



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
November 9, 2021 Meeting Highlights
This Meeting was held as a Webinar

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Matthew Lawson (Chair, Mercer County) 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 at our October meeting, the only Action Item we had was approving the dates for the RTC meetings in 2022, and there were no action items before the Board in October.

Ms. Elkis reported that the recent big news is that the House passed the long-awaited Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which contains a full five-year transportation reauthorization. The bill's \$550 billion in new spending includes dozens of new programs and many policy provisions that will impact MPOs and our region. Ms. Elkis read a statement from U. S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on the bill's passage:

"Earlier this evening, with support from members on both sides of the aisle, Congress passed the most significant investment in jobs and infrastructure in my lifetime. This is a remarkable achievement. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, along with the Build Back Better Framework, will deliver generational investments in the economy for working people. The infrastructure bill will rebuild and replace infrastructure that is decades, or even a century, old. It will promote safety, help us combat the climate crisis, and advance equitable access to transportation. No matter where they live or who they voted for, all Americans deserve to have a transportation system that works for them. Now, we begin the work of building infrastructure that will support the traveling public and ensure an economically competitive America for generations to come. The U.S. Department of Transportation stands ready to implement this historic and transformational legislation, and help create a transportation system that works for every American."

There are many, many pieces of this 2,700 plus page \$1.2 trillion bill, including new funding for highways, bridges, transit, rail, airports and maritime ports. There are programs that address safety, congestion, and resiliency, and new programs for EV, EJ, carbon reduction strategies, healthy streets, active transportation, workforce development, and pilots to support VMT programs. The funding will be distributed by both formula and by competitive programs. Clearly, there is a lot that we will all want to learn about to make sure we are being proactive for our region.

To that end, we are focusing our December 8th Board retreat on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. All RTC members will be invited to the first hour, starting at 9:00 am, where we will have four presentations on the bill:

- **Overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** - Charles Small, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation
- **Opportunities and Priorities for New Jersey** - Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner of Transportation, New Jersey Department of Transportation
- **Opportunities and Priorities for Pennsylvania** - Larry Shifflet, Deputy Secretary for Planning, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- **Metropolitan Planning Organizations and New Opportunities in the federal Transportation Bill** - Erich Zimmerman, Deputy Director, National Association of Regional Councils

The following hour will include breakout discussions on new opportunities in the bill, open to *Board members and alternates only* and the third hour, 11-12, will be the regular board meeting, open to the public. At this point, I think the meeting is most likely to be held entirely virtually. More information will be sent soon.

Ms. Elkis called the RTC's attention to the fact that DVRPC has some recent products available on DVRPC's website including: Trenton Complete Streets Design Handbook, Camden Health Element, What's in Store: Exploring the Future of Shopping Malls in Greater Philadelphia, 2020 Decennial Census Highlights, and the Chester County Freight Plan Crowd Source Tool.

Ms. Elkis reported on a couple of personnel announcements. Good friend and retired colleague John Ward is the recipient of the 2021 Intelligent Transportation Society of New Jersey (ITSNJ) Hall of Fame Award. This award recognizes individuals who have served as a leader, subject matter expert, and advocate of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) throughout their career. John was a vocal ally of using technology and agency collaboration to address congestion and other transportation challenges. Under John's leadership, DVRPC created the Transportation Operations Task Force, the Regional Integrated Multi-Modal Information Sharing (RIMIS) Project, and the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program.

Ms. Elkis also reported that two long term DVRPC leaders are retiring at the end of the calendar year. First is Taghi Ozbeki, our Director of Information Technology, is retiring after about 28 years of service to DVRPC. Taghi's foresight with things like the Google suite, Zoom accounts, and widespread remote access put us in a very good place when the pandemic hit in March of 2020 and we found ourselves working from home, for what we all thought would be a couple of weeks, and here many of us still are. Second is Will Stevens, Associate Director of Data Services, who has spent his career with DVRPC, and many of you know best as managing the Regional GIS Implementation Coordination, and who is a library of institutional knowledge on DVRPC GIS and data. Neither Taghi nor Will were able to attend today's RTC, but since many of you may have worked with them over the years, and this is our last meeting of the year, I wanted to share this information with you. DVRPC greatly appreciates all of their many contributions over the years and we wish them a happy retirement.

Ms. Elkis noted that FY23 UPWP development is taking place and we have an all hands on deck effort to build the next work program, and we will bring that draft document to the board for permission to go to public comment at the December 8 Board meeting. It will be online for everyone to review and comment on, and then we will look to adopt it at the January RTC and Board meetings.

Ms. Elkis reported that for future RTC presentations, she is continuing to build a pipeline, both Brief and full length, that include partner presentations. Several are on the list for January through March, but Ms. Elkis reminded and encouraged everyone to circle back to me at any time if you have presentations, either Brief or Full Length, to suggest.

Meeting Reminders: ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

- Public Participation Task Force: Dec 1
- Board Retreat and Board Meeting: Dec 8

The Next RTC meeting will be January 11, as we do not meet in December.

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the October 12, 2021 RTC Meeting

The highlights from the October 12, 2021 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: *by David Kanthor seconded by Tonyelle Cook-Artis that the RTC adopt:*

The highlights of the October 12, 2021 RTC meeting.

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

5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Katie Nash (DVRPC) presented three TIP actions.

a. PA21-60: US 1, Baltimore Pike Widening (MPMS #14541), Chester County –Add CON and UTL Phases Back into TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2021 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Construction (CON) and Utility (UTL) phases of the US 1, Baltimore Pike Widening project, MPMS #14541, back into the TIP in the amount of \$7,338,000 for CON (FY22: \$4,500,000 NHPP/Toll Credit; FY23: \$2,838,000 STU/Toll Credit) and \$350,000 State 581/Toll Credit for UTL in FY22, for a total of \$7,688,000 for both phases. The total estimated cost of this project is \$14,199,000 for the pre-construction

and construction phases.

Motion: by *Brian Donovan*, seconded by *Jonathan Korus*, that the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP action:

PA21-60, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2021 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Construction (CON) and Utility (UTL) phases of the US 1, Baltimore Pike Widening project, MPMS #14541, back into the TIP in the amount of \$7,338,000 for CON (FY22: \$4,500,000 NHPP/Toll Credit; FY23: \$2,838,000 STU/Toll Credit) and \$350,000 State 581/Toll Credit for UTL in FY22, for a total of \$7,688,000 for both phases. The total estimated cost of this project is \$14,199,000 for the pre-construction and construction phases.

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

b. PA21-61: Southeast Region Traffic Signal Maintenance 2020 (MPMS #116226), Various Counties – Add New Project to TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC accept the Southeast Region Traffic Signal Maintenance 2020 project, MPMS #116226, into the FY2021 TIP for Pennsylvania in the amount of \$2,158,000 State A-073 funds for construction in FY22. State appropriations 073 are Green Light-Go funds. The \$2,158,000 for this project are additional funds to the region.

Motion: by *Jim Mosca*, seconded by *Jonathan Korus*, that the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP action:

PA21-61, PennDOT's request that DVRPC accept the Southeast Region Traffic Signal Maintenance 2020 project, MPMS #116226, into the FY2021 TIP for Pennsylvania in the amount of \$2,158,000 State A-073 funds for construction in FY22. State appropriations 073 are Green Light-Go funds. The \$2,158,000 for this project are additional funds to the region.

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

c. PA21-62: PA 309 Connector: Allentown Road to Souderton Pike (HT2) (MPMS #77211), Montgomery County – Low Bid Cost Increase

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2021 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction (CON) funding of the PA 309 Connector: Allentown Road to Souderton Pike (HT2) project, MPMS #77211, by \$5,360,000 (\$4,288,000 STU/\$1,072,000 State 581) in FY22 due to a low bid cost increase.

Motion: by *Lauren Sendel-Grant*, seconded by *Jonathan Korus*, that the RTC recommend the Board approve TIP action:

PA21-62, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2021 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the construction (CON) funding of the PA 309 Connector: Allentown Road to Souderton Pike (HT2) project, MPMS #77211, by \$5,360,000 (\$4,288,000

STU/\$1,072,000 State 581) in FY22 due to a low bid cost increase.

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

6. FY 2022 Work Program Amendment: Expanding Access to the Circuit Trails

Shawn Megill Legendre presented an amendment to the FY2022 unified planning work program entitled *Expanding Access to the Circuit Trails*. With funds awarded by the William Penn Foundation, this program will include \$1 million for capital grants and \$260,000 to support provision of program administration and technical assistance in support of planning, design, and construction of Circuit Trails and supportive infrastructure.

Motion: by *Thomas Shaffer*, seconded by *David Kanthor*, that the RTC recommend the Board amend:

DVRPC FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program to include the project Expanding Access to the Circuit Trails and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the William Penn Foundation for this project.

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

BRIEF REPORTS

7. Crash Responder Safety Week

Justin Neff, DVRPC, explained that the Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) initiative, recognizing all traffic incident management (TIM) response communities, will take place this year from November 8 -14, 2021. This week is our opportunity to make a difference individually and jointly for roadway safety during traffic incidents by teaching each other and the motoring public about our common goal and responsibility for safe, quick clearance.

8. Impact of COVID on trips to/from Camden

Brad Lane, DVRPC, presented a comparison of vehicle, transit, bike, and ped trips to and from the Camden CBD before COVID, and during COVID.

9. Speed Management Typologies for Philadelphia Arterials

Marco Gorini, DVRPC, explained that under guidance from PennDOT and in collaboration with the City of Philadelphia, DVRPC developed typologies for Philadelphia arterials to assist with identifying appropriate speed management treatments. Key factors in establishing the parameters for each typology will be discussed, along with examples of recent applications.

10. TCDI Update

Spencer Gober, DVRPC, provided an update on the upcoming FY 2023 TCDI Grant Program.

municipalities.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

11. SEPTA Metro Wayfinding Proposal

Lex Powers, Strategic Planning Manager, SEPTA, explained that in September, SEPTA released a series of recommendations to improve wayfinding and navigability on its “rail transit” network for public feedback. The recommendations, which were developed through 18 months of research and public & stakeholder engagement, call for unifying these services – the MFL, BSL, NHSL, and Trolleys – in order to encourage their use as a flexible and dynamic network. The “SEPTA Metro”, as it could be called, will feature new signs, maps, nomenclature, and communications standards to make the system easy to use regardless of ability, language, or familiarity with the system. The project is a key initiative of SEPTA Forward, the agency’s new strategic plan adopted in February 2021. A review of the history of the project, discussion of the recommendations, and preview of next steps was provided.

12. Water Table

Patty Elkins, DVRPC, explained that the Water Table initiative was funded by the William Penn Foundation with the goal to bring nonprofit conservation organizations, the water-user community, and government agencies together to build relationships and collaborative initiatives for better alignment of efforts, new projects, and possibly new sources of funding. A report was given on this 15 month project.

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 11:51 AM

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, January 11, 2022.**

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

Representative

Monica Etz
(not represented)
(not represented)
Rudy Rodas
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jim Mosca
(not represented)
Jonathan Korus
Rich Brahler
Tom Stanuikynas
Andrew Levecchia
Brian Donovan
Tom Shaffer
(not represented)
Matthew Lawson
Matt Edmond/Lauren
Sendel-Grant
David Kanthor
Nathan Baker
Kelley Yemen
June Morton
Peter Rykard
Michael Kolber
Tonyelle Cook-Artis
Blanca Quinde
(not represented)
Brian McFadden
(not represented)

Representative

(not represented)
Kelvin McKavanaugh
Brian Goodson
Gene Porochniak
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Ronda Urkowitz
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)

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

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Lex Powers – SEPTA
Matthew Zochowski – Mercer County Planning Commission
Rena Pinhas – Montgomery County Planning Department
Timothy Steinitz – SEPTA

DVRPC Staff

Patty Elkis
Andrew Svekla
Shoshana Akins
Kwan Hui
Brett Fusco
Jesse Buerk
Rick Murphy
Elise Turner
Maridarlyn Gonzalez
Alison Hastings
Ben Gruswitz
Karin Morris
Marco Gorini
Derek Lombardi
Justin Neff
Chris King
Brad Lane
Van Doan
Sarah Moran
Karen Cilurso
Kevin Murphy
Kayla Bancone
Glenn McNichol
Amani Jones-Bey
Ian Schwarzenberg
Tom Edinger
Linda McNeffer
Najah Jackson
Renee Wise

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