable local planning and engineering agencies to make the necessary provisions to accommodate bus pull-outs in future development and capital projects.

DVRPC will work with the County, New Jersey Transit, and appropriate municipalities for the collection and review of project data, the execution of the study, and the preparation of the Final Report/Master Plan.

*Motion: by Linda Hayes, seconded by Curt Noe to recommend to the Board for approval, the DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment: Identification of Bus Pull-Outs on Camden County Roads.*

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

**8. Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP) & Transit Support Group (TSP)**

The Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP) and the Transit Support Program (TSP) annually comprise chapters three and four, respectively, of the DVRPC Planning Work Program (PWP). The purpose of these programs is to provide funding for transportation planning activities of staffs of DVRPC's member governments. In addition to these budgets, a portion of the overall TSP budget is reserved for limited duration special studies, as well as a portion of the SRHPP budget for New Jersey. The Pennsylvania and New Jersey Subcommittees met in November to select the special studies for these programs for the FY 2007 PWP. Sarah Oaks (DVRPC) presented a summary of the special studies along with confirmed SRHPP budgets and anticipated TSP budgets. She asked the RTC to approve the FY 2007 Transit Support Programs for Pennsylvania and New Jersey with the understanding that budget figures will be adjusted once final numbers are known, and to approve the FY 2007 Supportive Regional Highway Planning Programs for Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

*Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Jerry Lutin to recommend to the Board the approval of the FY 2007 Transit Support Programs for Pennsylvania and New Jersey with the understanding that budget figures will be adjusted once final numbers are known; and the FY 2007 Supportive Regional Highway Planning Programs for Pennsylvania and New Jersey.*

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

**9. Authorization to Open Transportation Conformity Public Comment Period**

Adhering to all regulatory requirements, DVRPC must demonstrate transportation conformity of the FY 2005 Pennsylvania TIP, FY 2006 New Jersey TIP, and the *Destination 2030* Long Range Plan for the applicable pollutants in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Jienki Synn (DVRPC) stated that he expects DVRPC staff to complete all quantitative analyses by late November, 2005, and requested that the PCC/RTC recommend to the Board to open a public comment period to receive comment on the finding. The tentative comment period will run

from December 5, 2005 to January 6, 2006, and is coordinated to occur concurrently among 11 MPOs in five states.

*Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Warren Strumpfer to recommend to the Board to open a Transportation Conformity public comment period from December 5, 2005 to January 6, 2005.*

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

#### **10. Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) 2005 Project Selection**

Over the past three years, DVRPC has provided a total of 76 TCDI planning grants throughout the region. The fourth round of the TCDI was announced in July 2005, and applications were due back to DVRPC on September 30<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, there is \$1 million available in PA and \$500,000 in New Jersey. The TCDI review committees met on November 9<sup>th</sup> to rank and prioritize the projects. Barry Seymour (DVRPC) presented the projects that were recommended for funding and sought the RTC's recommendation for Board adoption.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Warren Strumpfer to recommend to the Board the approval of the funding for the selected TCDI projects .*

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

#### **11. PCC/RTC Meeting Dates for 2006**

Don Shanis (DVRPC) presented to the committee for its consideration, a set of proposed meeting dates for the PCC/RTC for calendar year 2006.

*Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Lee Whitmore to adopt the proposed CY 2006 meeting dates for the PCC/RTC.*

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

### **PRESENTATION ITEMS**

#### **12. Update of DVRPC's ITS Program Including RIMIS**

DVRPC's ITS program encompasses a wide range of activities including hosting the ITS Technical Task Force, operating incident management task forces, performing technical assistance to the operating agencies, conducting regional ITS coordination initiatives on behalf of the agencies, maintaining the Regional ITS Architecture, and advancing RIMIS. Stan Platt (DVRPC) presented an overview of the ITS program and some of the latest initiatives he is involved in.

#### **13. New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Hyperbuild Program**

Dana Hecht of the NJDOT Division of Project Management discussed the Hyperbuild Program and the success of the Rt. 1 Olden/Mulberry Street Bridge replacements.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **14. Status of Non Traditional Project Implementation**

DVRPC assists PENNDOT District 6-0 in implementing the non-traditional, federally funded (TE, CMAQ, HTS/SRS, etc.) transportation projects in southeastern Pennsylvania. Jacob Malikkal (DVRPC) presented a status report for the projects.

### **15. Status of Bucks County Regional Traffic Study**

Jerry Coyne (DVRPC) discussed the assistance being provided to seven municipalities in the Newtown-Yardley region of Bucks County to investigate safety and mobility conditions surrounding truck and general traffic flow, and to identify a viable improvement program including education, enforcement and engineering solutions.

### **16. One Minute Reports**

PCC/RTC Members and guests provided updates on the activities of their agencies. Warren Strumpfer (RCC) asked that a revision be made to his comments listed under the Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities on the minutes of the October 11 RTC/PCC meeting.

### **17. Old Business and New Business**

### **18. Meeting Adjournment**

**The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is January 10, 2006.**

**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  
 Edward Williams  
 (not represented)  
 Judy Adams  
 Alex Flemming  
 Linda Hayes  
 Warren Strumpfer  
 Lorraine Brill  
 Jessica Savidge  
 (not represented)  
 Leo Bagley  
 Brian Cuccia  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Jerry Lutin  
 (not represented)  
 Jim Mosca  
 Linda Guarini  
 (not represented)  
 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  
 US EPA - Region II  
 US EPA - Region III

**Representative**

Kelvin MacKavanaugh  
 Tom Caramanico  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 William Ragozine  
 (not represented)  
 Peter Quinn  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Raymond Lopez  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)

**ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

**Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Sue Herman - RRTS  
Jennifer Dix - Resident - Newtown (Bucks County)  
Greg Brown - PennDOT District 6-0  
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA  
Darren Fava - CPTMA  
Dana Hecht - NJDOT

**DVRPC Staff**

Donald Shanis  
Charles Dougherty  
John Ward  
Ted Dahlburg  
Matthew West  
Elizabeth Schoonmaker  
William Stevens  
Jacob Malikkal  
Sean Greene  
Sean Lawrence  
Kenneth Thompson  
John Coscia, Jr.