

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of February 24, 2000

Location: Commission Offices
The Bourse Building, 8th Floor
111 South Independence Mall East
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2515

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Joyce Paul
New Jersey Department of Transportation	William Beetle
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Jerrold D. Colton
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Charles Bohnenberger
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Larry M. King
Bucks County	Charles H. Martin
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna Charles Coyne
Delaware County	Thomas Shaffer
Montgomery County	Arthur F. Loeben
Burlington County	Carol Ann Thomas
Camden County	Laurelle Cummings J. Douglas Griffith
Gloucester County	Charles E. Romick

Mercer County	Donna Lewis
City of Chester	William Payne
City of Philadelphia	Larry Wilson
City of Camden	Edward Williams
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten
<u>Non-Voting Members</u>	
Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division Pennsylvania Division	Lawrence Cullari (not represented)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
New Jersey Office of State Planning	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	(not represented)
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Christopher Patton
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Brent Barnes
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Robert G. Schwab
Delaware River Port Authority	Anisah Abiola
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Ronald K. Bednar

Regional Citizens Committee Chairman

Sue McNamara

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

(not represented)
Thomas J. Coleman

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Thabet Zakaria, Charles Dougherty, Richard Bickel, Candace Snyder, and Linda Haskins.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)
F. Javier Salgueiro (Dist. 6-0)
Ken Seal (Dist. 6-0)
Nicki N. Gilanshahi (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

John H. Moore
Jerry Mooney
Al Prant
Joseph Meheski
James Healy

New Jersey's Governors Authority Unit

William Dengler

Bucks County

Lynn Bush

Chester County Planning Commission

William Fulton

Federal Highway Administration

Keith Lynch

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Richard Burnfield

Clean Air Council

Dennis Winters

Cross County Connection TMA

Bill Ragozine

Greater Mercer TMA

Sandra Brillhart

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Tony DeJohn

F.R. Harris, Inc.

Mel Lehr

Eddie Battle Associates
Regional Citizens Committee

Eddie Battle
John Pawson

Philadelphia Inquirer

Jere Downs

Call to Order

Chairman Jerrold D. Colton called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Chairman Colton introduced and welcomed Laurelle Cummings, Camden County Freeholder, to the Board meeting.

Public Comments

Comments from the public were invited to be heard on non-agenda items. No comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of January 27, 2000

On a **motion** by Mr. Beetle, seconded by Mr. Coyne, the minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2000 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

John B. Claffey, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the following TIP Modifications and Amendments:

Pennsylvania Section of the TIP

- a. Modification 9931 - Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) Smart Bridges

PENNSYLVANIA SECTION OF TIP

The DRPA was recently notified by the Federal Highway Administration that an additional \$800,000 in demonstration funds was earmarked for their Smart Bridges project (TIP #0576) in FY2000. As a result, DRPA has requested that DVRPC modify the TIP to add the \$800,000 in new federal funds as well as \$800,000 of DRPA matching funds.

Financial constraint will be maintained since these are newly available funds

earmarked for the Smart Bridges project.

There will be no impact on the conformity finding since this project is exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

b. Modification 9932 - SEPTA Suburban Station Transit Improvements

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC modify the TIP to change the funding source of the Suburban Station Transit Improvement project (TIP #S062) from state funding to federal funding. The project is currently programmed with \$9.667 million in state funds with a \$333,000 local match in FY 2000. If modified, the new funding split would be \$8 million federal, \$1.67 million state, and \$333,333 local.

The federal funds for the above project will come from the Market Frankford Automatic Train Control project (TIP #S055.) Although this project is moving forward, the \$10 million (\$8 million federal, \$1.67 million state, \$333,333 local) programmed for it in FY 2000 will not be needed in this fiscal year.

There will be no impact on the conformity finding since these projects are exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

c. Amendment 9933 - SEPTA Park and Ride Program

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP to add the following four parking expansion projects at a total cost of \$3.854 million (\$3.083 million CMAQ, \$771,000 state.)

- (1) Warminster Station, R2 Warminster Line: Design and construction of a 200-space parking expansion on SEPTA-owned property.
- (2) Forest Hills Station, R3 West Trenton Line: Design and construction of a 60-space parking expansion on City-owned property directly adjacent to the existing parking lot on the outbound side.
- (3) Fort Washington Station, R5 Lansdale/Doylestown Line: Design and construction of approximately 330 additional spaces on the outbound side of the station on SEPTA-owned property.
- (4) Holmesburg Junction Station, R7 Trenton Line: Design and construction of a 285 space parking lot and improvements to the existing 37-space parking area.

Financial constraint will be maintained since the funds will be drawn from the Regional Park and Ride placeholder (TIP #0566.) An additional \$5 million will remain programmed in the placeholder in FY2001.

Analysis has shown that the addition of these projects to the TIP will not impact the conformity finding.

d. Amendment 9934 - Bicycle Mobility Improvements (Delaware County)

The DVRPC TIP for Pennsylvania includes a Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item (TIP #0565), programmed with \$760,000 (\$608,000 CMAQ). Its purpose is to fund on-road bicycle projects in the four suburban counties (a separate project covers Philadelphia).

Delaware County has submitted a proposal to add the Aston Bike Loop project to the TIP under this line item, totaling \$457,000 in CMAQ funds. If approved, \$151,000 million in CMAQ funds would remain in the line item for additional projects as they are identified.

The project scope currently includes the provision of sidewalks in certain areas. At its February 8, 2000 meeting, the RTC agreed that sidewalks should not be funded through the Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item and voted to approve the project contingent upon the sidewalks, if not actually part of the bikeway, being removed from the project.

There will be no impact on financial constraint. Funds for the new project will be drawn from the Bicycle Mobility Improvements line item.

There will be no impact on the conformity finding since this project is exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) for TIP Modifications 9931, and 9932 and for TIP Amendments 9933 and 9934.

The Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) recommended approval of TIP Modifications 9931 and 9932 and TIP Amendment 9934. The RCC also recommended approval of TIP Amendment 9933 adding one comment as follows: that a larger number of parking lot expansions with smaller numbers of additional spaces would have less impact on neighborhoods and would draw more commuters to more transit stations.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Thomas; that the Board approve TIP Modifications 9931 and 9932, and TIP Modifications 9933 and 9934 as stated.

3a. Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

Mr. Claffey explained that on January 19, the RTC Pennsylvania Subcommittee agreed to recommend a draft list of 23 projects for approval by the PCC/RTC, RCC, and Board for funding from the region's sub-allocation of Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements funds (in the amount of \$8,343,518) in combination with SEPTA's Transit Enhancements obligation (in the amount of \$2,000,000). In addition, the Subcommittee agreed to recommend five projects for consideration by the Commonwealth Secretary of Transportation for funding at his discretion, from a fund set aside for that purpose. PennDOT requires each MPO and LDD to submit by March 1, 2000 a list of recommended projects for funding through the regional sub-allocation; and an additional list of projects recommended for funding through a statewide competitive process.

Two tables entitled: (1) Table 1 - *Projects Recommended for Funding Through the TE Regional Sub-Allocation and FTA Transit Enhancements Funds*, and (2) Table 2 - *Projects Recommended for Funding at the Discretion of the Commonwealth Secretary of Transportation* were distributed to the Board.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and RCC, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Martin; that the Board adopt the high priority lists of Transportation Enhancements projects as presented and forward them to the PennDOT Statewide Transportation Enhancements Committee for funding, with the understanding that the elements for the Chester County Trail and the Restoration of the Manayunk Canal projects are for engineering design only, and the further understanding that the construction elements for these projects will be given priority consideration in future selection processes.

3b. FY 1999-2002 TIP Amendment for TE Program

It was decided to defer any action to the TIP until all information for the TE projects have been transmitted to PennDOT and the TE Committee for their consideration and the projects are consolidated.

4. **New Jersey Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program - Application Priority Determination**

Richard Bickel presented to the Board the details of the New Jersey Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program Application Priority Determination.

Four applicants submitted Letters of Intent for projects, which were reviewed by the DVRPC Policy Analysis Committee and accepted by the DVRPC Board on January 27, 2000. The Board also appointed a Special Committee to review the final applications and make priority recommendations at the February 24 Board meeting.

The Special Committee met on February 22 to review and prioritize the submitted applications, and the results of their deliberations and recommendations were summarized and distributed to the Board. New Jersey DOT has requested that submitted applications and priority recommendations be submitted to them by the end of February, to be included in a statewide submission to the FTA in mid-March.

Mr. Bickel directed the Board's attention to the revised language for adoption of Resolution No. B-FY00-012.

After discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Cummings, seconded by Ms. Thomas; that the Board Adopt Resolution No. B-FY00-012 (copy attached) as revised to: (1) accept the priority applicants recommended by the Board-appointed Special Committee for FY 2000 project funding through New Jersey's Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program; (2) commit to amend the regional TIP at such time as the FTA approves any or all of the proposed project for funding, and (3) that the Board direct staff to forward the applications and the Resolution to the New Jersey Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit by February 29, 2000.

5. **Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Funding**

Requests in Bucks, Chester and Delaware Counties

PENNVEST is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania managed by a 13-member Board of Directors and chaired by the Governor, which provides funding for drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management projects. The Program provides long-term loans through a revolving loan fund to municipalities, authorities, and some private entities at below-market interest rates. Limited grant funds are also available.

PENNVEST has forwarded six applications (two in Bucks County, three in Chester County and one in Delaware County) to DVRPC for review for consistency with the regional plan. These projects all serve to address public health and safety concerns of drinking water quality or protection from flooding and are in areas that are now developed or identified as future growth areas in the DIRECTION 2020 plan. Therefore, these applications are consistent with DIRECTION 2020.

Commissioner Hanna, Chester County asked Mr. Seymour to affirm that the Board is approving the specific projects on the PENNVEST applications as being consistent with the DIRECTION 2020 Plan. Mr. Seymour confirmed this as being correct. Commissioner Hanna then questioned if there were other projects in competition with the selected projects which were not brought before the Board. Mr. Seymour explained that PENNVEST reviews projects on a monthly basis and rewards funds on a rotating basis. PENNVEST sends the projects to DVRPC for comment before relaying them back to the PENNVEST Board.

Ronald Bednar, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, questioned if the PENNVEST applications specify the municipalities served by the grant or loan. Mr. Seymour explained that the service areas vary, but the applications do specify the municipalities served. Commissioner Hanna suggested that the Board also view the applications through a municipal perspective for consistency with the DIRECTION 2020 Plan.

The RCC recommended that the Board authorize the Executive Director to issue a letter notifying PENNVEST of consistency with the Year 2020 Plan. However, the RCC sees a contradiction between DVRPC's review of PENNVEST funding requests, which generally involve or affect the watershed, and the Commission's lack of interest involving itself in regional watershed planning, such as in the case of Venice Island.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. King; that the Board authorize the Executive Director to issue a letter notifying

PENNVEST that the funding requests in Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties are consistent with the DIRECTION 2020 Plan and to urge PENNVEST to encourage applications to coordinate their activities with the land use planning activities of the affected county and municipality(s).

6. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Sue McNamara, RCC Chair, reported an issue of concern discussed at their meeting of January 11, 2000 as follows:

Watershed Management: The RCC recommends that DVRPC undertake comprehensive watershed planning and management as a regional issue, and identify floodplains in the Year 2025 Long-Range Plan as a means of restricting development in those areas. The RCC also asks that DVRPC review and adopt the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) regulations as criteria for land use in the flood fringe and as a guide in making transportation decisions.

John J. Coscia, Executive Director, commented that he is meeting with the DRBC Executive Director and the Pennsylvania Commissioner representing Governor Ridge to discuss DVRPC and DRBC joint planning. He also commented that in open space planning, DVRPC does delineate flood planning and steep slopes, however, specific project review and zoning ordinance amendments is the responsibility of the local government, i.e. Venice Island. Mr. Coscia will report back to the RCC the results of the discussions with DRBC as to how they can enhance their working relationship.

Schuylkill Valley Metro Proposal: The RCC transmitted a Schuylkill Valley metro Proposal to the DVRPC Board for its consideration (attached to RCC recommendations to the Board for February 24, 2000).

Mr. Coscia commented that DVRPC will transmit the RCC's Schuylkill Valley Metro Proposal to SEPTA and the SEPTA consultants for their consideration. Once SEPTA's Board adopts a locally preferred alternative (LPA) it will be transmitted to DVRPC for consideration and action. DVRPC staff and committees will review the LPA and recommend action to the Board.

7. New Jersey Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan

John H. Moore, Manager of Statewide Planning, NJDOT, presented to the Board an overview of the New Jersey Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (Plan). Being more than a "policy plan" the Plan will identify future problem areas and

potential solutions on a systems level based on technical analysis and extensive public involvement. The partners in the Plan will include NJDOT and NJ Transit Corporation, the three New Jersey MPO's (NJTPA, DVRPC, and SJTPO), New Jersey's Transportation Agencies, Commissions and Authorities including Bi-State Agencies, and elected officials, counties and municipalities. In addition, several consultants will assist with different aspects of the Plan.

The Plan will be divided into Phase I - Plan and Process Design and Initial Information gathering which has been completed and Phase II - Implementation of Process and Plan Development which is being initiated.

Melvin Lehr, F. R. Harris, Inc. briefed the Board on the three time frames with respect to the Plan and the key issues the Plan will address.

Tony DeJohn, Parsons Brinkerhoff discussed some of the new information technology with which the Plan will be involved such as: (1) visual and other sensory stimuli, (2) scenario testing, (3) obtaining information from certain publics, (4) providing stakeholders with more complete information to get better feedback, and (5) use of technology as an on-going input and output mechanism.

8. Year 2025 Horizons Plan: Report #2 - Issues and Choices, Planning for the Region's Future

Richard Bickel, DVRPC staff, presented an overview of Report #2 of the Year 2025 Horizons Plan entitled *Issues and Choices, Planning for the Region's Future* (distributed to the Board). Mr. Bickel explained that the report contains two main sections: (1) summary of Global and Regional Issues which have influenced change in land use and infrastructure investments, and (2) Perpetuation of current trends to the Year 2025 and managing growth and development.

9. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Coscia reported on the following items.

- a. New Jersey Regional Intergovernmental Transportation Study Commission (RITCSC) Meeting of February 1, 2000

Mr. Coscia reported that several presentations were given on the efficiencies and inefficiencies of *Transportation Development Districts (TDD)* in New Jersey. Mr. Coscia explained that TDD's provide a mechanism to form a partnership between the private sector and the public sector. This enables the

private sector to supply a proportionate amount of dollars for transportation infrastructure. In particular, one private sector's presentation examined why these TDD's do not work as follows: (1) too few individuals in the private sector understand the concept of TDD's, (2) no consideration in New Jersey is given to existing areas; discussions consist only of projected future growth areas and what facilities are needed, (3) threshold for Transit Oriented Design (TOD) is too high, and (4) formulas for allocating cost are too ambiguous.

Also, an interesting presentation was given on the TDD in Union County which struggles with the need to be flexible and how to allocate funds.

The RITCSC sub-committees will continue to meet to discuss the issues and possible solutions involving TDD's.

b. Central New Jersey Forum, February 4, 2000

Mr. Coscia reported that the Central New Jersey Forum meeting of February 4, 2000 was very successful. He noted that some discussion was held pertaining to several New Jersey communities who are interested in being included in the Forum.

c. Meeting with U.S. Department of Justice staff on DVRPC's implementation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act on February 10, 2000

Mr. Coscia reported on the February 10, 2000 meeting with the U.S. Department of Justice staff concerning the Civil Rights Act and the environmental justice requirements which will be included in the new planning requirements. Information and handouts were prepared by DVRPC for the Department of Justice staff pertaining to how DVRPC meets these requirements.

d. New Jersey location for DVRPC Board Retreat, December 8, 2000

Mr. Coscia requested that the Board approve a Pennsylvania site for the Year 2000 Board Retreat to coordinate with the state in which the Board Chairman represents (i.e., December 8, 2000, Board Chairman will be a Pennsylvania representative). The Board agreed and the Year 2000 Retreat will be scheduled in Pennsylvania.

10. Committee Reports

Committee reports from the PCC and the RTC were distributed to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for February 24, 2000
- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for February 24, 2000
- (3) Resolution Numbers: B-FY00-012 and EC-FY00-002

Additional Documents distributed to the Board:

- (1) *Freight Lines*, February, 2000
- (2) *TravelSmart*, February 16, 2000
- (3) *Alert*, February, 2000
- (4) *DVRPC Newsletter*