

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
February 9, 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 January 12, 2016.

Mr. Ward reported that the application period for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for Pennsylvania closed on January 8. Approximately \$7.5 million will be available for the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region, and another \$9 million is available statewide.

Examples of eligible TAP projects include bicycle or pedestrian facilities, conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails, overlooks and viewing areas, historic preservation and rehab of historic transportation facilities, vegetation management, and wildlife mortality mitigation projects, among other types.

DVRPC received 35 applications requesting a total of \$26 million and they are being reviewed and evaluated by a steering committee made up of counties, cities, SEPTA, DCED, and DNR. Board action on these projects will be taken in March and discussed at the RTC meeting in April as an information item.

Mr. Ward reported that the application period for a competitive funding round for the CMAQ Program opened on January 21. The Program will make \$20 million available in the Pennsylvania counties for projects that will improve air quality and or reduce traffic congestion.

Examples of eligible CMAQ projects include pedestrian and bicycle projects, transit improvement programs, congestion reduction and traffic flow improvements, diesel retrofit projects, and funding of TDM programs. Public agencies and private-public partnerships with a public agency sponsor are eligible to apply.

The Program application forms and Program guidance are available at www.dvrpc.org/cmaq. The application period will remain open until 5 p.m. on April 21, 2016. All applicants are expected to attend a mandatory information session on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 4:00 PM at the DVRPC Offices.

Mr. Ward noted the release of some new reports including: 1) DVRPC 2015 Annual Reports/2016 calendar 2) Newton Lake Trail Feasibility Study

Meeting Reminders:

Mr. Ward noted that the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) meeting, originally scheduled for Feb 9, was postponed until Feb 25. The next DVRPC Board meeting is February 25.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday, March 8, 2016.**

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of January 12, 2016

The highlights from the January 12, 2016 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Matthew Lawson to adopt the highlights for the January 12, 2016 RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

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

a. PA15-71: I-95 & Aramingo Ave., Adams Ave. Connector (MPMS #17782), City of Philadelphia – Advance Construction

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of the I-95 and Aramingo Avenue, Adams Avenue Connector Project (MPMS #17782) from FY19 and FY20 to occur earlier in FY16, FY17, and FY18. This schedule change of an air quality regionally significant project requires a new air quality conformity determination and constitutes an amendment to the TIP preceded by a minimum 30 day public comment period. The funding for the project would be changed accordingly: from \$9,552,000 (\$7,642,000 STU/\$1,910,000 State 581) in FY19 and \$9,552,000 (\$7,642,000 STU/\$1,910,000 State 581) in FY20 to \$4,500,000 State 581 in FY16, \$13,268,000 State 581 in FY17, and \$1,532,000 State 581 in FY18.

b. PA15-72: Plank Road/Otts Road/Meyers Road/Seitz Road Intersection Improvements (MPMS #57851), Montgomery County – Advance Construction

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of the Plank Road/Otts Road/Meyers Road/Seitz Road Intersection Improvements (MPMS# 57851) from FY19 and FY20 to occur earlier in FY16 and FY17. This schedule change of an air quality regionally significant project requires a new air quality conformity determination and constitutes an amendment to the TIP preceded by a minimum 30 day public comment period. The funding for the project would be changed accordingly: from \$8,358,000 (\$6,686,000 NHPP/ \$1,672,000 State 581) in FY19 and \$8,358,000 (\$6,686,000 NHPP/ \$1,672,000 State 581) in FY20 to \$5,024,000 (\$4,019,000 CAQ/ \$1,005,000 State 581) in FY16 and \$7,476,000 (\$5,981,000 CAQ/ \$1,495,000 State 581) in FY17.

Motion: *by Jim Mosca, seconded by Rich Brahler* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action PA15-71, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of the I-95 and Aramingo Avenue, Adams Avenue Connector Project (MPMS #17782) from FY19 and FY20 to occur earlier in FY16, FY17, and FY18. This schedule change of an air quality regionally significant project requires a new air quality conformity determination and constitutes an amendment to the TIP preceded by a minimum 30 day public comment period. The funding for the project would be changed accordingly: from \$9,552,000 (\$7,642,000 STU/\$1,910,000 State 581) in FY19 and \$9,552,000 (\$7,642,000 STU/\$1,910,000 State 581) in FY20 to \$4,500,000 State 581 in FY16, \$13,268,000 State 581 in FY17, and \$1,532,000 State 581 in FY18;

TIP Action PA15-72, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of the Plank Road/Otts Road/Meyers Road/Seitz Road Intersection Improvements (MPMS #57851) from FY19 and FY20 to occur earlier in FY16 and FY17. This schedule change of an air quality regionally significant project requires a new air quality conformity determination and constitutes an amendment to the TIP preceded by a minimum 30 day public comment period. The funding for the project would be changed accordingly: from \$8,358,000 (\$6,686,000 NHPP/ \$1,672,000 State 581) in FY19 and \$8,358,000 (\$6,686,000 NHPP/ \$1,672,000 State 581) in FY20 to \$5,024,000 (\$4,019,000 CAQ/ \$1,005,000 State 581) in FY16 and \$7,476,000 (\$5,981,000 CAQ/ \$1,495,000 State 581) in FY17.

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

c. PA15-73: Adams Avenue Bridge Over Tacony Creek (MPMS #17622), City of Philadelphia – Advance Construction

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of Adams Avenue Bridge Over Tacony Creek (MPMS #17622) from FY19 (\$3,121,000 NHPP/ \$780,000 State 185) to occur earlier in FY16 (\$1,001,301 State 185), FY17 (\$495,937 State 185), and FY18 (\$2,502,762 State 185), and by increasing the construction phase overall by \$99,000 from \$3,901,000 to \$4,000,000.

d. PA15-74: US 30 Sinkhole Repairs (MPMS #104335), Chester County – Add Proposed Project to the TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania by adding a new \$3,000,000 State 581 funded project, US 30 Sinkhole Repairs, to the TIP for FY16 construction. Permanent sinkhole repairs will be provided at two locations along US 30 between the Business 30 interchange and Clover Mill Road (near the Oaklands Corporate Center) in West Whiteland Township

Motion: *by Tom Shaffer, seconded by Barbara Holcomb* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action PA15-73, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for Pennsylvania by advancing the construction phase of Adams Avenue Bridge Over Tacony Creek (MPMS #17622) from FY19 (\$3,121,000 NHPP/ \$780,000 State 185) to occur earlier in FY16 (\$1,001,301 State 185), FY17 (\$495,937 State 185), and FY18 (\$2,502,762 State 185), and by increasing the construction phase overall by \$99,000 from \$3,901,000 to \$4,000,000;

TIP Action PA15-74, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for Pennsylvania by adding a new \$3,000,000 State 581 funded project, US 30 Sinkhole Repairs, to the TIP for FY16 construction.

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

e. PA15-75: SEPTA Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512), SEPTA – Increase Cost

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania by increasing the SEPTA Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) by an overall \$21,292,000 (\$18,748,000 Section 5307/ \$2,462,000 State 1514/ \$82,000 Local), which specifically increases the FY16 Purchase of Equipment (PUR) phase by \$23,435,000 (\$18,748,000 Section 5314/ \$4,536,000 State 1514/ \$151,000 Local) from \$37,688,000 (\$18,500,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$10,601,000 State 1514/ \$353,000 Local) to \$61,123,000 (\$37,248,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$15,137,000 State 1514/ \$504,000 Local), and decreases the FY19 PUR phase by \$2,143,000 (\$2,074,000 State 1514/ \$69,000 Local) from \$52,918,000 (\$30,683,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$13,549,000 State 1514/ \$452,000 Local) to \$50,775,000 (\$30,683,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$11,475,000 State 1514/ \$383,000 Local).

Motion: *by Zoe Robertson, seconded by Tom Shaffer* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action PA15-75, SEPTA's request that DVRPC modify the FY2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for Pennsylvania by increasing the SEPTA Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) by an overall \$21,292,000 (\$18,748,000 Section 5307/ \$2,462,000 State 1514/ \$82,000 Local), which specifically increases the FY16

Purchase of Equipment (PUR) phase by \$23,435,000 (\$18,748,000 Section 5314/ \$4,536,000 State 1514/ \$151,000 Local) from \$37,688,000 (\$18,500,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$10,601,000 State 1514/ \$353,000 Local) to \$61,123,000 (\$37,248,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$15,137,000 State 1514/ \$504,000 Local), and decreases the FY19 PUR phase by \$2,143,000 (\$2,074,000 State 1514/ \$69,000 Local) from \$52,918,000 (\$30,683,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$13,549,000 State 1514/ \$452,000 Local) to \$50,775,000 (\$30,683,000 Section 5307/ \$8,234,000 Section 5339/ \$11,475,000 State 1514/ \$383,000 Local).

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

f. NJ16-005: Mercer County Signal Project, CR 533, (DB #D0702), Mercer County – Add Project Back into TIP

Mercer County has requested that the RTC amend the FY2016 - 2019 TIP for New Jersey by adding a \$6,500,000 FY14 STATE-DVRPC funded project, Mercer County Signal Project, CR 533 (DB #D0702), back into the TIP for encumbrance in FY16 to advance FY16 construction. There is no change in project scope or cost. *Encumbrance* means that proper authorization has been obtained before State Transportation Trust Fund dollars are financially committed or “reserved” from an appropriation to ensure that funds for a project phase will be available when payment is due.

Motion: *by Matt Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action NJ16-005, Mercer County’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2016-2019 TIP for New Jersey adding a \$6,500,000 FY14 STATE-DVRPC funded project, Mercer County Signal Project, CR 533 (DB #D0702), back into the TIP for encumbrance in FY16 to advance FY16 construction.

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

6. Recommendation for Adoption of Addendum to the Conformity Determination of the FY 2015–2018 TIP for Pennsylvania

Sean Greene (DVRPC) explained that in December 2015, PennDOT proposed to change the construction schedule of two regionally significant and air quality non-exempt projects in the FY 2015 TIP for Pennsylvania. These projects are MPMS number 57851 “Plank Road Improvements” and MPMS number 17782 “Adams Avenue Connector”. These changes necessitate an addendum to the 2020 Conformity analysis. A public comment period was opened on January 13, 2016 and will close on February 16, 2016. The results of the Addendum to the Transportation Conformity Determination were presented and it was requested that the RTC recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the findings at the February Board meeting, pending resolution of any public comments.

Motion: *by Jim Mosca, seconded by Barbara Holcomb* that the RTC recommend the Board adopt the addendum to the Conformity Determination of the FY 2015-2018 TIP for Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

7. Pennsylvania Traffic Signal Retiming Initiative

David Adams (PennDOT District 6) explained that traffic signal retiming helps mitigate congestion, improves mobility and safety, and contributes environmental benefits. In 2015, DVRPC continued to move forward with the Regional Signal Retiming Initiative Program. Various agencies and entities have worked in close partnership on this project: DVRPC, PennDOT Central Office, PennDOT District 6-0, the PA County Planning Commissions in DVRPC's Region, and consultants working on behalf of PennDOT. Several key corridors in the region have undergone retiming and have shown great improvement, including PA 611. PennDOT District 6-0 will present an update to this project.

8. Calculating Regional Transportation Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Rob Graff (DVRPC) presented an overview of progress and findings on a tool being developed by DVRPC for FHWA. This tool will allow regions and states to estimate energy use and emissions changes associated with various levels of electric and natural gas vehicle penetration. The preliminary findings for the DVRPC region were presented and plans to make the tool widely applicable with readily available data were discussed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. FY 17/18 Transportation Management Association Assistance Grant and Mobility Alternatives Program Work Scopes Comment Period

Stacy Bartels (DVRPC) explained that each year, the TMAs submit their TMA Assistance Grant and MAP work scopes for review by DVRPC staff, members of the TMA Policy Committee, and PennDOT. Accordingly, any interested RTC members are given the opportunity to comment. New this year is that the funding request will be for two years, to bring these contracts into alignment with current PennDOT policy. The programs were presented and the comment period was opened.

10. Update on development of DVRPC's Activity Based Travel Model

Matt Gates (DVRPC) gave a brief update on the status of TIM 3.0 – DVRPC's next generation activity-based travel model. This state of the art model will be able to provide answers to a larger set of planning and policy questions than previous models.

11. One Minute Reports

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

12. Old and New Business

13. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, March 8, 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

Jim Vari
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Virginia Cain
James Mosca
(not represented)
Jonathan Korus
Rich Brahler
(not represented)
Andrew Levecchia
William DeGoffroy
Tom Shaffer
(not represented)
Matthew Lawson
Matt Edmond
David Kanthor
Nicholas Baker
Angela Dixon
Edward Williams
(not represented)
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
Lou Millan
(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)
Steve 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

David Adams – PennDOT District 6

Jennifer Adam – NJ Transit

Al Federico – McCormick Taylor

Bill Comer – Resident of Philadelphia

Dennis R Winters – Clean Air Council/Sierra Club

DVRPC Staff

John Ward

Patty Elkis

Chris Puchalsky

Elise Turner

Rick Murphy

Zoe Neaderland

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Kwan Hui

Ben Gruswitz

Mike Boyer

Dave Anderson

Shoshana Akins

Alison Hastings

Paul Carafides

Laurie Matkowski

Keith Hartington

Rob Graff

Sean Greene

Matt Gates

Stacy Bartels

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.