

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**January 10, 2006 Meeting Highlights**  
**DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA**

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

Catherine Popp-McDonough, PCC/RTC Vice-Chair, substituting for Brian Cuccia, PCC/RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Ms. Popp-McDonough informed the members that SEPTA will be holding public meetings on Monday, January 30, 2006 at 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The meeting will focus on the FY2007 Capital Budget, and the FY2007-2018 Capital Program, and will be held in the SEPTA Board Room, Mezzanine Level, located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Ms. Popp-McDonough announced that agenda item *14. Emergency Ride Home Program* has been re-scheduled for the February 7, 2006 PCC/RTC meeting. Lastly, she introduced new PCC/RTC member government representatives.

**2. Transportation Director's Report**

Don Shanis (DVRPC) informed the members of the passing of two distinguished members of the planning community, Mr. Wayne Clapp (Chester County Planning Commission), and Mr. Mario Stegossi (DVRPC).

Dr. Shanis reported to the members that the 2005 DVRPC Board Retreat was a success. He stated that the Board members were interested in the planning issues related to the gaming industry, as the State of Pennsylvania continues its work on establishing gaming within the DVRPC region, as well as across the entire state.

Dr. Shanis informed the members that he had the opportunity to be a part of New Jersey's Governor's Transition Team, which was organized to aid Governor Corzine in his transition to governor. Dr. Shanis stated that he was given the opportunity to give testimony to what key planning issues the DVRPC believes should be addressed within the State of New Jersey, and that priority should be placed on keeping good people in place within the State's planning departments.

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

No report given.

**ACTION ITEMS****4. Highlights of the Meeting of November 15, 2005**

The highlights from the November 15, 2005 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption. A change was requested in the wording of the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Transportation Director's Report. The word "transit" should be replaced with the word "transportation".

*Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Jerry Lutin to adopt the highlights for the November 15, 2005 PCC/RTC meeting, including the wording change of the Transportation Director's Report.*

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

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

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 3 TIP amendments, 2 of which were submitted for consideration.

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

\*NOTE: TIP Action PA05-51 was approved for recommendation by the RTC at the November 15, 2005 meeting, but was tabled by the Board at the December meeting. No action was required by the RTC.

**b. TIP Action PA05-51b: PA 611, North Broad Street Signals (Glenwood to Grange) (MPMS #17652), Philadelphia**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the cost of the PA 611 North Broad Street Signal project from \$1.931 million to \$4.991 million by adding \$1 million CMAQ for utilities, \$60,000 for right of way, and increasing construction by \$2 million, all in FY06. The project which is now ready to advance will upgrade traffic signals at approximately 35 intersections along Broad Street between Somerset Street (near Lehigh Avenue) and Grange (near Stenton/Godfrey Avenues). The project was designed and committed as a measure to address I-95 traffic diversion. Signals will be replaced and tied via fiber optics to the City's Central Control Center and Traffic Shop. This project ties in to the other signal project on N. Broad Street as well as planned work on Belfield Avenue and Stenton/Godfrey Avenues.

*Motion: by Michelle Webb, seconded by Kenneth Lomax to modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the cost of the PA*

*611 North Broad Street Signal project (MPMS #17652) from \$1.931 million to \$4.991 million by adding \$1 million CMAQ for utilities, \$60,000 for right of way, and increasing construction by \$2 million, all in FY06.*

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

**c. TIP Action NJ06-01: Safe Streets to Schools Program (DB #99358),  
Various New Jersey Counties**

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2006-2008 TIP for New Jersey by federalizing the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) project (DB #99358) by adding \$3.4 million federal dollars in FY06. SAFETEA LU established a mandatory Safe Routes to School Program for all states, and the \$3.4 million represents New Jersey's FY05 and FY06 allocations to be programmed in the existing statewide line item (which currently has \$4 million state dollars in FY06 through FY08). The program will implement locally initiated pedestrian access and safety projects which provide safe access to schools. Apportionments are based on school enrollments in Primary and Middle Schools, with a minimum of \$1 million per state. 70-90% of the program is to be used for infrastructure projects, and education and marketing can comprise between 10% and 30% of the federal funds. The SRTS Program requires each state to have a full time SRTS Coordinator (paid for out of the infrastructure part of the funding) who is dedicated 100% of the time to SRTS. It is anticipated that New Jersey's SRTS program will function much like NJDOT's state funded Local Aid Safe Routes to School Program, where applications are sent out to municipalities annually and a committee meets to select grant recipients. This fiscal year NJDOT will use a portion of the funds to set up the program, pay for the program administrator, and some educational and marketing activities. It is also hoped that a NJDOT demonstration project at an elementary school in Lumberton, and/or projects identified by Palmyra or Riverton (all in Burlington County) may be able to advance infrastructure needs that have already been identified through the Local Aid program in order to advance projects that can move quickly for this first round of federal funding for the program. An advisory committee with MPO representation will be established to determine program development and implementation. (Information was included in an attachment that was distributed at the PCC/RTC meeting)

*Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by Carol Thomas to amend the FY2006-2008 TIP for New Jersey by federalizing the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) project (DB #99358) by adding \$3.4 million federal dollars in FY06.*

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

Charles Dougherty presented an amendment to the New Jersey MOU for TIP amendments and modifications for consideration.

x. **Amendment to the New Jersey Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures to Amend or Modify the Transportation Improvement Program**

It is DVRPC's desire to advance all TIP programmed projects as quickly as possible. DVRPC assists NJDOT in advancing the projects programmed in the TIP by employing the expedited processes embodied in our "Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures to Amend or Modify the TIP", as required by federal regulations. The MOU is structured in a tiered manner to deal with cost increases, allowing some changes below a certain threshold to occur without further action by DVRPC, other changes within a specified range to occur by an administrative action of the Executive Director, while all other changes require a formal action by the Board. However, DVRPC also recognizes that there are extreme time constraints (30 business days) associated with bids received for the construction phase of TIP projects and that the current MOU does not directly address cases where the bids differ greatly from the TIP programmed amount. The normal committee/Board meeting cycle may place the bid process in jeopardy. Therefore, DVRPC believes an additional clause is needed in the MOU to allow for an administrative action when the bid(s) received are over the programmed amount by more than currently permitted in the MOU and the reason for the excessive bid over-run is due to market or other unforeseen forces. Project managers are advised to insure that the TIP always reflects the most recent scope, cost and schedule estimates for their projects.

The incidence of bid over-runs has become more frequent in recent months, due most notably to petroleum and steel cost increases. In response to a request from NJDOT and FHWA for each MPO to adopt a process that will allow authorizations of construction projects which experience excessive bid over-runs, DVRPC proposes to amend the MOU for TIP Amendments and Modifications. In section B.2., "Modifications That May Be Approved By Administrative Action", add a new subparagraph (j), as follows:

- (j) When the following conditions are met: 1) the scope of the project has not expanded from that anticipated in the TIP; 2) the final estimated cost in the PS&E package was within the range permitted by an administrative action [B.2(c)]; and, 3) FHWA acknowledges the bid would otherwise be acceptable.***

The purpose of this addition to the MOU is to allow the DVRPC Executive

Director, upon notification by NJDOT that the bids received on a project are well over both the TIP programmed amount and a similar final design cost estimate (PS&E), to approve a TIP modification by Administrative Action if the stated conditions are met.

As with all potential administrative actions, the DVRPC Executive Director has the prerogative to decline the administrative action and instead require a formal action by the DVRPC Board. Furthermore, as with all TIP amendments and modifications, financial constraint will be maintained on at least a quarterly review basis, as permitted under Section C of the MOU related to the fiscal constraint bank. Typically, the balancing of funds is achieved by moving one or more projects that are least likely to be obligated during the current fiscal year where they are now programmed into the next year of the TIP. DVRPC will collaborate with NJDOT and the affected counties to identify these delayed projects and thereby keep the TIP within the available financial resources.

Staff also believes that the dollar thresholds in the current MOU may need to be updated as well and has, therefore, circulated a proposal for discussion among the RTC members. When consensus is reached, an additional amendment to the MOU will be brought to the Board for approval.

*Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Jessica Savidge to amend the New Jersey Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures to Amend or Modify the TIP by adding a new subparagraph to Section B.2, "Modifications That May Be Approved By Administrative Action", to read:*

***(j) When the following conditions are met: 1) the scope of the project has not expanded from that anticipated in the TIP; 2) the final estimated cost in the PS&E package was within the range permitted by an administrative action [B.2(c)]; and, 3) FHWA acknowledges the bid would otherwise be acceptable.***

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

## **6. DVRPC FY 2007 Planning Work Program**

Don Shanis (DVRPC) informed the members that the Draft Planning Work Program for FY 2007 which begins on July 1, 2006 was approved by the Board for distribution and review. This draft document was made available at the Board Retreat on December 2, 2005 and copies were mailed separately to RTC members in mid-December. The draft includes all of the work expected to be completed by DVRPC staff and also the Transportation Support Programs and the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Programs in both States. The RTC

was asked to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the Final FY 2007 Work Program.

Lee Whitmore (Chester County) voiced concern over the list of "TIP Actions Required to Fund Requests for DVRPC FY2007 Work Program (UPWP)", that requires Board approval of projects not currently funded. Mr. Whitmore stated that the funds required to support these projects would not be from new funding sources, but would be re-directed from other projects within the existing TIP program. Mr. Whitmore asked that the motion for the DVRPC FY2007 Planning Work Program Action Item be re-written to include an additional statement that asks that the funding sources for each of the projects listed on the list of "TIP Actions Required to Fund Requests for DVRPC FY2007 Work Program (UPWP)" be reported back to each member government of the DVRPC.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Jim Mosca to recommend to the Board the adoption of the final FY 2007 Work Program and that the funding sources of each project listed on the "TIP Actions Required to Fund Requests for DVRPC FY2007 Work Program (UPWP)" be reported to each member government of the DVRPC.*

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

#### **7. Conformity Finding**

A minimum 30-day public comment period on the draft conformity finding closed on January 11, 2006, and Jienki Synn (DVRPC) reported on the status of the public involvement process. Pending its final outcome, staff requested that the RTC recommend that the Board adopt the draft conformity finding, which demonstrates that the DVRPC TIPs and the Plan conform to the corresponding state implementation plans (SIPs) and other applicable final conformity guidance under the Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA).

*Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Curt Noe to recommend to the Board to adopt the draft conformity finding, which demonstrates that the DVRPC TIPs and the Plan conform to the corresponding state implementation plans (SIPs) and other applicable final conformity guidance under the Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA).*

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

#### **8. FY 2006-2007 Airport Capital Improvement Program, Pennsylvania Side of Region**

Each year in February, DVRPC provides to PENNDOT a priority listing of recommended airport capital expenditures in the region for the next grant year. Reiner Pelzer (DVRPC) presented an ACIP that was prepared by staff with

sponsor airports and has been reviewed by the Regional Aviation Committee (RAC).

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Matthew Edmond to recommend to the Board the approval of the FY 2006-2007 Airport Capital Improvement Program (PA side of DVRPC region).*

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

**9. Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements, Home Town Streets, & Safe Routes to School Projects**

The Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements, Home Town Streets, & Safe Routes to School project selection committee met on December 22, 2005 to review all candidate projects for the current rounds of these competitive programs and to recommend a selected list of projects for funding. Jacob Malikkal (DVRPC) presented the projects recommended by the selection committee for funding, and asked the RTC to recommend to the Board the approval of these projects.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Matthew Edmond to recommend to the Board the approval of funding for the selected projects within the Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements, Home Town Streets, & Safe Routes to School programs.*

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

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**10. TMA Assistance Grant and Mobility Alternatives Program Work Programs for FY 2007**

Sarah Oaks (DVRPC) presented information explaining that each January, PENNDOT requires eligible Transportation Management Associations in southeastern Pennsylvania to submit applications for funding the following fiscal year. Completed applications including work programs and a demonstration of fiscal soundness are due to PENNDOT in late January. At this time, the work program elements of both grant applications are available for RTC review and comment. The Pennsylvania Transportation Management Associations are requesting consideration of a 20% increase to their assistance grant. The merits of this increase were discussed, with representatives from each of the Pennsylvania TMAs briefly presenting their reasoning behind the request.

*Motion: by Kenneth Lomax, seconded by Richard Brahler to recommend to the Board the approval of a 20% increase to assistance grants for*

*Pennsylvania TMAs.*

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

**PRESENTATION ITEMS****11. Community Impact Assessment Process and Pilot Study**

In Fiscal Year 2005, DVRPC assisted PennDOT to evaluate Steps One and Two of the Department's new Community Impact Assessment (CIA) process. Aside from full and continuing public involvement, the CIA process is intended to incorporate aspects of comprehensive planning, environmental justice, environmental impact assessment and context sensitive solutions. A critical starting point, that differs based on the setting or scope of a project, is defining what is meant by "Community," including identification and involvement of key stakeholders and interests who will be most affected by or who will most influence a project or its outcome. Rich Bickel (DVRPC) presented DVRPC's pilot CIA study which focused on the intersection of Morton Avenue and Route 420, in Springfield Township and Morton Borough, Delaware County, and includes a grade crossing of SEPTA's R3 Regional Rail line.

**12. Renumbering Existing I-95**

Ken Afferton (Edwards & Kelcey, Inc.) presented information how the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) are advancing the design and construction of a full Interchange of I-95 with I-276. When the Interchange is complete, per the 1982 Surface Transportation Authorization Act (STAA), I-95 will be re-designated north through the Interchange, east along I-276 and the Turnpike Extension, then north along the NJ Turnpike. As a consequence, existing I-95 north of the Interchange must be renumbered with an appropriate renumbering scheme having been established by PENNDOT and NJDOT.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****13. Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Program**

DVRPC launched the new grant application round for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Program on November 21<sup>st</sup>. All applications for funding were due to DVRPC on January 9, 2006. Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) briefed the RTC on the applicants and the review and selection process.

14. **Emergency Ride Home Program**

Re-scheduled for February 7, 2006 meeting.

15. **One Minute Reports**

PCC/RTC Members and guests will be invited to provide updates on the activities of their agencies.

16. **Old Business and New Business**

17. **Meeting Adjournment**

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is February 7, 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

**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**

Richard Brahler  
 Carol Thomas  
 Curt Noe  
 Lee Whitmore  
 Edward Williams  
 (not represented)  
 Judy Adams  
 Alex Flemming  
 James McQuilken  
 (not represented)  
 Lorraine Brill  
 Jessica Savidge  
 (not represented)  
 Matthew Edmond  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Jerry Lutin  
 (not represented)  
 Jim Mosca  
 Linda Guarini  
 Anthony Santaniello  
 Michelle Webb  
 Kenneth Lomax  
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

**Representative**

Kelvin MacKavanaugh  
 Tom Caramanico  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 William Ragozine  
 (not represented)  
 Peter Quinn  
 Don Steele  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Martin Kotsch

**ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

**Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Sue Herman - RRTS  
Greg Brown - PennDOT District 6-0  
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA  
Darren Fava - CPTMA  
Nancy Goldenberg - CPTMA  
Ken Afferton - Edwards & Kelcey, Inc.  
Peggy Schmidt - PTMA  
Steve Noll - BCTMA  
Cecile Charlton - DCTMA  
Heather Sherk - Mont. Co. Planning Comm.  
Andrea Jordan - Philadelphia Department of Streets

**DVRPC Staff**

Donald Shanis  
Charles Dougherty  
John Ward  
Ted Dahlburg  
Matthew West  
Elizabeth Schoonmaker  
Jacob Malikkal  
Sean Lawrence  
Ryan Gallagher  
Walker Allen  
Jean McKinney  
Roger Moog