

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

July 11, 2006 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Catherine Popp-McDonough, newly elected PCC/RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Ms Popp-McDonough informed the committee that she plans to keep the meeting format the same as it has been in the past, but welcomes comments and ideas from other committee members. She would like to maintain the more recently added presentation segment of the meetings, beginning with a presentation by SEPTA staff on their Silverliner V and Trackless Trolley vehicle acquisitions, at the next PCC/RTC meeting in September, 2006. Ms Popp-McDonough also mentioned the possibility of hosting an off-site meeting and holding a tour of SEPTA facilities during her tenure as Chairperson.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC) updated members with highlights from the June 22, 2006 Board meeting. Details can be found in the highlights of the Board and Executive Committee Meeting of June 22, 2006. The next board retreat, which is scheduled for September 28, 2006 at the Villanova Conference Center, will address the 2008 work program and overall visions for future activities of the Commission.

Dr. Shanis noted that the fiscal year 2007 work program began on July 1, 2006. He also mentioned other points of news including the resolution of the New Jersey budget crisis and the recent presentation in California by the US Olympic Committee regarding Philadelphia's capability to host the Olympics.

Lastly, the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission will present alternatives to the region in September. The unofficial schedule includes a public hearing on September 15, 2006 with a public comment period extending from September 10th to the 18th.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

John Boyle reported that the RCC voted in favor of all of the TIP actions except PA05-73c regarding an earmark for Upper Darby, Delaware County. The RCC voted to postpone this project until more information is available.

The second major action from the recent RCC meeting referenced a white paper that was created to support a more seamless interaction between transit in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This paper is expected to be finalized during the month of July.

Details of the RCC meeting can be found in the June 13, 2006 Meeting Minutes of the DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of June 6, 2006

The highlights from the June 6, 2006 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Jessica Savidge to adopt the highlights for the June 6, 2006 PCC/RTC meeting.

Motion passed. Nineteen votes were cast in favor of the motion, while one RTC member abstained.

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 2 TIP amendments for consideration.

a. TIP Action NJ06-13: Bus Acquisition, (DB #T111), NJ TRANSIT

New Jersey Transit has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2006-2008 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the funds programmed in the Bus Acquisition Program for the DVRPC region (DB #T111) by \$21.447 million. The increase in funds are needed for making mandated annual vehicle lease payments due in September of this year for 650 NOVA Transits and 1371 Cruiser buses. The amount of the lease payment is not increased. Appropriate levels of federal and state Transportation Trust Fund funding are adequately programmed in the new FY07 TIP update for this project.

The source of funds for this action will be \$13.68 million of new Section 5307 funds made available to the DVRPC region based on higher than anticipated FY06 appropriations. These funds will be combined with \$7.767 million of Section 5307 funds to be transferred from the "Other Rail Stations" project

(DB #T55, which includes Trenton Station rehabilitation), since that amount can now be covered by funds from a new SAFETEA-LU earmark (\$25.499 million of Section 5309 Discretionary funds), which will fully fund the Trenton Rail Station Improvements. The cash flow of this project does not require additional funding until FY07.

NJ TRANSIT would normally have applied the additional 5307 funds from all three MPO regions in order to address the required increase for bus lease payments, but the North Jersey MPO (NJPTA) funds are still tied up in negotiations with New York to agree on the FY06 suballocations. Therefore the programming increase for this action comes only from the DVRPC and South Jersey MPO regions. At such time as the suballocations are agreed upon, the NJTPA additional 5307 funds will allow approximately \$50 million state funds from the ARC (Access to the Regions Core project, DB #T97) to be applied to the Morrisville Yard improvement project (a component of DB #T37, Rail Support Facilities) in the DVRPC region, thereby making the DVRPC region fiscally whole.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Jerry Lutin to modify the FY 2005-2008 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the funds programmed in the Bus Acquisition Program for the DVRPC region (DB #T111) by \$21.447 million).

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

b. **PA0579 - Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (Proposed New Project)**

Chester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP, the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan for \$150,000 (\$120,000 special Scenic Byway Section 1101 funds/\$30,000 local match) on condition that the project is awarded FHWA approval for funding. This project has received state designation as a scenic byway, and a coalition of municipalities in Chester and Delaware Counties have applied for the special byway funding in order to prepare a Corridor Management Plan. The plan would enable the group to come to consensus about an improvement plan for the selected roadway and is required in order for the Byway to be eligible to secure federal byways designation, and subsequent federal byway funding. PennDOT and Chester County are expecting notification of approval/denial for the \$120,000 Scenic Byway Section 1101(a)(12), 1802 funds prior to the July 27th DVRPC Board meeting, but will table the request if word is not received, or withdraw the request if approval is denied.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Justin Dula to modify the FY 2005-2008 TIP for adding a new project into the TIP, the Brandywine

Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan for \$150,000 (\$120,000 special Scenic Byway Section 1101 funds/\$30,000 local match) on condition that the project is awarded FHWA approval for funding.

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

6. Strasburg Road Pennsylvania Byway Designation

The townships of East Fallowfield, East Bradford, and West Bradford in Chester County have made application to designate a portion of Strasburg Road as a Pennsylvania Byway. Lee Whitmore (Chester County) requested that the RTC recommend to the Board the support of this nomination.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Curt Noe for DVRPC to supply Chester County with a letter of support for the designation of Strasburg Road as a Scenic Byway.

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

7. Fiscal Year 2007 Planning Work Program Amendments

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

a. Supplemental I-95 Traffic Study (I-676 to Allegheny Avenue)

Tom Walker (DVRPC) requested \$150,000 for a study of various I-95 interchanges between I-676 and Allegheny Avenue. This study was requested by local residents, many of who feel that the recent development of several condominiums, as well as a proposed new casino in the immediate vicinity, may result in traffic levels that will degrade the level of service for the I-95 interchange ramps. During this study, DVRPC staff will collect and analyze traffic data to determine if the current ramp construction can be expected to handle forecasted traffic. If design alterations are necessary, various options will be determined.

John Boyle (RCC) noted that the RCC would like this study to consider the impacts of any alternative designs on bicyclists and pedestrians. In addition, the RCC would like to include these modes in the new designs where applicable.

In response to this comment, Don Shanis (DVRPC) proposed that a section would be added to this study to analyze the bicycle and pedestrian impact of the I-95 ramps and interchanges. The financial scope of the project would also be altered accordingly.

Motion: by John Boyle, seconded by Matt Lawson to add the Supplemental I-95 Traffic Study (I-676 to Allegheny Avenue) to the FY 2007 work program. Prior to the Board meeting, the project scope will be amended to include a section analyzing bicycle and pedestrian impacts, with the project cost increased appropriately.

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

b. **Quakertown Alternatives Analysis/Rail Restoration Study**

Postponed.

PRESENTATION ITEM

8. **Philadelphia Diesel Difference Working Group**

This working group is a coalition of diverse partners with a mutual interest in reducing air pollution from diesel-powered vehicles through voluntary adoption of clean diesel technologies and strategies. The presentation, by Eric Cheung of the Clean Air Council, provided an overview of clean diesel technologies that are available on the market, past success stories, and current projects. Lastly, the presentation encouraged the audience to incorporate clean diesel projects into regional planning, as specified in the recently passed Transportation Act (SAFETEA-LU).

DISCUSSION ITEM

9. **Freight For A Day**

Ted Dahlburg (DVRPC) presented the upcoming *Freight For A Day* program. DVRPC is organizing a one-day, region-wide event and data-sharing exercise called, *Freight For A Day*. For the target date of Wednesday, September 20, 2006, information about the various modes of freight transportation will be collected and then compiled in a summary report. *Freight For A Day* will serve as a public education tool and as a focal point for DVRPC's freight planning program.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Overview of Tracking Progress Toward 2030

Zoe Neaderland (DVRPC) provided a brief overview of this project to track indicators of progress toward the goals of the DVRPC Long Range Plan. The latest material for review was included in the RTC packet of information. Transportation aspects of this project were discussed in a brief afternoon working meeting that took place at the close of the RTC meeting.

11. Regional Transit Database

This briefing by Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) provided an update on the Regional Transit Database. Highlights included a demonstration of the web based mapping application and database enhancements.

12. One Minute Reports

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

13. Old Business and New Business

14. Meeting Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is September 5, 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
Paul Redman
(not represented)
(not represented)
Justin Dula
Linda Hayes
John Boyle
(not represented)
Jessica Savidge
Matthew Lawson
Leo Bagley
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jerry Lutin
(not represented)
Jim Mosca
Linda Guarini
Deborah Schaaf
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 MacKavanagh
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Brian Wahler
William Ragozine
(not represented)
Pete Quinn
Don Steele
David Harvey
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Martin Kotsch

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA

Kelly Sheckler - USEPA - Region III

Jim McQuilkin - DRPA

Peter Bromley – Michael Baker Jr

Eric Cheung - Clean Air Council / Philadelphia Diesel Difference

William Skora – DVPD

Alison Tracy – City of Philadelphia, Air Management Services

Ophelia Adderley – NJ Transit

Andrea Jordan – City of Philadelphia Streets Department

Ernest Cohen

DVRPC Staff

Donald Shanis

Charles Dougherty

John Ward

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Ted Dahlburg

Walker Allen

Matthew West

Kelly Rossiter

Jean McKinney

Sean Greene

Sarah Oaks

Tom Walker