

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Catherine Popp-McDonough welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Ms. Popp-McDonough introduced Simon Alexander as the new RTC representative for the City of Chester. Lastly, Ms. Popp-McDonough mentioned that the new federal fiscal year began on October 1, 2006.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC) stated that the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission meeting was held at DVRPC offices on September 15, 2006. Dr. Shanis stated that a report from this commission is expected to be released on or before November 15, 2006.

Dr. Shanis informed the members that the DVRPC Board retreat was held on September 28, 2006. DVRPC's vision for the future, as well as the 2008 Planning Work Program was the focus of the retreat. Three speakers — Feather Houstoun (William Penn Foundation), Steven Wray (PA Economy League), and George Hawkins (NJ Future) — spoke about DVRPC's past, present, and future contributions to the Greater Philadelphia region. Through various activities and discussions, nine new projects were chosen to add to DVRPC's 2008 Work Program. In addition to these projects, Dr. Shanis asked that all interested counties submit one project idea to be considered by the Board.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

John Boyle updated the members on the RCC meeting of September 19, 2006. Mr. Boyle stated that the highlight of this meeting was the adoption of the "Seamless Transportation System", which is a white paper detailing possibilities for improved connections between SEPTA, NJ Transit, and PATCO.

Mr. Boyle informed the members that the RCC is concerned that bicycle and pedestrian counts are not included in the travel monitoring counts produced by DVRPC. The RCC would like to see an improved integration of all modes into the standard traffic counts.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of September 5, 2006

The highlights from the September 5, 2006 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Matt Lawson to adopt the highlights for the September 5, 2006 PCC/RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 16 TIP amendments for consideration. Three of these amendments involve funding increases, twelve amendments refer to delays/ deferrals / deletions, and one advance project was discussed.

FUNDING INCREASES

a. TIP Action PA07-02: PA 309, Welsh Road to Highland Avenue, Section 101 (MPMS #16477), Montgomery County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction programming for the PA 309, Welsh Road to Highland Avenue project by \$41.750 million (\$33.4 million federal/\$8.350 million state) spread out over FY07 through FY10. Originally estimated at \$70 million for construction, the cost of this section of the 309 Reconstruction project is now estimated at approximately \$90 million. It was anticipated that \$30 million for construction would have been drawn and obligated from FY06 monies, but due to the delay in the engineering (PS & E- Plans, Specifications, and Estimates) package, obligation did not occur and additional funds are now required from the FY07 program. The delay in the PS & E package is due to the re-design of the Norristown Interchange to include additional ramps to provide access 1) from 309 southbound to Norristown Road, 2) onto 309 northbound from Norristown Road. Combined with other actions this month, this action has a significant impact on the regional program, as the \$41.750 million must be drawn from other projects in the recently approved TIP for FY07-FY10.

The change in scope of the project to include the additional ramps triggers the requirement for a new Air Quality Conformity Demonstration and an Amendment to the long range plan, Destination 2030. Due to the region's connection to the Delaware regional planning area (WILMAPCO) because of recent federal regulations pertaining to "PM 2.5" particulate matter pollutants,

WILMAPCO is also required to take action and run a 30 day public comment period reaffirming the area's conformity determination, including adoption by the WILMAPCO Board, in order for FHWA and FTA to approve DVRPC's Conformity Determination. WILMAPCO will need to agree to participate in the conformity process in this manner and accelerated time schedule in order to enable PennDOT to advance to an appropriate advertisement and letting schedule so that this major project can get underway in the spring of 2007.

Motion by Leo Bagley, seconded by Jim Mosca, to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction programming for the PA 309, Welsh Road to Highland Avenue project by \$41.750 million (\$33.4 million federal/\$8.350 million state) spread out over FY07 through FY10.

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

b. TIP Action PA07-03: US 202, US 30 to N. Valley Road (Sec. 310)(MPMS #64493), Chester County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction programming for the US 202, US 30 to North Valley Road project (MPMS #64493) by \$8.75 million (\$7 million federal/\$1.750 million state) in FY09 and FY10. It was anticipated that \$10 million for construction would have been drawn and obligated from FY06 monies, but due to the delay in the PS & E package, obligation did not occur and additional funds are now required from the FY07 program. The delay in the PS & E package is due to the revision of right of way related to friendly condemnation of property that is part of a development rather than risk a lengthy and expensive court battle.

Motion by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Leo Bagley, to modify the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction programming for the US 202, US 30 to North Valley Road project (MPMS #64493) by \$8.75 million (\$7 million federal/\$1.750 million state) in FY09 and FY10.

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

c. TIP Action PA07-04: River Road Flood Recovery (Proposed New Project MPMS #73624), Bucks County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project and programming construction funding totaling \$9.045 million in federal fiscal years FY07 through FY10 that goes above and beyond the \$3.921 million in emergency federal flood funds already approved (but not programmed yet) for the project. Severe flooding along River Road near the Delaware Canal in Bucks County has caused the road to

be partially closed for almost two years. Emergency relief funding covers only part of the cost of the project, and previous estimates were based on approved FHWA funds prior to the 2005 flood event . This \$12.999 million reconstruction is vital to resume emergency access and economic viability to the Upper Bucks County region and will provide for more than a mile of new retaining wall in a difficult environment, reconstructing the roadway, debris removal, drainage upgrades and other safety improvements.

Motion by David Johnson, seconded by Matt Lawson, to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project and programming construction funding totaling \$9.045 million in federal fiscal years FY07 through FY10 that goes above and beyond the \$3.921 million in emergency federal flood funds already approved (but not programmed yet) for the project.

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

DELAYS/DEFFERALS/DELETIONS:

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC make some modifications and “technical deletions” to projects currently programmed in the FY07 TIP by deferring phases of several projects that are delayed in order to maintain fiscal constraint of the program so as to be able to advance three large construction projects (Route 309 from Welsh Road to Highland Avenue, Section 310 of US 202, and the River Road Flood Recovery project) which will be ready to let in the spring of 2007 and take advantage of the upcoming construction season.

Please note that projects identified with the term “technical deletion” are projects that have been technically deleted from the TIP because its phases are so far delayed that they have been pushed into the 4th year of the program or out of it all together. These projects, however, are not being dropped for lack of interest. Several of these have been re-assigned to PennDOT’s recently retained design consultants, and are expected to become “active in design”. **A summary of actions follows:**

1. PA07-05: US 202 (Section 100 Design)(ES1) (MPMS #15385), Chester County - Delay

Reduce the final design by \$5 million in FY10 and shift remaining costs to Later Fiscal Years. Design costs are estimated at \$19 million. This project serves as the design phase for Section 100 of Route 202. This project is currently in the draft environmental impact statement phase. No funds will be programmed for additional phases until the conclusion of the DEIS.

2. PA07-06: US 202, Swedesford Rd. to Rt. 29, MPMS #64494, Chester County - Cash Flow

Reduce the FY10 construction phase by \$13.4 million in FY10 and shift those costs to later fiscal years based on the project schedule for cash flow purposes.

3. PA07-07: US 202, Township Line Road to Morris Road (Sec 61N), MPMS #63490, Montgomery County - Delay

Shift the construction phase back a year from FY07/ FY08/ FY09/ FY10 to FY08/ FY09/ FY10/ and Later Fiscal Years.

4. PA07-08: Camp Road (Bridge)Over East Branch of Perkiomen Creek(MPMS #16099) , Montgomery County - Technical Deletion

Delete this project by removing the construction phase from this fiscal year and pushing it out to Later Fiscal Years. This project has recently been reassigned to one of PennDOT's design consultants, as it has not advanced through engineering since it appeared in the FY 1999 TIP. The current estimated let date is November 2009.

5. PA07-09: US 202 (Turn lanes),US 202 To PA 313 (Swamp Road) (MPMS #13609), Bucks County - Technical Deletion

Delete this project by shifting all of the construction funding from this fiscal year and next, to FY10 and Later Fiscal Years. This project has recently been reassigned to one of PennDOT's design consultants, as it has not advanced through engineering since it appeared in the FY 1999 TIP. The current estimated let date is December 2008.

6. PA07-10: PA 413, New Rodgers Road (Turn Lane)(MPMS #13576), Bucks County - Technical Deletion

Delete this project by shifting all construction funding from FY08, FY09, and FY10 to Later Fiscal Years. It has not advanced through engineering since it appeared on the FY1999 TIP. The Categorical Exclusion (CE) documentation has expired, and right sizing has been recommended for the project that has recently been reassigned to one of PennDOT's design consultants. The current estimated let date is April 2010.

7. TIP Action PA07-11: US 30, Coatesville Downingtown Bypass (MPMS#14532), Chester County - Delay

Defer the beginning of the final design phase by two years and push out to FY09 and Later Fiscal Years. This \$255 million project has not advanced through engineering since it appeared in the FY 1999 TIP.

8. TIP Action PA07-12: Ardmore Ave. Bridge over SEPTA and Cobbs Creek (MPMS #15225) Delaware County - Delay

Shift the construction phase back one year from FY09/FY10 to FY10/Later Fiscal Years by removing the \$1 million of bridge funding from FY2009. This project provides for replacement of two bridges over SEPTA and Cobbs Creek. Project recently reassigned to one of PennDOT's design consultants.

9. TIP Action PA07-13: PA 291, Platt Bridge Painting (MPMS #57904), Philadelphia- Delay

Defer construction phase for this project one year from FY08/FY09/F10 to FY09/FY10/Later Fiscal Years. Project remains active in design.

10. TIP Action PA07-14: Headquarters Rd.(Bridge) (MPMS #13340), Bucks County - Technical Deletion

Delete this project by shifting all construction funding out of the program from FY07 and FY08 to Later Fiscal Years. It has recently been reassigned to one of PennDOT's design consultants. The current estimated let date is April 2009.

ADVANCE PROJECT

n. TIP Action PA07-15: I-76, Schuylkill Expressway (ITS), Belmont Avenue to Conshohocken Curve, Intelligent Transportation System (MPMS #48185), Philadelphia I-76, Schuylkill Expressway/ Pencoyd (ITS), I-676, Vine Expressway to Pencoyd Bridge, (MPMS # 17826), Philadelphia I-76, Schuylkill Expressway/ Platt Bridge (ITS), I-676, Vine Expressway to Platt Bridge-PA-291, (MPMS # 17827), Philadelphia

DELETIONS (source of funds proposed for: I-76, Schuylkill Expressway)

PA07-16: DVRPC CMAQ Competitive Program (MPMS #48201), Various Counties

PA07-17: Passyunk Avenue (Signals) Broad St. to 63rd St., (MPMS #16987), Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of the I-76 Schuylkill Expressway ITS project (MPMS #48185) from Later Fiscal years of the TIP to fiscal years 07, 08 and 09, programming a total of \$21.5 million for variable message signs, CCTV's, fiber optics, and vehicle detection devices along the Schuylkill Expressway roughly from I-476 through to the Platt Bridge , PA

291, and along a section of City Avenue adjacent to I-76. Governor Rendell has made a commitment to advance this project, which was programmed in the out-years of the program during the recent FY07 TIP update process. These ITS projects have been identified as a priority for advancing now with a projected let date of November, 2006, in order to get the information systems in place prior to the construction of two other major projects in the region that will cause severe disruption and traffic issues: 1) Reconstruction of I-476, Chemical Rd. to I-76 (RES) (MPMS #16737) is programmed to begin construction in FY09 and entails the following: total reconstruction of the northbound and southbound lanes of I-476 between I-76 (the Schuylkill Expressway) and I-276 (the Pennsylvania Turnpike Mid-County Interchange); and 2) the reconstruction of 27 structures along I-76 in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties known as I-76 Pre-Cast Bridge Parapets (MPMS #67762) to remediate bridge structures with "Hoan-like details", is also programmed and expected to advance to construction in 3 or 4 years. These projects will severely impact traffic flow in the region, and the ITS systems will assist in the traffic management in and around the expressway.

As an unanticipated funding need, the ITS projects require that sources of funds be identified. PennDOT has identified \$7.7 million of funding through de-obligations. A signal project in Philadelphia along Passyunk Avenue has been identified as delayed and not requiring funding as currently programmed, and is proposed to be deleted from the TIP by pushing funding out to FY10 and later. A few projects programmed for funding in FY07 were able to utilize some left over FY06 funds, resulting in some "savings" to the program this year. Most Significantly, the final part of PennDOT's proposal calls for the deletion of the DVRPC Competitive CMAQ program in order to use that funding for the ITS project, which is eligible for CMAQ funds. This action impacts how and when and if DVRPC is able to hold another round of a call for projects to advance through the competitive process if funds are not restored.

Please also note that the ITS project was formerly broken out into 3 projects/sections with three MPMS #'s: 48185, 17826, and 17827 as follows:

I-76, Schuylkill Expressway ITS, Belmont Avenue to Conshohocken Curve-- (formerly MPMS #48185)

I-76, Schuylkill Expressway/Pencoyd ITS, I-676, Vine Expressway to Pencoyd Bridge--(formerly MPMS #17826)

I-76, Schuylkill Expressway/Platt Bridge ITS, I-676, Vine Expressway to Platt Bridge-PA-291--(formerly MPMS #17826)

All three sections would be let as one contract and would advance under one MPMS #48185. The cost of the project has been increased from \$15 million

to \$21.5 million, but reflects updated estimates as well as a change in scope to include ITS installation on a portion of US 1/City Avenue between I-76 and Maschar Street not in the scope of the original three projects.

Prior to a motion for this action, a lengthy discussion occurred regarding the proposed elimination of the CMAQ program. Lorraine Brill (DVCTV) voiced concern that this program is important to the citizens and municipalities of the region and should remain intact. Several other RTC members, including Leo Bagley (Montgomery County), also voiced opinions in support of keeping the CMAQ program intact, or if necessary, reinstating the program as soon as financially possible.

Motion by Leo Bagley, seconded by Jim Mosca, to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of the I-76 Schuylkill Expressway ITS project (MPMS #48185) from Later Fiscal years of the TIP to fiscal years 07, 08 and 09, programming a total of \$21.5 million for variable message signs, CCTV's, fiber optics, and vehicle detection devices along the Schuylkill Expressway roughly from I-476 through to the Platt Bridge , PA 291, and along a section of City Avenue adjacent to I-76, and, if additional funding is available to the region by the end of the fiscal year, replenishing the CMAQ program should be considered a high priority.

Motion passed. One opposing vote was cast, while all others were in favor.

6. **Authorization to open a 30-Day Comment Period for Transportation Conformity**

Jienki Synn (DVRPC), explained the need for DVRPC to reaffirm its conformity analysis result from June 2006 to adhere to the PM2.5 non-attainment requirements, while WILMAPCO updates its long range plan and seeks its own conformity determination. This reaffirmation of conformity requires a 30-day public involvement period. Board authorization is needed to release the current conformity documents for public and agency review and comment. The comment period will begin in late October, 2006.

Motion by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Carol Thomas, to recommend to the Board to open a 30-day public comment period(s) pending conformity findings and coordination with WILMAPCO.

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

7. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for DVRPC and SEPTA

A MOU between DVRPC and SEPTA is being advanced to cooperatively define their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process. From time to time this MOU may require changes to improve, clarify, or streamline the process. The RTC/PCC was asked to recommend to the Board the approval of the MOU.

Lorraine Brill (DVCTC) stated that the language of the MOU could be misinterpreted as it does not specifically mention any agreement(s) with the local Counties or the City of Philadelphia. Anthony Santaniello (PCPC) requested more time to consider this document and review it with the City of Philadelphia's legal department and other planning personnel.

Motion by Anthony Santaniello, seconded by Lorraine Brill, to table this action item until the next RTC meeting.

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

PRESENTATION ITEM**8. Update on Regional Aviation Planning Program Activities and Major Issues**

Roger Moog (DVRPC) reviewed and summarized the functions of aviation planning at DVRPC. Recent aviation studies and conclusions were presented. Regional aviation development issues that impact mobility, economic development, and other modes were also highlighted.

DISCUSSION ITEM**9. DVRPC's Safety Program**

John Ward (DVRPC) introduced DVRPC's safety program. A draft copy of the *Regional Safety Action Plan - Executive Summary*, a product of the program, was distributed at the meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS**10. FY 2007 Planning Work Program Amendments****a. Camden Metro Region Trail Strategy**

Patty Elkis (DVRPC) informed the RTC of a new project for FY 2007. This project aims to bolster support for the rails to trails concept, as well as other trail creation programs by building appreciation of trails by non-traditional stakeholders. For this project, which focuses on the Camden metro regional trail network, DVRPC staff is

working with local counties and TMA's to identify target audiences, and develop educational materials to promote the benefits of trails to groups at a grassroots level.

Several RTC members commented with a desire to include the rail community, both passenger and freight, in this project. RTC members also would like to see DVRPC staff reach out to County level personnel involved in transportation matters in addition to those involved with environmental planning, who have already been involved in this project.

11. FY 2008 Transit Support Program and Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program Call for Special Studies Projects

Sarah Oaks (DVRPC) presented a timeline for submission of Transit Support and Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program Special Studies. Each year the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (also referred to as SRHPP) and the Transit Support Program (also referred to as TSP) comprise Chapters three and four, respectively, of the DVRPC Planning Work Program. A portion of these overall budgets are set aside for use to fund special, one-time studies for member governments and agencies. New Jersey member governments are eligible for special studies under both programs, while Pennsylvania member governments are eligible for only TSP special studies.

Ms. Oaks issued a call for Special Studies project work programs, which are due to DVRPC on October 25th. After all submissions are received, staff will convene the PA and NJ subcommittees to review submittals and select studies prior to the November RTC, so that the full committee can approve the work programs. After RTC approval, work programs will become part of the draft FY 08 DVRPC Planning Work Program. In addition, a small amount of funding (\$53,667) remains unclaimed in the FY 07 TSP Special Studies category for New Jersey. Member governments with transit-focused projects, which can be brought before the Committee for approval in November, were encouraged to submit work programs as soon as possible.

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 14, 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

David Johnson
 Carol Thomas
 (not represented)
 Lee Whitmore
 Edward Williams
 Simon Alexander
 Judy Adams
 Thomas Shaffer
 Linda Hayes
 John Boyle
 Lorraine Brill
 Jessica Savidge-Lucas
 Matthew Lawson
 Leo Bagley
 Brian Cuccia
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Jerry Lutin
 (not represented)
 Jim Mosca
 Linda Guarini
 Anthony Santaniello
 Tom Branigan
 Kenneth Lomax
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

Representative

Kelvin MacKavanagh
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Brian Wahler
 William Ragozine
 (not represented)
 Peter Quinn
 Don Steele
 David Harvey
 (not represented)
 Hank d'Andrea
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA

Randy Waltermeyer – Chester County Planning Commission

Mary Ameen – NJTPA

Ryan Long – Parsons Brinckerhoff

Martin Hull --Kise, Straw, Kolodner

Tom Caramanico – CEO Council for Growth

Ernest Cohen – SSAP

Jim Miller – Baker

DVRPC Staff

Don Shanis

John Ward

Charles Dougherty

Patty Elkis

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Sarah Oaks

Joseph Hacker

Ryan Gallagher

Elizabeth Smith

Matthew West

Kelly Rossiter