



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 12, 2015 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Rich Brahler (Chair, Bucks County) welcomed RTC members and called the meeting to order.

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 April 7, 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 May 1966 the Board Chairman was Eric Von Hauswolff (PA State Department of Highways). A meeting was set up with Counsel from the NJ Governor's Office to discuss the differences in the PA and NJ legislation creating DVRPC. The NJ legislation was at that time before the NJ Senate. There was anticipated strenuous objection in PA to the proposed NJ legislation and there was a request to defer any action until agreement on the legislation could be reached. The representative from the NJ State Highway Department indicated that the NJ Legislature would complete its session in mid-June and it might very well not get to the DVRPC legislation this session.

In May 1975 the Board recommended that the FY76 Work Program be amended to include the City of Philadelphia Frankford Elevated Rail Rapid Transit Alternative Analysis Study as an unfunded proposed technical study should residual UMTA funds become available by June 30, 1975.

In May 1985 the Board Chairman was Curt Weldon who opened the meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton. A presentation on the details of the NJ DOT Route 1 High Growth Corridor study was given by Robert Kraml, Director of NJDOT's Bureau of Statewide Planning. Following the meeting, the Board toured the Route 1 Corridor with a running commentary provided by Bill Mathesius of Mercer County and NJDOT's Charles Carmalt.

In May 1995 Acting Chair Denise L. Goren, called the meeting to order. Chick Dougherty of DVRPC presented to the Board an overview of the FY95 TIP Implementation Scorecard. This report was coordinated with the state DOT's and transit agencies to compare projects programmed in the TIP with actual results.

In May 2005 the last Board meeting was held in the Bourse Building. The Board heard a presentation on Safety Conscious Planning which was a new process that not only looked at proactive measures but included a holistic approach aimed at what was being called the 4E's of safety: engineering, education, enforcement and emergency services. DVRPC staff was putting together a Transportation Safety Forum scheduled for June 2005 that

brought together a multi-disciplinary group of professionals to develop safety goals, strategies and resources to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities in the region. This Forum led to the development of DVRPC's Regional Safety Task Force.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members to mark their calendars for DVRPC's 50th Anniversary event on June 30th at Dilworth Plaza.

Mr. Ward reported that in November, FHWA and FTA conducted a site visit of DVRPC as part of the Federal Certification Review process to assess if we are meeting all of the federal laws and regulations required of us as the federally designated MPO for the Philadelphia Metro area. This is done in our region every four years. On April 24th, we received the Certification Review Final Report from the federal agencies documenting their review process and indicating our Federal Certification approval. Next month, we will bring to the RTC and to the Board, an Action Item and resolution indicating our Annual Self-Certification in which every year we certify to the Federal Agencies that we are performing the required planning activities to be the designated MPO.

Mr. Ward noted that last month, the RTC recognized Candy Snyder who retired as Director of Communications and Public Affairs. Mr. Ward introduced Alison Hastings who was DVRPC's Manager of Strategic Partnerships. The Office of Strategic Partnerships and Communications and Public Affairs has been merged and re-formatted as the Office of Communications and Engagement. Alison will be the Manager of that Unit and she will be expertly supported by Elise Turner, DVRPC's Communications Manager and our current intern Julia Strapp who really helps with social media among other things.

Mr. Ward called attention to some new reports including: Guidebook: Natural Gas for Refuse Fleets in Pennsylvania; Primos Station Access & Development Opportunities Study; North Maple Avenue (CR 607) Road Safety Audit; State Street Transit Signal Priority Study.

Mr. Ward noted that there is a Public Participation Task Force meeting on May 13.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday, June 9, 2015.**

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of April 7, 2015

The highlights from April 7, 2015 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Matthew Lawson to adopt the highlights for the April 7, 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 three TIP amendments for consideration.

a. PA15-42: Paper Mill Road over Darby Creek (Worrall Bridge/CB #221) (Act13), (MPMS #103525), Delaware County – Add Proposed New Project to TIP

Delaware County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new Act 13 local bridge project, Paper Mill Road over Darby Creek (Worrall Bridge, County Bridge #221, MPMS # 103525) to the TIP in the amount of \$1,415,000 (FY15: PE \$200,000, CON \$250,000; FY16 FD \$100,000, ROW \$15,000, CON \$850,000) using the County's 2013 and 2014 allocation of Act 13 funds. These are additional funds to the region.

Motion: by Tom Shaffer, seconded by Matthew Edmonds to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

That the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP Action PA15-42, Delaware County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new Act 13 local bridge project, Paper Mill Road over Darby Creek (Worrall Bridge, County Bridge #221, MPMS # 103525) to the TIP in the amount of \$1,415,000 (FY15: PE \$200,000, CON \$250,000; FY16 FD \$100,000, ROW \$15,000, CON \$850,000) using the County's 2013 and 2014 allocation of Act 13 funds. These are additional funds to the region.

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

b. PA15-43: Troxel/Orvilla Road (SR 1004) Bridge Repair, (MPMS #104955), Montgomery County – Add Proposed New Project to TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Troxel/Orvilla Road (SR1004) Bridge Repair project to the TIP for FY15 construction in the amount of \$1,320,000 (\$1,056,000 STU/\$264,000 State 581).

Motion: by Matthew Edmonds, Nicholas Baker to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

PA15-43, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Troxel/Orvilla Road (SR1004) Bridge Repair project to the TIP for FY15 construction in the amount of \$1,320,000 (\$1,056,000 STU/\$264,000 State 581).

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

c. PA15-44: Swanson Street Reconstruction, (MPMS #70231), City of Philadelphia – Advance PE Phase

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the PE phase of the Swanson Street Reconstruction project from FY20 to FY15 and reprogramming the PE phase in the amount of \$600,000 STP with toll credit match

Motion: *by Andrew Stober, seconded by Jim Mosca* to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

That the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP Action PA15-44, the City of Philadelphia's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the PE phase of the Swanson Street Reconstruction project from FY20 to FY15 and reprogramming the PE phase in the amount of \$600,000 STP with toll credit match

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

6. Fiscal Year 2015 Planning Work Program Amendment

a. Facilitating Dialogue on Municipal Actions to Protect and Improve Water Quality in the Delaware River Basin

Patty Elkis (DVRPC) explained that the William Penn Foundation awarded DVRPC a grant to work with a wide range of content experts and Technical Assistance providers to identify which conservation tools and support services are most effective and where, and to make recommendations for how to better support or incentivize municipalities to implement these tools to maintain and/or improve water quality across the Delaware River Basin.

Motion: *by Matt Lawson, seconded by Barbara Holcomb* to recommend that the Board amend the FY 2015 Work Program to include the Facilitating Dialogue on Municipal Actions to Protect and Improve Water Quality in the Delaware River Basin initiative.

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

7. Authorization to Open a Public Comment Period for an Amendment to the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan; Draft FY 2016 TIP for New Jersey; and the Draft Conformity Finding of the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan, FY 2015 TIP for Pennsylvania, and FY 2016 TIP for New Jersey

Sean Greene (DVRPC) requested authorization to open a minimum 30-day public comment period for the purpose of gathering public and agency comments on the amendments to the *Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan*, Draft FY 2016-2019 TIP for New Jersey, and the Draft Conformity Determination of the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan, FY 2015 TIP for Pennsylvania and Draft FY 2016 TIP for New Jersey; to issue proper public notifications; to publish the draft documents of the respective Plan and TIPs and conformity findings on the internet; to make copies available at certain public libraries; and to hold public meetings.

Motion: *by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Matthew Lawson* that the RTC recommend the Board authorize staff to open a minimum 30-day public comment period for the purpose of gathering public and agency comments on the amendment to the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan; the Draft FY 2016-2019 TIP for New Jersey; and the Draft Conformity Determination of the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan, FY 2015 TIP for Pennsylvania, and FY 2016 TIP for New Jersey; to issue proper public

notifications; to publish the draft documents of the amendment to the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan, FY 2016 TIP for New Jersey, and conformity findings on the Internet; to make copies available at certain public libraries; and to hold public meetings.

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

8. Appointment of Nominating Committee for FY2016 DVRPC Regional Technical Committee Officers

John Ward (DVRPC) explained that a Nominating Committee will be selected to solicit candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the RTC for FY2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). The Chairman for FY2016 must be a voting member from New Jersey, and the Vice Chairman must be a voting member from Pennsylvania. The Nominating Committee will report these candidates and elections will take place at the June 2015 RTC meeting.

The proposed nominating committee is comprised of Richard Brahler (Bucks County) and Lou Millan (NJ Transit).

Motion: by Tom Shaffer, seconded by Matthew Lawson to approve the appointment of the nominating committee for FY16 RTC Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

9. SEPTA's King of Prussia Rail Project

Elizabeth Smith (SEPTA) and Reuben MacMartin (DVRPC) explained that SEPTA is examining alternatives to provide light-rail service to the King of Prussia area, including the Mall, Casino and Business Park area, connecting to the Norristown High-Speed Line. At this time, five alternative alignments are still under consideration.

10. AMTRAK's 30th Street Station District Plan

Natalie Shieh (Amtrak) explained that the Philadelphia 30th Street Station District Plan represents one of the best opportunities in the region for re-envisioning rail and transit services and supporting transportation oriented development for urban transformation and economic growth. Initiated in June 2014, this two-year planning effort is being jointly undertaken by Amtrak, Brandywine Realty Trust, Drexel University, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA).

11. State Street Transit Signal Priority Study

Keith Hartington (DVRPC) explained that a section of the State Street corridor, located in downtown Trenton, was evaluated to explore the potential for Transit Signal Priority (TSP). Several scenarios were modeled utilizing the VISSIM software, and various performance

measures were collected and evaluated. The results of this analysis found TSP to be a favorable treatment for increasing transit travel speeds within the corridor.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. Downtown Delivery Symposium

Ted Dahlburg (DVRPC) reported that DVRPC, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, and others will conduct a special Downtown Delivery Symposium at the DVRPC offices from 9AM-3PM on July 15, 2015. The symposium will feature a review of nation-wide best practices and a discussion of potential solutions for high delivery areas in the Delaware Valley. Pre-registration is mandatory.

13. One Minute Reports

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

14. Old Business and New Business

15. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, June 9, 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)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
James Mosca
(not represented)
(not represented)
Rich Brahler
Carol Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Randy Waltermeyer
Tom Shaffer
Rick Westergaard
Matthew Lawson
Matt Edmonds
(not represented)
Nicholas Baker
Andrew Stober
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
Lou Millan
Ben Cornelius
Zoe Robertson
(not represented)
Jim Hopkins

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)
Jonathan Crum
(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)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

US EPA - Region III

(not represented)

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

(not represented)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Byron Comati - SEPTA

Elizabeth Smith – SEPTA

Jackie Huston – Gloucester County

Joe Romano – Larson Design Group

Bill Comer – Resident of Philadelphia

Sue Herman – Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions

Sam Katz–Philadelphia

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

DVRPC Staff

John Ward

Patty Elkis

Chris Puchalsky

Alison Hastings

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Kwan Hui

Rick Murphy

Greg Krykewycz

Betsy Mastaglio

Julia Strapp

Amy Bernknopf

Reuben MacMartin

Andrew Svekla

Keith Hartington

Matt Gates

Logan Axelson

Karen Cilurso

Sean Greene

Mike Boyer

Dave Anderson

Renee Wise

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email.