



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

January 12, 2016 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Edward Williams (Chair, City of Camden) 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 November 10, 2015.

Mr. Ward thanked everyone who came out to DVRPC's 50th Anniversary Dinner on December 9 and celebrated. He expressed a big thank you to sponsors and noted that almost 300 people attended the event.

Mr. Ward called the RTC's attention to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) which was passed in December, 2015. In terms of funding the bill authorizes \$305 billion for federal highway, transit, safety, and rail programs for five years from federal fiscal year 2016 through 2020, \$281 billion from the Highway Trust Fund (gas tax receipts), and the remainder from offsets such as Federal Reserve surplus funds and a sell-off of some Strategic Petroleum Reserves. That includes \$61 billion over five years for transit (\$12.6B in FY20 vs \$10.7B in FY15) and retains the current Growing States and High Density program. Additionally it cuts the federal match for the New Starts program from 80 percent to 60 percent. (The Small Starts match, typically reserved for bus projects, does remain at 80 percent.)

In terms of planning the bill increases Metropolitan Planning funds from \$314 million in FY15 to \$359 million in FY20. Additionally it adds two required MPO Planning Factors: 1) "Enhance Travel and Tourism" and 2) "Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation." The bill adds language that the long-range transportation plan shall consider public ports and freight shippers. Additionally it encourages consideration of intermodal facilities that support intercity buses as part of the metropolitan and statewide planning process.

With regards to programming the bill renames the Surface Transportation Program (STP), one of the core Federal-aid Highway Program categories, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP). STBGP is suballocated based on population in a graduated manner, increasing one percent per year from 51 percent of total STBGP dollars in 2016 to 55 percent by 2020. The Transportation Alternatives Program is folded into STBGP as an "STP Set-aside," funded at \$835 million in the first two years and \$850 million in the last three. In addition, up to 50 percent of the suballocated portion of STP Set-aside could be transferred to STBGP, which means up to 75 percent of total STP Set-aside dollars can be transferred. The bill also creates a new National Highway Freight program funded at an average of \$1.2 billion per year that is distributed to the States by formula. In addition, a

new discretionary program entitled the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects is established, funded at an average of \$900 million per year. It creates a National Multimodal Freight Network, which includes a National Highway Freight Network consisting of all Interstates, an additional 41,000 primary freight network highway miles identified under MAP-21.

The FAST Act also provides \$199 million in one-time funding for implementation of positive train control systems by commuter railroads.

Some of the things the bills continues are Performance Measures and if a State DOT does not achieve or make significant progress toward achieving targets after one reporting cycle, must include in a report a description of the actions they will undertake to achieve their targets in the future. Additionally it does not strike the Congestion Management Process (as the Senate Bill did).

Mr. Ward called the RTC's attention to the development of a Transportation Planning and Programming MOU with South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization. As a result of the 2010 US Census, the Vineland Urbanized Area now extends out of the SJTPO region and into the DVRPC region. DVRPC and SJTPO are developing an MOU which spells out specific transportation planning and programming responsibilities within our respective regions. The MOU will come before the RTC and Board in the coming months.

Mr. Ward noted the release of some new reports including: 1) Cultivating Camden: The City's Food Economy Strategy 2) Overview of the 2015 Congestion Management Process 3) Impact of Diesel Emissions from Port Facilities on Local Communities in the DVRPC Region 4) Evaluating Opportunities for Transit Signal Priority in Southern New Jersey

Meeting Reminders:

Mr. Ward noted that there is a Goods Movement Task Force meeting on January 15, an Urban Waterfront Action Group meeting on January 19, and a DVRPC Board meeting on January 28.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday, February 9, 2016.**

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of November 10, 2015

The highlights from the November 10, 2015 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Barbara Holcomb to adopt the highlights for the November 10, 2015 RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Rick Murphy (DVRPC) presented three TIP amendments for consideration.

a. PA15-68: I-95, Columbia Avenue to Ann Street (GR1), (MPMS #79686), City of Philadelphia – Cost Increase

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction (CON) phase by \$14,145,000 (FY16: \$11,889,000 (\$8,889,000 NHPP/\$622,000 STP/\$2,378,000 State 581) FY17: \$2,256,000 (\$1,805,000 NHPP/\$451,000 State 581); and to increase the Right-of-Way (ROW) phase by \$361,000 NHPP in FY16. This results in a total increase of \$14,506,000 to the project.

Motion: *by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Alan Miller* that the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP Action PA15-68, PennDOT's request that DVRPC modify the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for by increasing the construction phase (CON) by \$14,145,000 (FY16: \$11,889,000 (\$8,889,000 NHPP/\$622,000 STP/\$2,378,000 State 581) FY17: \$2,256,000 (\$1,805,000 NHPP/\$451,000 State 581); and to increase the Right-of-Way (ROW) phase by \$361,000 NHPP in FY16. This results in a total increase of \$14,506,000 to the project.

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

b. NJ16-003: CR 583, US 206 (Princeton Ave) and CR 645 (Brunswick Circle Extension) Roundabout, (DB# 04314), Mercer County – Include New Project to DB #04314 in the TIP

DVRPC has requested that the RTC amend the FY2016 - 2019 TIP for New Jersey by including a new project from Mercer County, CR 583, US 206 (Princeton Ave) and CR 645 (Brunswick Circle Extension) Roundabout, to the Local Safety/ High Risk Rural Roads Program (DB #04314) in the total amount of \$1,140,000: \$190,000 HSIP funds for FY16 Final Design and \$950,000 HSIP funds for FY17 Construction.

Motion by: Matt Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia that the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP Action NJ16-003, DVRPC's request that DVRPC amend the FY2016-2019 TIP for New Jersey by including a new project from Mercer County, CR 583, US 206 (Princeton Ave) and CR 645 (Brunswick Circle Extension) Roundabout, to the Local Safety/ High Risk Rural Roads Program (DB #04314) in the total amount of \$1,140,000: \$190,000 HSIP funds for FY16 Final Design and \$950,000 HSIP funds for FY17 Construction.

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

c. PA15-70: Penn's Landing Project Development (Study) (MPMS #106264), City of Philadelphia – Add Proposed New Study Project to the TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new study project, Penn's Landing Project Development (Study), to the TIP for \$10,000,000 in FY16 (\$8,000,000 SPIKE State 581/\$2,000,000 Local). \$1,000,000 of the local funds comes from the City of Philadelphia and the other \$1,000,000 of local funds comes from the William Penn Foundation. These are additional funds to the DVRPC region.

Motion by: Jeanette Brugger, seconded by Jim Mosca that the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP Action PA15-70, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for PA by adding a new study project, Penn's Landing Project Development (Study), to the TIP for \$10,000,000 in FY16 (\$8,000,000 SPIKE State 581/\$2,000,000 Local).

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

6. Adoption of DVRPC Fiscal Year 2017 Unified Planning Work Program

John Ward explained that the Fiscal Year 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) consists of: (1) DVRPC's Regular Work Program, (2) Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP), and (3) Transit Support Program (TSP). The Planning Work Program reflects the policy direction provided by the Board's Planning Work Program Committee and input from state and federal planning partners, member governments, operating agencies and other regional organizations. The Draft Planning Work Program for FY 2017 was approved by the Board for distribution and review, with the public comment period scheduled to close on January 15, 2016. DVRPC staff is in the process of responding to comments that have been received and are working to resolve any open issues. After Board adoption, relevant revisions will continue to be incorporated into the Work Program and the Final document will be produced. The RTC is being asked to recommend that the Board adopt the Final FY 2017 Planning Work Program, pending the resolution of any outstanding comments and issues.

Motion by Matt Lawson, seconded by Matt Edmond that the RTC recommend that the Board adopt the Final FY 2017 Planning Work Program, pending the resolution of any outstanding comments and issues. Further, approve the actions to amend or modify the FY 2016 TIP for New Jersey and the FY 2015 TIP for Pennsylvania as required.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

7. Enhanced Bus Service on West Chester Pike

Andrew Svekla (DVRPC) explained that DVRPC conducted this study to improve the quality and effectiveness of bus service on West Chester Pike between West Chester Borough and the 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby. The study team developed an operational concept for Enhanced Bus Service (EBS) along the corridor that includes consolidated stops, improved passenger amenities, and branded service.

8. Cultivating Camden: The City's Food Economy Strategy

Amy Verbofsky (DVRPC) explained that created in partnership with the Campbell Healthy Communities Program and The Reinvestment Fund, *Cultivating Camden: The City's Food Economy Strategy*, analyzes the city's current food system and food economy, acknowledging the challenges that residents face in accessing healthy food, while at the same time making recommendations to grow food as an economic sector; increase opportunities for food entrepreneurs; engage Camden's institutions; and support organizations already working to increase access to healthy food, healthcare, and job opportunities.

9. Making Freight Data More Accessible

Mike Ruane (DVRPC) explained that through a grant from FHWA's Strategic Highway Research Program's Implementation Assistance Program, DVRPC has further developed its ongoing freight data collection and analysis practices. The recently completed DVRPC project led to the significant enhancement of the *PhillyFreightFinder* application, the successful integration of 13 new data sets, and the development of visualization tools that more effectively serve planners and decision makers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. One Minute Reports

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

11. Old Business

12. New Business

13. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, February 9, 2016.**

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
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Alan Miller
(not represented)
(not represented)
James Mosca
(not represented)
(not represented)
Rich Brahler
Carol Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Randy Waltermeyer
Tom Shaffer
(not represented)
Matthew Lawson
Matt Edmond
(not represented)
Nicholas Baker
Jeannette Brugger
Edward Williams
Latifah Griffin
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
(not represented)
(not represented)
Zoe Robertson
(not represented)
(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)
Dan Walston
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Bill Ragozine
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jacqueline Mandly
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Stephen Mazur
(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

Matthew Popek – Montgomery County

Jonathan Korus – PennDOT

Jesse Minsky - NJDOT

William DeGuffroy, Chester County

Al Federico – McCormick Taylor

Jim Saksa – PlanPhilly/WHYY

Bill Comer – Resident of Philadelphia

DVRPC Staff

John Ward

Patty Elkis

Elise Turner

Rick Murphy

Zoe Neaderland

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Kwan Hui

Ben Gruswitz

Mike Boyer

Dave Anderson

Shoshana Akins

Alison Hastings

Amy Bernknopf

Andrew Svekla

Mike Ruane

Amy Verbofsky

Karen Cilurso

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.