

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 6, 2006 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. Mr. Cuccia thanked the committee for its support during his tenure as PCC/RTC Chair for FY2006.

2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC) updated the members with highlights from the May 25, 2006 Board meeting. Details can be found in the highlights of the Board and Executive Committee Meeting of May 25, 2006.

Dr. Shanis informed the members that DVRPC successfully completed a federal certification review. Dr. Shanis continued by stating that the Regional Citizens Committee commended DVRPC for the planning work completed on behalf of the Delaware Valley region.

Dr. Shanis stated that he gave testimony to the Pennsylvania Transportation Funding and Reform Commission on May 18, 2006. A copy of the testimony given by Dr. Shanis was included in the packet of materials distributed at the RTC meeting on June 6, 2006.

Dr. Shanis announced that the kickoff meeting for regional indicators, Tracking Progress Toward 2030, Indicators for Destination 2030, the DVRPC Long Range Plan, was held at the DVRPC offices on May 23, 2006. A second kickoff meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2006.

Lastly, Dr. Shanis informed the members that DVRPC staff have recently undergone an organizational re-alignment. A copy of the organizational chart was included in the packet of materials distributed at the RTC meeting on June 6, 2006.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

John Boyle reported that the RCC approved all TIP Actions for the RCC's May 16, 2006 meeting. Mr. Boyle continued by stating the RCC recommended that the Board pass a resolution to the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission that supports efforts to have a bicycle/pedestrian facility included in the plans for the reconstruction of the Scudder Falls Bridge over the Delaware River between Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Mercer County, New Jersey. Details can be found in the May 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes of the DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of May 9, 2006

The highlights from the May 9, 2006 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Jim Mosca to adopt the highlights for the May 9, 2006 PCC/RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 4 TIP amendments for consideration.

a. TIP Action PA05-75: Harrisburg/ SEPTA R5 Paoli Rail Line Improvements (MPMS #59917), Various Counties

Removed from agenda

b. TIP Action PA05-76: Quakertown/Stony Creek Rail Restoration Study (Proposed New DEMO Project), Bucks and Montgomery County

Bucks County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, The Quakertown Rail Line Passenger Service Restoration Alternative Analysis using \$300,000 DEMO/\$75,000 local match. \$50,000 would be programmed in FY06, with the balance of \$325,000 programmed in FY07. Specially earmarked DEMO funds were made available for this study which will build on the Quakertown/Stony Creek Restoration Study which was completed in 2000. The study will be conducted by Bucks and Montgomery Counties, with Bucks County as the

project manager. The rail line is owned by SEPTA, and parts of it are operated by CSX, Norfolk Southern, and the Penn Eastern short line railroad for freight movement. The study would investigate the feasibility and costs of opening up the line for passenger service. Previous studies indicated that significant capital investment of \$100 to \$200 million would be required on the line in order to improve it to current standards.

Motion: by David Johnson, seconded by John Boyle to amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, The Quakertown Rail Line Passenger Service Restoration Alternative Analysis using \$300,000 DEMO/\$75,000 local match.

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

c. TIP Action PA05-77: Philly CarShare (MPMS #68075), Various Counties

DVRPC has requested a modification to the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania to note that the federal funds previously approved for use by PhillyCarShare in February, 2006, will not be used to secure a low interest loan from the State. Funds will instead be processed on a standard reimbursement basis to PhillyCarShare, and PhillyCarShare will pay back the region in the future as increased revenues become available. Current funding is programmed with \$2 million in FY 2006, \$1.5 million in FY 2007, and \$0.5 million in FY 2008.

Motion: by Michelle Webb, seconded by Matthew Edmond to modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania to note that the federal funds previously approved for use by PhillyCarShare in February, 2006, will not be used to secure a low interest loan from the State. The funds will instead be processed on a standard reimbursement basis to PhillyCarShare, and PhillyCarShare will pay back the region in the future as increased revenues become available

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

d. TIP Action PA05-73c: Upper Darby Earmark (Proposed New DEMO Project), Delaware County

Upper Darby Township has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Upper Darby Parking Facility (MPMS #74799) using \$5.44 million DEMO funds received via SAFETEA LU. The \$11.758 million project will provide a parking facility at West Chester Pike and Bywood Road, near the 69th Street Terminal of the Market Street Elevated line. The parking garage of 325 spaces will support economic development in the community and will also provide parking for commuters using SEPTA's 69th Street terminal. The project is a companion project to Gateway streetscape and lighting improvements already underway.

Two earmarks are available for this project: #316 for \$3.44 million DEMO; and #4736 for \$2 million DEMO. Local funds totaling \$6.358 million will be used as match, including \$5 million State Redevelopment Assistance funds from the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Motion: by Tom Shaffer, seconded by Lee Whitmore to amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Upper Darby Parking Facility (MPMS #74799) using \$5.44 million DEMO funds received via SAFETEA LU.

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

6. Annual Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process

Federal regulations require that the Metropolitan Planning Organization self-certify that the Regional Transportation Planning Process is carried out in conformance with applicable federal regulations. Dr. Don Shanis (DVRPC) presented DVRPC's one-page resolution for self-certification to the members for recommendation for Board adoption.

Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Jim Mosca to recommend to the Board the adoption of DVRPC's resolution for self-certification.

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

7. Adoption of the DVRPC FY 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey and Pennsylvania

The public comment period for the Draft FY2007 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania ended on June 4, 2006. Charles Dougherty (DVRPC) presented recommended changes for Board adoption.

Lee Whitmore (Chester County) stated that Chester County will vote in favor of the adoption of the DVRPC FY 2007-2010 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but expressed frustration with the overall level of funding for projects when significant population and employment growth are adding to the transportation needs for the region and especially for Chester County. Mr. Whitmore encouraged expanded consideration of PennDOT's policy on "right-sizing" as a means of achieving affordable projects.

Motion: by Michelle Webb, seconded by Carol Thomas to recommend to the Board the adoption of recommended changes to the Draft FY2007 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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

8. **Recommendation for Adoption of Conformity Determination of the FY 2007 - 2010 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan**

The public comment period for the Draft Conformity Determination of the FY2007 - 2010 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan ended on June 4, 2006. Jienki Synn (DVRPC) presented recommended changes for Board adoption.

Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Matthew Lawson to recommend to the Board the adoption of recommended changes to the Conformity Determination of the FY 2007-2010 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan.

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

9. **Approval of 2005-2006 Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements/Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School (TE/HTS/SRS) Projects for Inclusion in the DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program**

Jim Briggs (DVRPC) informed the members of the PCC/RTC that the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) has reviewed the recommendations of the PA TE/HTS/SRS subcommittee and made their project selections. The PCC/RTC was requested to recommend Board approval of the selected TE/HTS/SRS projects and to include these projects on the current or appropriate future TIP for Pennsylvania.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Matthew Edmond to recommend to the Board the approval of the selected TE/HTS/SRS projects and to include these projects on the current or appropriate future TIP for Pennsylvania.

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

10. **FY 2006 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Program**

Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) informed the members of the PCC/RTC that the Pennsylvania JARC subcommittee has reviewed the nine Letters of Intent for the FY 2006/2007 grant funding round that were received in January, 2006. The PCC/RTC is requested to recommend to the Board the approval of the selected Pennsylvania JARC services.

Don Shanis (DVRPC) informed the members that this is a new Action Item for the PCC/RTC. Previously, this action was taken to the Board for approval directly from the subcommittee.

Motion: by Tom Shaffer, seconded by Matthew Edmond to recommend to the Board the approval of the selected JARC services for Pennsylvania.

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

11. Election of FY 2007 Officers

The PCC/RTC nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for FY 2007. Catherine Popp-McDonough (SEPTA) was announced as the candidate for Chair of the PCC/RTC, and Matthew Lawson (Mercer County) the candidate for Vice-Chair.

Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Lee Whitmore to approve the election of Catherine Popp-McDonough to Chair of the PCC/RTC and Matthew Lawson as Vice-Chair.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

12. Can I Walk or Bike to the Train? Nonmotorized Access to Rail Stations

As Phase III of DVRPC's ongoing 'Increasing Intermodal Access to Transit' project, this study assessed pedestrian and bicycle accessibility for six regional rail stations using pedestrian and bicycle level of service (PLOS/BLOS) models and field assessments of station access. Based on this analysis, recommendations for specific low capital improvements for each station area were identified. Greg Krykewycz (DVRPC) presented sample results for one station (Beverly/Edgewater Park RiverLINE station) as a case study.

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

Charles Dougherty (DVRPC) presented a TIP amendment for consideration.

TIP Action NJ06-12: Gloucester County Bus Purchase (DB #D9807), Gloucester County, Mercer County

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2006-2008 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the Gloucester County Bus Purchase Program by

\$180,000 CMAQ in FY06 for the purchase of 3 additional transit style passenger vans. The Gloucester County Division of Transportation Services (DTS) has operated since 1985. DTS currently maintains a fleet of 42 vehicles serving senior citizens, persons with disabilities, rural residents and Medicaid eligible clients. DTS operates 4 types of service, demand response, subscription, modified fixed route (under rural transportation) and feeder service. The only portion of the service open to the general public is the rural transportation under the FTA Section 5311 program. DTS provides 120,000 rides per year (approximately 500 trips per day). The vehicles requested, three 16 passenger mini-buses with 2 wheelchair positions, will be used to replace two existing non-wheelchair vehicles and one of the requested buses will be used for service expansion. The service expansion is anticipated in 2007 with additional employment rides for persons with disabilities. DTS is looking for county funding to support the operation of the expanded service.

Funding for this project can be drawn from the DVRPC Local CMAQ Initiatives Line Item, DB #X065 which has \$725,000 in FY06 still available for funding projects.

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Jessica Savidge to modify the FY2006-2008 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the Gloucester County Bus Purchase Program by \$180,000 CMAQ in FY06 for the purchase of 3 additional transit style passenger vans.

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

15. Meeting Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is July 11, 2006.

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Greg Brown - PennDOT District 6-0
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA
Kelly Sheckler - USEPA - Region III
Tony Dunleavy - Upper Darby Township
Joe Mylotte, Jr. - Upper Darby Township

DVRPC Staff

Donald Shanis
Charles Dougherty
Ted Dahlburg
Matthew West
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Jean McKinney
Alan Cunningham
Jim Briggs