

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
February 10, 2015 Meeting Highlights
DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Edward Williams (Vice Chair, Camden County) welcomed RTC members and called the meeting to order. Deputy Executive Director John Ward explained that Leo Bagley, RTC Chair, has left Montgomery County to take a position at PennDOT Central Office as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation. The RTC will need to take action today to elect a new RTC Chair. The DVRPC Board also has a new Chairperson. Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia from Bucks County was elected to replace former Chair Leslie Richards who left to become the new PennDOT Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. Ward explained that a nominating committee, consisting of Jim Mosca and Michelle Webb, has selected Rich Brahler of Bucks County to replace Leo Bagley. No additional nominations were proposed.

Motion: by Matthew Edmonds, seconded by Randy Waltermeyer to elect Rich Brahler as the new RTC Chair.

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

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

John Ward (DVRPC) announced that the Board approved all of the action items recommended by the Committee at the RTC meeting on January 6, 2015.

Mr. Ward noted that DVRPC is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and with that in mind he will be mentioning something from the past at each RTC meeting -This Month in DVRPC History. In 1975 the Board discussed preparing a response to FHWA regarding DVRPC's re-certification requirements. Ten years later DVRPC staff provided a presentation to the Board on the upcoming Schuylkill Expressway reconstruction and the Board minutes indicated that staff was working with PennDOT and SEPTA to develop solutions to "*the massive traffic jam expected in early March*". They were working with PennDOT to improve access roads and signals and with SEPTA to extend service, add more capacity, and expand parking facilities. They were also heavily promoting carpooling and vanpooling, as well as flexible work hours. In 1995 the Board approved a TIP amendment and two UPWP amendments to add 3 Major Investment Studies (MIS) for regionally significant projects: 1) Burlington/Gloucester Corridor Assessment 2) Woodhaven Road Extension 3) I-95/PA Turnpike Interchange Project. Ten years later SEPTA was facing a \$62M deficit for the fiscal year and had proposed a series of drastic service reductions and fare increases to cover the shortfall. Following Governor Rendell's lead, the DVRPC Board "flexed" \$9.8M of federal highway funds and \$3M in state funds to SEPTA in January to help reduce the deficit. This action served as a stop-gap measure which enabled SEPTA to delay service cuts and fare increases until February 27. A special meeting was called and the Board approved an additional flex of \$49M in federal

highway funds. Five years later the Board approved TIP Amendments to: 1) program \$4M in PA State Funds for PE on 9 SD bridges, 2) program ARRA funds for paving projects in Chester County and Burlington County.

Mr. Ward noted that discussions are hot in NJ concerning re-filling the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) which will be bankrupt by July if nothing is done. Much of the discussion has been on raising the gas tax but many in the legislature are not indicating support for that right now. The state's gas tax is the 2nd lowest in the nation and hasn't been increased for decades. Right now, the TTF is \$18.2B in debt, with nearly every dime from the 14.5-cent gas tax going to pay down that borrowing.

Meanwhile, at the national level, a similar debate is going on. Congressman Blumenauer (OR) recently introduced HR 680 to allow passage of the first comprehensive, six year transportation bill since 1997. HR 680: The Update, Promote, and Develop America's Transportation Essentials (UPDATE) Act would phase in a nickel a gallon tax increase over each of the next three years on gasoline and diesel. The Administration has also proposes a GROW AMERICA Act which would be funded through a business tax reform.

Mr. Ward called attention to some new reports including: Camden County Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Plan, and 2013 Annual Crash Data Bulletin.

Mr. Ward noted that there is a Healthy Communities Task Force Meeting on February 11, a Public Participation Task Force on February 18, and the Breaking Ground Conference: Building Livable Communities in Greater Philadelphia on March 12

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday, March 10.**

3. Public Comment on Any Agenda and Non-Agenda Item

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of January 6, 2015

The highlights from January 6, 2015 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Matthew Lawson to adopt the highlights for the January 6, 2015 RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Kwan Hui (DVRPC) presented ten TIP amendments for consideration.

a. PA15-27: Roosevelt Boulevard Multimodal Study – TIGER, (MPMS# 103469), City of Philadelphia – Add Proposed New Study to the TIP

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 – 2018 TIP for

Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, Roosevelt Boulevard Multimodal Study – TIGER, (MPMS# 103469), for \$5,000,000 (\$2,500,000 TIGER/\$1,500,000 State TIF/\$500,000 City of Philadelphia Local Match/\$500,000 SEPTA (\$483,875 State 1514/\$16,125 SEPTA Local Match) in FY15. These are additional funds to the region and the SEPTA funding will be “flexed”.

Motion: by Michelle Webb, seconded by Andrew Levecchia to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

PA15-27, The City of Philadelphia’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, Roosevelt Boulevard Multimodal Study – TIGER, (MPMS# 103469), for \$5,000,000 (\$2,500,000 TIGER/\$1,500,000 State TIF/\$500,000 City of Philadelphia Local Match/\$500,000 SEPTA (\$483,875 State 1514/\$16,125 SEPTA Local Match) in FY15. These are additional funds to the region and the SEPTA funding will be “flexed.”

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

b. NJ14-60: Springdale Road (CR 673) Roadway Improvements, Phase II (DB #D1504), Camden County – Add Proposed New Project

Camden County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Springdale Road (CR 673) Roadway Improvements, Phase II, (DB #D1504) for Construction (CON) in the amount of \$3,000,000 STP-STU funds in FY15. Camden County will provide a match in the amount of \$734,743, which would cover the total project CON cost estimate of \$3,734,743.

c. NJ14-61: Gloucester County Guiderail Rehabilitation, (DB #D1506), Gloucester County – Add Proposed New Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Gloucester County Guiderail Rehabilitation, (DB #D1506) for Construction in the amount of \$300,000 STP-STU funds in FY15.

d. NJ14-62: CR 553/CR 553 Alternate, East Avenue to Lambs Road (CR 635) and Lambs Road, CR 635 to CR 553, (DB #D1509), Gloucester County – Add Proposed New Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, CR 553/CR 553 Alternate, East Avenue to Lambs Road (CR 635) and Lambs Road, CR 635 to CR 553, (DB #D1509) in the amount of \$3,750,000 STATE-DVRPC funds that were appropriated in FY14 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY15.

e. NJ14-63: Holly Avenue (CR 624), Lambs Road (CR 635) to Route 47 (Delsea Drive), (DB #D1508), Gloucester County – Add Proposed New Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Holly Avenue (CR 624), Lambs Road (CR 635) to Route 47 (Delsea Drive), (DB #D1508) in the amount of \$500,000

STATE-DVRPC funds that were appropriated in FY14 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY15.

f. NJ14-64: Signal Upgrades, (DB #D1507), Mercer County – Add Proposed New Project

Mercer County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Signal Upgrades, (DB #D1507) in the amount of \$1,000,000 STATE-DVRPC funds that were appropriated in FY14 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY15.

g. NJ14-65: ADA Improvements, (DB #D1505), City of Camden – Add Proposed New Project

The City of Camden has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, ADA Improvements, (DB #D1505) in the amount of \$3,114,000 STATE-DVRPC funds that will be appropriated in FY17 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY17.

Motion: by Matt Lawson, seconded by Alan Miller to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Actions:

NJ14-60, Camden County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Springdale Road (CR 673) Roadway Improvements, Phase II, (DB #D1504) for Construction (CON) in the amount of \$3,000,000 STP-STU funds in FY15. Camden County will provide a match in the amount of \$734,743, which would cover the total project CON cost estimate of \$3,734,743.

NJ14-61, Gloucester County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Gloucester County Guiderail Rehabilitation, (DB #D1506) for Construction in the amount of \$300,000 STP-STU funds in FY15.

NJ14-62, Gloucester County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, CR 553/CR 553 Alternate, East Avenue to Lambs Road (CR 635) and Lambs Road, CR 635 to CR 553, (DB #D1509) in the amount of \$3,750,000 STATE-DVRPC funds that were appropriated in FY14 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY15.

NJ14-63, Gloucester County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Holly Avenue (CR 624), Lambs Road (CR 635) to Route 47 (Delsea Drive), (DB #D1508) in the amount of \$500,000 STATE-DVRPC funds that were appropriated in FY14 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY15.

NJ14-64, Mercer County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, Signal Upgrades, (DB #D1507) in the amount of \$1,000,000 STATEDVRPC funds that were appropriated in FY14 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY15.

NJ14-65, the City of Camden's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project, ADA Improvements, (DB #D1505) in the amount of

\$3,114,000 STATE-DVRPC funds that will be appropriated in FY17 for Construction to advance and be encumbered (authorized) in FY17.

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

h. NJ14-72: Paratransit Vehicles, (Various DB #s), Various Counties Burlington County Bus Purchase (DB #D1510) Mercer County Bus Purchase (DB #D1011) – Add Projects to the TIP

Burlington County on behalf of the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) and Mercer County on behalf of Transportation Resources to Aid the Disadvantaged and Elderly (TRADE) has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding the following projects to the TIP in the amount of \$260,000 CMAQ funds for Engineering/Construction (EC) in FY15 for SJTA and TRADE vehicle replacements: add a new project, Burlington County Bus Purchase, (DB #D1510) to the TIP in the amount of \$150,000 CMAQ funds, and add a project, Mercer County Bus Purchase, (DB #D1011) back in to the TIP in the amount of \$110,000 CMAQ funds. To replace aging vehicles, the SJTA requests \$134,000 to acquire a 24-seat, ADA-equipped bus for BurLink; and Mercer County TRADE requests \$100,000 to acquire two, 12-16 passenger, ADA equipped paratransit vehicles. The total amount requested (\$260,000 CMAQ) includes a total NJ TRANSIT administration cost of \$26,000. CMAQ funds will be flexed (transferred) by NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for SJTA and TRADE. Burlington County's BurLink is operated by the SJTA and provides deviated fixed route service to all riders. Mercer County's TRADE provides subscription and demand responsive service to senior citizens (ages 60+) or people with disabilities.

Motion: by Matt Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

NJ14-72, Burlington County's request on behalf of the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) and Mercer County's request on behalf of Transportation Resources to Aid the Disadvantaged and Elderly (TRADE) that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 TIP for New Jersey by adding the following projects to the TIP in the amount of \$260,000 CMAQ funds for FY15 Engineering/Construction (EC) for SJTA and TRADE vehicle replacements: add a new \$150,000 CMAQ funded project, Burlington County Bus Purchase, (DB #D1510) to the TIP, and add a project, Mercer County Bus Purchase, (DB #D1011) back in to the TIP for \$110,000 CMAQ funds. The total amount requested (\$260,000 CMAQ) includes NJ TRANSIT administration cost of \$26,000.

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

6. 2014 Transportation Safety Action Plan

Kevin Murphy (DVRPC) explained that the Office of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management has been working with DVRPC's Regional Safety Task Force on the 2015 update of the region's Transportation Safety Action Plan, the fourth iteration since 2006. This data-driven plan identifies eight safety emphasis areas that were contributing factors in 97 percent of the crash fatalities that occurred in the region from 2010 to 2012. The plan recommends strategies to improve safety in each emphasis area.

Motion: *by Matt Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia* to recommend that the Board accept the final Transportation Safety Action Plan.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

7. Direct Connect Construction Project Update

New Jersey DOT staff presented an update on the current status of the I-295/I-76/NJ 42 construction Project. Construction began in March 2013 and is expected to continue until 2021. The presentation discussed some of the work completed to date and highlighted key elements still to come.

8. Camden County Master Plan

Andrew Levecchia (Camden County) introduced this presentation and provided a general overview of the Plan and its development process and DVRPC Staff and consultants reviewed the elements of Camden County Master Plan, including the Land Use Plan, the Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Plan, and the Highway Plan, each of which presents an actionable vision for the future, to keep pace with changes anticipated by 2040. The Land Use Plan outlines ten geographically distinct policy goals, while the Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Plan identifies a network of trails and bicycle facilities that will connect to attractions in the county, and the Highway Plan sets the direction for highway infrastructure, particularly the county route network.

9. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society: Civic Landscape Initiative

Through a series of meetings with stakeholders throughout Philadelphia, PHS identified seven target gateways and corridors that will be at the heart of their horticultural efforts for the next 15 years. In collaboration with partners across the city, PHS will work to transform these overlooked thoroughfares into imaginative, sustainable, and memorable public spaces that place Philadelphia at the forefront of great civic landscape design. One Civic Landscapes Initiative effort that has gained much interest re-envisioned Philadelphia Monument Plaza at the base of the Ben Franklin Bridge. PHS and OLIN Studios have begun efforts to address accessibility and beautify this overlooked public space.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. FY 2016 Transportation Management Association (TMA) Assistance Grant Program and Mobility Alternatives Program (MAP) Draft Work Programs

TMA and MAP contractors are required to apply for this grant funding annually. Draft Work Programs have been submitted and are available for review and comment by any interested RTC member. Staff presented a brief overview of the work programs, the grant process, and new application requirements for FY16.

11. One Minute Reports

RTC Members and guests provided updates on the activities of their agencies.

12. **Old Business**

13. **New Business**

14. **Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 AM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, March 10, 2015.**

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

NJ Department of Transportation
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ Department of Community Affairs
NJ Governor's Appointee
NJ Office for Planning Advocacy
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Department of Transportation
PA Governor's Appointee
PA Governor's Policy Office
Bucks County
Burlington County
Camden County
Chester County
Delaware County
Gloucester County
Mercer County
Montgomery County
City of Philadelphia – City Planning Commission
City of Philadelphia – Department of Streets
City of Philadelphia – Mayor's Office of Transportation
City of Camden
City of Chester
City of Trenton
Delaware River Port Authority
New Jersey Transit Corporation
Port Authority Transit Corporation
Southeastern PA Transportation Authority
Public Participation Task Force (NJ)
Public Participation Task Force (PA)

Representative

Monica Etz
Ruth Foster
(not represented)
(not represented)
Alan Miller
Lisa Worden
Patrick Patterson
James Mosca
(not represented)
Linda Guarini
Rich Brahler
Carol Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Randy Waltermeyer
Tom Shaffer
(not represented)
Matthew Lawson
Matt Edmonds
Jeannette Brugger
Michelle Webb
Andrew Stober
Edward Williams
(not represented)
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
Lou Millan
Ben Cornelius
Zoe Robertson
Harry Fox
(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force
Federal Highway Administration - NJ Division
Federal Highway Administration - PA Division
Federal Transit Administration - Region III
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
NJ Turnpike Authority
New Jersey TMAs
Pennsylvania TMAs
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Pottstown Urban Transit
Select Greater Philadelphia
South Jersey Port Corporation
South Jersey Transportation Authority
Transportation Operations Task Force
US EPA - Region II

Representative

(not represented)
Kelvin MacKavanagh
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
William Ragozine
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jacqueline Mandly
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

US EPA - Region III

(not represented)

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

(not represented)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Tammy Leigh DeMent – Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

John McCleery - NJDOT

Bill Comer – Resident of Philadelphia

Fritz Ohrenschall - SEPTA

Sue Herman – Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions

Jim Saksa – PlanPhilly

Crystal Gilchrist – MCPC

Patricia Eliis – City of Philadelphia- Mayor's Office of Transportation

Ben Bryant – Group Melvin Design

Rich Bickel

DVRPC Staff

John Ward

Patty Elkis

Chris Puchalsky

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Kwan Hui

Rick Murphy

Zoe Neaderland

Kevin Murphy

Gerry Coyne

Sean Greene

Matt Gates

Regina Moore

Dave Anderson

Brett Fusco

Greg Krykewycz

Sarah Oaks

Alison Hastings

Elise Turner

Jane Meconi

Julia Strapp

Amy Bernknopf

Scott Johnson

Thomas Stead

Renee Wise

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