



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
October 12, 2021 Meeting Highlights
This Meeting was held as a Webinar

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Jonathon Korus (Vice Chair, PennDOT) welcomed RTC members and called the meeting to order.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

DVRPC's Deputy Executive Director Patty Elkis welcomed everyone and noted that this is the third RTC in a row after a holiday weekend. In July we met after a long July 4th weekend, September it was after Labor Day weekend, and today, it's the day after Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Ms. Elkis noted that the September RTC and Board meetings had big important action items before them, and the Board did approve all the items recommended by the RTC: two TIP Actions, Adoption of the Conformity Determination for the LRP and NJ and PA TIPs, adoption of the Connections 2050 Plan, and adoption of the draft NJ TIP. After all that heavy duty review of action items, this month we have a very light lift - the only action item today is to approve the dates for RTC meetings in 2022.

Ms. Elkis called the RTC's attention to the fact that DVRPC has been tracking the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and as mentioned last month, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - a \$1.2 Trillion bill that reauthorizes the nation's surface transportation and drinking water and wastewater legislation and pours additional billions into new programs in transportation, energy transmission, resilience, broadband, and many other categories, was approved in the Senate earlier in the summer, and was pending in the House. We hoped for action in the House by the end of September, since the bill included reauthorization of the federal transportation legislation set to expire September 30. Instead, after Sept 30, but over that weekend, Congress extended the Fast Act through October 30, 2021. The Infrastructure Bill would allocate \$567.5 Billion to USDOT, and about half of that is new spending. The bill includes changes to existing formulas and many new programs, such as a new requirement for MPOs to integrate housing in LRPs; programs related to developing carbon reduction strategies and planning work to protect transportation systems from climate impacts; support for Vision Zero; and support for active transportation investments. Hopefully, we will see passage by the end of October, and then lots of rulemaking, program writing, and eventually doling out of money will take place. If not, we can expect more program extensions, angst, and uncertainty.

We are working now on the agenda for the December 8 Board retreat, which will focus on the new bill, with discussions about opportunities and priorities for the region (hybrid or all-virtual) and RTC members will be invited to participate and more details to follow soon.

Ms. Elkis noted that last month, she mentioned that Chair, Matt Lawson, and I wanted to offer new ways to share info about projects of interest to and among RTC members and we came up with the idea of “lightning” presentations that we are showing on the agenda as Brief Reports. These are 5-10 minute presentations and Q and A to keep members informed and up to date on projects of interest, along with the traditional longer presentations typically showcasing completed projects. For this meeting we are kicking that idea off with three of each type, including some partner presentations. We know there is lots of great and interesting work going on around the region that we can all learn from, and some of you have reached out to me to offer topics for future presentations. I am building a pipeline of future presentations, both brief and full length, and encourage everyone to circle back to me at any time if you have presentations to suggest. Matt and I are very interested in facilitating more information sharing among all of us on projects of interest at future meetings, so please don't hesitate to make suggestions.

Ms. Elkis called the RTC's attention to the fact that DVRPC received over 50 project requests for new and continuing work in FY23, and will meet this Thursday, Oct 14 for each partner to further explain their project requests. We have already begun to sort through the requests to figure out what we can accommodate. We will not be able to fulfill all the requests, but we will aim to at least give everyone their top priority if it is doable and in our wheelhouse, and we look forward to the discussion on Thursday.

Ms. Elkis reported that DVRPC has some Recent Products available on DVRPC's website including: Transportation Conformity Determination; Draft Connections 2050 Long-Range Plan, FY2021 Pennsylvania TIP, and Draft FY2022 New Jersey TIP - Public Comments.

Meeting Reminders: ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

- Goods Movement Task Force: 10/13
- Public Participation Task Force: Oct 14
- Transportation Operations Task Force: Oct 21
- UWAG: Oct 26
- Board: Oct 28
- Webinar on Growing Greater Philadelphia's Advance Industries Sector: Oct 29

The Next RTC meeting will be November 9 - not the day after a holiday weekend, but two days before Veteran's Day.

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the September 7, 2021 RTC Meeting

The highlights from the September 7, 2021 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: *by Jim Mosca seconded by Tonyelle Cook-Artis* that the RTC adopt:

The highlights of the September 7, 2021 RTC meeting.

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

5. Proposed Calendar Year 2022 Regional Technical Committee (RTC) Meeting Dates

Patty Elkins (DVRPC) explained the proposed dates for calendar year 2022 Regional Technical Committee meetings.

Motion: *by Tom Stanuikynas, seconded by Brian McFadden*, that the RTC approve:

The proposed dates for Calendar Year 2022 RTC Meetings.

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

BRIEF REPORTS

6. All Aboard Atlantic Avenue

Cassidy Boulan (DVRPC) shared details and photos from DVRPC's Expo: Experimental Pop-up project in Collingswood, NJ. This summer DVRPC, Collingwood Borough, Camden County and Cross County Connections TMA teamed up to design and execute a pop-up streetscape project along Atlantic Avenue in Collingswood. The project included the region's first Advisory Bicycle lane as well as pedestrian improvements at several intersections aimed at improving bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Collingswood PATCO station, the Collingswood farmers market, and many other nearby destinations.

7. Updates and call to actions from the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF)

Shoshana Akins and Maridarlyn Gonzalez (DVRPC) explained that the mission of the Task Force is to provide ongoing access to the region's planning process and empower resident involvement. Members are given a platform to learn more about upcoming projects, provide feedback on planning practices, and test out public outreach strategies. This presentation covered the PPTF's recent activities, including the ideas generated at the Work Program workshop, and provided resources for planning partners to aid in application outreach. Applications are due by December 19th, 2021 and can be found online.

8. NJDCA Statewide Model Municipal EV Ordinance

Maria Connolly (NJDCA) explained that the NJDCA Statewide Model Municipal EV Ordinance was released by NJDCA on September 1 in compliance with P.L. 2021, c. 171, which Governor Phil Murphy signed into law on July 9, 2021, and requires that Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment (EVSE) and Make-Ready parking spaces be designated as a permitted accessory use in all zoning or use districts and establishes associated installation and parking requirements related to EVSE in New Jersey's 565 municipalities.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

9. What's In Store: Exploring the Future of Shopping Malls in Greater Philadelphia

Andrew Svekla (DVRPC) explained that increased online competition, evolving consumer preferences, and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to the decline of enclosed shopping malls. Although many of these properties may no longer support a traditional mall, they are often strong candidates for redevelopment. This report summarizes research designed to help communities throughout Greater Philadelphia better understand the challenges and opportunities created by struggling or vacant mall properties special event planning, and more.

10. Sidewalk Priorities in Montgomery County

Aaron Frait and Logan Axelson (DVRPC) along with Anne Leavitt-Gruberger (MCPC), introduced a new map tool that helps communities in Montgomery County analyze their sidewalk networks and prioritize the most important gaps for pedestrians. The tool allows local planners to learn how to evaluate the sidewalk connectivity of key destinations in their communities—like schools, health care facilities, libraries, and more—and identify which sidewalk gaps would most improve pedestrian connectivity.

11. Water Table

Patty Elkis (DVRPC) explained that due to time constraints this presentation will be postponed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. FY23 Work Program Development Update

Patty Elkis (DVRPC) provided an update on the development of the FY23 Work Program.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. One Minute Reports

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

14. Old and New Business

15. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, November 9, 2021.**

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 – OTIS
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

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
Phila Port
Pottstown Urban Transit
Select Greater Philadelphia
South Jersey Port Corporation
South Jersey Transportation Authority
Transportation Operations Task Force
US EPA - Region II

Representative

Monica Etz
(not represented)
Maria Connolly
Rudy Rodas
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jim Mosca
(not represented)
Jonathan Korus
Rich Brahler
Tom Stanuikynas
Andrew Levecchia
Brian Styche
Cathy Spahr
Jackie Huston
Matthew Lawson
Matthew Edmond
David Kanthor
Nathan Powers
Kelley Yemen
June Morton
Peter Rykard
Jeffrey Wilkerson
Tonyelle Cook-Artis
Blanca Quinde
Rohan Hepkins
Brian McFadden
(not represented)
Representative
(not represented)
Kelvin McKavanaugh
(not represented)
Gene Porochniak
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Ronda Urkowitz
Jacqui Baxter-Rollins
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)

US EPA - Region III (not represented)
US Department of Housing and Urban Development (not represented)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Anne Leavitt-Gruberger – Montgomery County Planning Commission
Matthew Zochowski – Mercer County Planning Commission
Carol Thomas – Burlington County Planning Commission
Greg Waldman – City of Philadelphia
Nick Cressman – Gloucester County Planning Department

DVRPC Staff

Patty Elkis
Aaron Frait
Logan Axelson
Cassidy Boulan
Andrew Svekla
Shoshana Akins
Kwan Hui
Brett Fusco
Jesse Buerk
Sean Greene
Rick Murphy
Elise Turner
Maridarlyn Gonzalez
Alison Hastings
Ben Gruswitz
Karin Morris
Will Stevens
Amy Verbofsky
Meijun Liu
Betsy Mastaglio
Karen Cilurso
Glenn McNichol
Thom Stead
Greg Krykewycz
Amani Jones-Bey
Ian Schwarzenberg
Tom Edinger
Linda McNeffer
Najah Jackson
Renee Wise

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