

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

**May 8, 2007 Meeting Highlights  
SEPTA Board Room, Philadelphia, PA**

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

Catherine Popp-McDonough (SEPTA) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Ms. McDonough then introduced Juan Torres, SEPTA Assistant General Manager for Public and Government Affairs for opening remarks. Mr. Torres encouraged all meeting attendees to write to local legislators about the SEPTA funding crises with support for increased funding to transit.

**2. Deputy Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Don Shanis (DVRPC) updated attendees on the April 2007 DVRPC board meeting. A nominating committee for new DVRPC board members was selected at this meeting. The board also took action on the Transportation Funding Reform statement and letter initially brought to the RTC in April 2007. After review and edits from County officials, the letter and policy document were presented to the DVRPC Board. The Board approved the letter but did not act on the policy principles document. A separate meeting of several Pennsylvania board representatives will take place on May 15, 2007. At this meeting, representatives will determine a final position on several policies addressed in the document, such as flexing highway dollars, leasing the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and tolling other transportation facilities.

Dr. Shanis also announced that Governor Ed Rendell will discuss his recent proposal to fund highways, bridges, and transit in Pennsylvania at the Chester County TMA meeting on May 14, 2007. All are invited to attend this meeting.

A final event announced by Dr. Shanis was the Regional Plan meeting held in New York on May 4, 2007. Dr. Shanis attended this meeting, along with several other officials from planning agencies in the region. Two upcoming projects highlighted at this meeting were an assessment of congestion pricing for New York City and "Access to the Region's Core" — a project to build another rail tunnel into New York City from New Jersey, essentially doubling rail capacity to the City.

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

John Boyle provided information on the RCC meeting held on April 17, 2007. At that meeting RCC members approved the Transportation Funding Reform statement previously brought to the RTC. Although, the committee noted their desire to retain language related to flexing highway dollars to other transportation priorities. The RCC members also supported the possibility of congestion pricing and changing the gas tax to ensure that it benefits all transportation modes.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **4. Highlights of the Meeting of April 3, 2007**

The highlights from the April 3, 2007 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Lorraine Brill to adopt the highlights for the April 3, 2007 PCC/RTC meeting.*

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

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

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented nine TIP amendments for consideration.

#### **a. PA07-37: Deferrals Resulting in Technical Deletions from the TIP, (MPMS #'s 14337, 14587, 13742, 13342)**

- 1) Harmonyville Road over French Creek Bridge Replacement Project, (MPMS #14337), Chester County**
- 2) Springton Road over Indian Run Bridge Replacement Project, (MPMS #14587), Chester County**
- 3) Hellertown Road over Cooks Creek Bridge Replacement Project, (MPMS #13742), Bucks County**
- 4) Delaware Road over Delaware Canal Bridge Replacement Project, (MPMS #13342), Bucks County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by deferring construction phases for 4 projects in the TIP (MPMS #'s 14337, 14587, 13742, 13342) to later fiscal years, resulting in these projects being technically deleted from the program. These projects have not moved completely through the final design phase and are being deferred in order to provide funding for two (2) other bridge projects that are

ready to advance to construction, and one (1) high priority bridge project that has come to light as necessary over the last few months.

The construction phase of the Harmonyville Road over French Creek Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #14337) has been deferred. Funding will instead be programmed to fund the construction of the US 202 Interim Bridge Repair project (MPMS #80208).

Springton Road over Indian Run Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #14587) is not expected to be let for construction until FY 2011, and the funding will be used to fund the construction of the US 202 Interim Bridge Repair project (MPMS #80208).

Hellertown Road over Cooks Creek Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #13742), and Delaware Road over Delaware Canal Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #13342) have also been deferred.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Jim Mosca to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by deferring construction phases for: Harmonyville Road over French Creek Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #14337), Springton Road over Indian Run Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #14587), Hellertown Road over Cooks Creek Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #13742), and the Delaware Road over Delaware Canal Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #13342), to later fiscal years, resulting in these projects being technically deleted from the program.*

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

**b. PA07-43: US 202 Interim Bridge Repair Project (Proposed New Project) (MPMS #80208), Chester County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project in the TIP, the US 202 Interim Bridge Repair project (MPMS #80208), and programming \$3.5 million for final design and construction. This bridge is located in West Goshen Township on SR 0202, West Chester Bypass over SEPTA, just north of Matlack Street. It is a 4 lane structure on the limited access section of US 202, Section 200, and is a high traffic location with estimated daily traffic in excess of 50,000 vehicles daily. The bridge is severely deteriorated.

c. **PA07-44: Point Pleasant Pike over PA Canal Bridge Replacement (MPMS #13245), Bucks County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Point Pleasant Pike over PA Canal Bridge Replacement (MPMS #13245), and programming construction in FY2007 and FY2008. This project was originally programmed for construction in FY05 (\$900,000 State), but was never authorized for construction and was not carried over into the current program. State funding will be programmed for construction in FY2007 (\$500,000) and FY2008 (\$1,000,000) State.

d. **PA07-45: Old Bethlehem Road over Cooks Creek Bridge Replacement Project (MPMS #73009), Bucks County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the current TIP, the Old Bethlehem Road over Cooks Creek Bridge Replacement project (MPMS #73009), and programming construction in FY2007 (\$443,000 Federal / \$111,000 State) and FY2008 (\$374,000 Federal/\$94,000 State). This project was originally programmed for preliminary engineering in FY2006 (\$375,000). This project will include the reconstruction of a bridge over Cooks Creek.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Linda Guarini to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project in the TIP, the US 202 Interim Bridge Repair project (MPMS #80208) and programming \$3.5 million for final design and construction; to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Point Pleasant Pike over PA Canal Bridge Replacement (MPMS #13245), and programming construction in FY2007 and FY2008; and to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the current TIP, the Old Bethlehem Road over Cooks Creek Bridge Replacement project (MPMS #73009), and programming construction in FY2007 (\$443,000 Federal / \$111,000 State) and FY2008 (\$374,000 Federal/\$94,000 State).*

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

e. **PA07-47: Upper Dublin Township Street Improvement Project, (Proposed New DEMO Project) (MPMS # 74814), Montgomery County**

Upper Dublin Township has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Upper Dublin Township Street Improvement project (MPMS # 74814), and programming DEMO funds provided by a SAFETEA-LU earmark (ID# 3518) in the amount of \$1.2 million, combined with a local match of \$315,392 provided by the

township for design and construction in FY2007 and FY2008. This project will include the reconstruction of the existing four lane main thoroughfare of Virginia Drive and Commerce Drive serving the Fort Washington Office Center. This project will involve base repair, reclamation of the existing paving and a portion of the stone base, and application of superpave binder and wearing courses. Any additional funds required to complete the project will be provided locally.

*Motion: by Matthew Edmond, seconded by Brian Cuccia to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Upper Dublin Township Street Improvement project (MPMS # 74814) and programming funds for design in FY2007 (\$3,000 Local) and construction in FY2008 (\$1,200,000 DEMO/\$312,392 local match).*

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

f. **PA07-48a: North Delaware Avenue Extension/Bridesburg (MPMS #46956), Philadelphia**

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the North Delaware Avenue Extension project (MPMS #46956) by \$10 million (\$8 million DEMO/\$2 million local match), and adding the final design and right of way phases. The \$8 million DEMO will be provided by a SAFETEA-LU Earmark (ID# 3286). The final design and right of way phases were not authorized last year and need to be added to the TIP in order for the project to advance.

g. **PA07-48b: Frankford Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, (Proposed New DEMO Project) (MPMS #TBD), Philadelphia**

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Frankford Avenue - Mayfair-Streetscape Improvement project (MPMS #74833), and programming DEMO funds provided by a SAFETEA-LU earmark (ID# 2935) in the amount of \$1,000,000, and a \$250,000 local match provided by the City of Philadelphia for construction in FY07. The project will be completed in conjunction with Mayfair Community Development Corporation (CDC), who plans to revitalize Frankford Avenue from Harbison Avenue to Cottman Avenue, specifically in the vicinity of the Devon Theater and other surrounding businesses. The project will include streetscape improvements such as pedestrian signals, sidewalks, bumpouts, trees, street furniture, angle parking, pavement markings, median islands, and decorative pavement markings. Any additional funds required to complete the project will be provided locally.

**h. PA07-48c: Schuylkill River Park Rail Crossings, (Proposed New DEMO Project) (MPMS #74829), Philadelphia**

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Schuylkill River Park Rail Crossings project (MPMS #74829), and programming DEMO funds provided by a \$600,000 SAFETEA-LU earmark (ID# 4829), acknowledging a toll credit match. The entire design phase will be funded with local funds and programmed in FY07 (\$150,000 local). The project will include the construction of two (2) at-grade rail crossings over the CSX rail line to access the Schuylkill River Park in Philadelphia. The at-grade crossings will be located at Race Street and Locust Street and will create a safe link for pedestrian and bicyclists between the Schuylkill River Park project (MPMS #17754) and Center City. Construction will be funded in FY08 (\$600,000 DEMO/\$0 toll credit match). Any additional funds required to complete the project will be provided locally.

**i. PA07-48d: Please Touch Museum, (Proposed New DEMO Project) (MPMS #74825), Philadelphia**

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Please Touch Museum Access project (MPMS #74825), by programming DEMO funds provided by two (2) SAFETEA-LU earmarks: (ID# 4814) \$1 million; and (ID# 362) \$300,000, and a \$325,000 local match provided by the Please Touch Museum for construction in FY07 and FY08. The project has been under construction since January of 2006 and will provide for the renovation of Memorial Hall as well as the expansion of the west side parking lot and access roads of Memorial Hall in order to accommodate additional visitors to the new Please Touch Museum located in Fairmount Park at Memorial Hall. New drainage will also be added for the expanded parking lot. Deteriorated trees will be removed and one tree will be replaced for every two removed. The museum is expecting to move into the renovated Memorial Hall in the fall of 2008. Any additional funds required to complete the project will be provided locally.

*Motion: by Anthony Santaniello, seconded by Chivas Grannum to modify the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the North Delaware Avenue Extension project (MPMS #46956) by \$10 million and adding the final design and right of way phases; to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Frankford Avenue - Mayfair-Streetscape Improvement project (MPMS #74833), and programming DEMO funds provided by a SAFETEA-LU earmark (ID# 2935) in the amount of \$1,000,000, and a \$250,000 local match provided by the City of Philadelphia for construction in FY07; to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Schuylkill River*

*Park Rail Crossings project (MPMS #74829), and programming DEMO funds provided by a \$600,000 SAFETEA-LU earmark (ID# 4829), acknowledging a toll credit match; and to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Please Touch Museum Access project (MPMS #74825), by programming DEMO funds provided by two (2) SAFETEA-LU earmarks: (ID# 4814) \$1 million; and (ID# 362) \$300,000, and a \$325,000 local match provided by the Please Touch Museum for construction in FY07 and FY08*

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

## **6. Fiscal Year 2008 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. I-95/Columbus Boulevard Traffic Study (I-676 to I-76)**

Matthew Gates (DVRPC) discussed a new traffic study for a portion of I-95 / Columbus Boulevard between I-676 and I-76. This project will study the potential traffic impacts of the various development proposals for a casino, condominiums, and other retail uses currently being considered by the City of Philadelphia. Mr. Gates requested that the RTC approve the addition of this study to the FY2008 Work Program.

*Motion: by Kenneth Lomax, seconded by Jim Mosca to recommend Board approval of the proposed addition of the I-95/Columbus Boulevard Traffic Study (I-676 to I-76) to the FY2008 Planning Work Program.*

Motion passed. One abstention. All other votes cast in favor of the motion.

### **b. Route 38 Integrated Smart Growth and Smart Transportation Plan in Burlington County**

Rich Bickel (DVRPC) presented this new project for the FY2008 Planning Work Program. The 18-month study would require \$250,000 and aim to identify transportation issues and needs in the Route 38 corridor. The study would also recommend ways to integrate transportation planning with smart growth in these communities. Though DVRPC would not carry out the project, staff would be responsible for selecting a consultant and handling the administration of this study.

*Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Curt Noe to recommend Board approval of the proposed FY2008 Planning Work Program amendment to add the Route 38 Integrated Smart Growth and Smart Transportation Plan in Burlington County into the Work Program.*

Motion passed. One abstention. All other votes cast in favor of the motion.

**7. Election of FY 2008 Officers**

The PCC/RTC nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for FY2008. The candidates nominated were Matthew Lawson (Mercer County) for the position of PCC / RTC Chairperson and Jim Mosca (PennDOT) for the position of Vice Chairperson.

*Motion: by Jessica Lucas, seconded by Carol Thomas to elect Matthew Lawson to the position of PCC / RTC Chairperson, and Jim Mosca to the position of Vice Chairperson.*

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

**8. US 202, Section 700 Parkway: Proposed Revisions to the National Highway System (NHS)**

James Miller (Michael Baker), on behalf of PennDOT District 6-0, presented information on changes to the NHS classification of the existing and future US 202 highways. The US 202, Section 700 Parkway, upon construction, will be added to the National Highway System (NHS), and the existing section of US 202 will be removed from the NHS. Mr. Miller asked the RTC to recommend to the Board the approval of the proposed revisions to the NHS.

*Motion: by Linda Guarini, seconded by David Johnson to recommend Board approval of the proposal to revise the NHS by adding US 202, Section 700 Parkway to the NHS and removing the existing section of US 202 from the NHS.*

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

**9. FY 2007 Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Projects**

DVRPC began its fifth round of TCDI funding in January 2007. Over 60 applications were received and funding requests totaled over \$5 million dollars. Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) presented the application process as well as projects recommended for funding. Ms. Cilurso recommended 43 projects for funding with contracting beginning on July 1, 2007. The RTC was asked to recommend approval of these projects.

*Motion: by Thomas Shaffer, seconded by Anthony Santaniello to recommend Board approval for the suggested projects for the 2007 TCDI program.*

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

10. **Adoption of Improving Access to Opportunities in the Delaware Valley Region: Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)**

Under the new Safe Accountable Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy Act for Users (SAFETEA-LU) regulations, the previous Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program has now been made a component of a new Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP). Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) announced that DVRPC has completed the CHSTP, as per these requirements. Ms. Cilurso asked the RTC to recommend Board adoption of this plan.

*Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by John Boyle to recommend Board adoption of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.*

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

11. **Revisions to the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan**

The Destination 2030 Long Range Plan was adopted under TEA-21. Staff has worked with federal, state and regional stakeholders to revise the Plan to meet the requirements of SAFETEA-LU. Mike Boyer (DVRPC) reviewed the highlights of the draft document that is currently in the public comment period and asked for a recommendation for Board adoption of the revisions.

*Motion: by Linda Guarini, seconded by Curt Noe to recommend Board approval of the revisions to the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan.*

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

12. **Conformity Determination of the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan, FY 2008-2011 New Jersey TIP, and FY 2007-2010 Pennsylvania TIP**

DVRPC is required to conduct a new conformity determination of the Plan and TIP due to: revisions to make the Long Range Plan SAFETEA-LU compliant; a new FY 2008 TIP for New Jersey; and updates to the FY 2007 TIP for Pennsylvania. DVRPC has successfully demonstrated transportation conformity, and draft findings are in the midst of a 30-day public comment period. Sean Greene (DVRPC) presented this issue to the RTC and stated that there have been no public comments on the draft conformity findings thus far. Mr. Greene asked the RTC to recommend that the Board adopt the conformity findings and updates to the FY2007 and FY2008 TIPs.

*Motion: by Jessica Lucas, seconded by Jim Mosca to recommend Board adoption of the draft conformity findings and updates to the FY2007 and FY2008 TIPs and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan.*

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

13. **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Air Quality Conformity Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) have prepared a revision to the Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan. This plan revision details the process that will be used to perform conformity determinations in Pennsylvania. PennDOT has requested that the MOA with PennDOT and DEP will serve as the legal basis for enforcing the SIP. Sean Greene (DVRPC) reviewed the MOA and asked for a recommendation for Board authorization to sign the MOA.

*Motion: by Jerry Lutin, seconded by Brian Cuccia to recommend Board authorization to sign the MOA between PennDOT and DEP.*

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

14. **Letter of Support for Increasing the Federal Limit of the Transit Benefit**

Stacey Bartels (DVRPC) presented a draft letter from DVRPC's Executive Director to Congress in support of proposed legislation that includes raising the federal cap of the transit benefit to a level in parity with the current parking benefit. Such a move would provide greater incentive to use transit as a main commute method instead of driving alone.

*Motion: by Anthony Santaniello, seconded by Kenneth Lomax to recommend Board approval of a letter of support from DVRPC's Executive Director to Congress in support of increasing the federal limit of the transit benefit.*

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

15. **DVRPC's Regional Safety Action Plan**

SAFETEA-LU has made transportation safety a separate planning factor. In accordance, DVRPC has revamped and expanded its transportation safety program and developed a Regional Safety Action Plan. This Plan is developed in coordination with the Regional Safety Task Force and addresses region-specific transportation safety issues. Draft revisions to destination 2030 update points to the Regional Safety Action Plan in satisfying SAFETEA-LU safety mandates. The RTC was asked by Rosemarie Anderson (DVRPC) to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the Regional Safety Action Plan.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Jerry Lutin to recommend Board adoption of DVRPC's Regional Safety Action Plan.*

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

**16. PA Functional Classification - Technical Corrections**

PennDOT has identified a few technical corrections that are needed to the functional classification of roadways in three counties within the DVRPC region. The RTC was asked by Chick Dougherty (DVRPC) to recommend that the Board approve these technical corrections to the Pennsylvania Functional Classification of roadways.

*Motion: by Linda Guarini, seconded by Matthew Edmond to recommend Board approval of technical corrections to the Pennsylvania Functional Classification of roadways.*

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

**PRESENTATION ITEMS****17. SEPTA Train View**

Ron Hopkins, SEPTA Chief Control Center Officer, presented Train View, which is a new SEPTA website feature that offers up-to-date regional rail train status information to its customers. This presentation also reviewed additional real time train information features that will be available to customers.

**18. Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO) Freedom Card**

Mr. Bob Box (DRPA) provided an overview and status of the new PATCO Freedom Card system that PATCO is in the process of implementing to replace its almost forty year old legacy fare collection system.

**DISCUSSION ITEM****19. New Jersey Local Aid Funding**

Chick Dougherty (DVRPC) led a discussion concerning future funding levels under the New Jersey Local Aid program that provides funding to counties and municipalities for local roads and bridges.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****20. One Minute Reports**

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

**21. Old Business and New Business****22. Meeting Adjournment**

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is June 12, 2007.



## **ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

### **Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Kathleen Zubrzycki– SEPTA  
Jonathan Konis – PennDOT  
Michael Altomari– PennDOT  
Rajendsa Pandyee – PennDOT  
Les Varga – SJTPO  
Marie Chin –PATCO  
Glen Box – PATCO  
Mary Ameen – NJTPA  
Ben Gooding – CCD  
Darin Gatti – City of Philadelphia, Streets Department  
Tina Miller – Baker Engineering  
Richard Brundage – NJ Turnpike Authority  
Gene Wilk – NJ Turnpike Authority  
Bob Scarlott – Burlington County Transportation  
Jim McQuilkin – DRPA  
Wesley Ratko – Montgomery County Planning Commission  
Warren Strumpfer – RCC  
Andrea Jordan – City of Philadelphia, Streets Department  
Sue Herman – RRTS  
Steve Buckley – PB  
Chris Naker – SEPTA  
James Miller – Michael Baker

### **DVRPC Staff**

Don Shanis  
Charles Dougherty  
Richard Bickel  
Elizabeth Schoonmaker  
Gastonia Anderson  
Stacey Bartels  
Matthew Gates  
Rick Murphy  
Matthew West  
Kelly Rossiter

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