

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of June 22, 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	John H. Moore
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Jerrold D. Colton
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	Timothy Carson
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Larry M. King
Bucks County	Lynn Bush
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna Charles Coyne William Fulton
Delaware County	John E. Pickett
Montgomery County	Arthur F. Loeben
Burlington County	Ridgeley P. Ware Carol Ann Thomas
Camden County	J. Douglas Griffith

Gloucester County	Charles E. Romick
Mercer County	(not represented)
City of Chester	William Payne
City of Philadelphia	Larry Wilson
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Trenton	(not represented)
<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	Daniel Ryan
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	(not represented)
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Michael Shea
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 Coleman

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Charles Dougherty, Mary Bell, Roger Moog, Michael Ontko, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Al Prant

New Jersey Governor's Authorities Unit

Devon L. Graf

Clean Air Council

Dennis Winters

Cross County Connection TMA

Bill Ragozine

Urban Engineers, Inc.

Jeremy Alvarez

Eddie R. Battle Associates, Inc.

Eddie R. Battle

Call to Order

Chairman Jerrold D. Colton called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

Chairman Colton read to the Board a letter which he received from Dennis Merida, Division Administrator, United States Department of Transportation commemorating the 35th Anniversary of DVRPC.

Chairman Colton announced that he will be passing the gavel to a new Board Chairman for Fiscal Year 2001 at the July meeting and stated that he was honored to serve as the

DVRPC Chair for Fiscal Year 2000.

Public Comments

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

1. Minutes of Meeting of May 25, 2000

On a **motion** by Mr. Ware, seconded by Mr. Griffith the minutes of the meeting of May 25, 2000 were approved as distributed.

2. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Charles Dougherty, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the following TIP Amendments:

Pennsylvania Section of the TIP

- a. **Amendment 9945** - Traffic Control - Miscellaneous Design
(City of Philadelphia)

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the TIP to include the Traffic Control - Miscellaneous Design project at a total cost of \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal, \$50,000 local matching funds.) The project will fund design consultant services for traffic signals and controls on larger projects where the in-house staff workload limitations are exceeded.

Financial constraint will be maintained by transferring funds from the School House Lane Reconstruction project (TIP #9555) which will not be ready to advance to construction until FY2001.

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

After favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordination Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC), the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Bednar, seconded by Mr. Ware; that the Board approve TIP Amendment 9945, the City of Philadelphia's request to amend the TIP to include the Traffic Control - Miscellaneous Design project at a

total cost of \$250,000.

3. Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Funding Requests in Chester and Delaware

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Staff, briefed the Board on the PENNVEST funding requests in Delaware County. PENNVEST has forwarded three applications to DVRPC for review for consistency with the regional plan for the following projects:

- Philadelphia Suburban Water Company - Request for \$1,174,916 PENNVEST loan to replace the deteriorated North Wayne Water Tank No. 2 with a new tank of the same size. The project is located in Tredyffrin township.
- Borough of Lansdowne - Request for \$2,434,500 PENNVEST loan to replace damaged and failing sanitary sewer lines at various locations in the borough. No additional capacity will be created.
- Borough of Lansdowne - Request for \$1,497,500 PENNVEST loan to replace damaged and failing storm water lines at various locations in the borough. This project will serve to reduce flooding and the infiltration of storm water into the waste system. No additional capacity for growth will be created.

Mr. Seymour explained that 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.

After favorable recommendation from the RCC, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Pickett; that the Board authorize the Executive Director to send letter notifying PENNVEST of consistency with DIRECTION 2020 Plan.

4. Election of DVRPC Board Officers for Fiscal Year 2001

Chairman Colton reported the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of candidates for Board officers in Fiscal Year 2001 (July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001) as follows:

Chairman: Timothy J. Carson, Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Vice Chairman: Ridgeley P. Ware, Burlington County
Secretary: Charles Martin, Chairman, Bucks County Commissioners
Treasurer: James Weinstein, Commissioner, New Jersey Department
of Transportation

There were no further nominations from the floor and the nominations were closed. The slate of Board officers for Fiscal Year 2001 proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected by acclamation.

5. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Sue McNamara briefed the Board on additional items from the RCC Meeting of June 13, 2000 as follows:

- a. Venice Island Update - A final zoning hearing was held regarding Venice Island during the week of June 5, 2000 at which time many residents and groups voiced their opposition to building more than 500 residential units in the flood plain. A letter from James Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), was presented to the zoning board; the letter stated that Witt is concerned about the applications for variances from Philadelphia's flood plain ordinance. The letter also points out that Philadelphia's continued eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program could be jeopardized by approving these projects if the technical basis on which they are deemed to meet federal standards is unsound. This could mean that the City would not be eligible for disaster relief. The RCC has attached the FEMA letter and points out that this issue relates to the Schuylkill Watershed.
- b. DVRPC Draft FY 2001 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania - Comments from the RCC to DVRPC staff regarding the New Jersey and Pennsylvania TIP's were submitted to the Board as an attachment to the *Recommendations to the Board for June 22, 2000* (copy attached).
- c. Environmental Reviews - The RCC requests that the DVRPC Board require each transportation agency and/or service agency making infrastructure changes to provide a minimum of two copies of all environmental reviews performed to DVRPC with sufficient time for review and comments by the RCC.

6. First Generation Suburbs Case Study in Delaware County Municipalities: Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Yeadon, Aldan, Colwyn, and Darby

Mary Bell, DVRPC staff, presented to the Board the DVRPC study prepared on six municipalities in Delaware County that comprise the William Penn School District. Ms. Bell explained that in 1998 DVRPC released a report which defined the future and the economic disadvantages facing older first generation communities in the Delaware Valley. In this region first generation communities include both older boroughs scattered across the region which began as the region's earliest industrial/agricultural settlements as well as the regions first bedroom communities which developed rapidly following World War II.

Each of the municipalities studied, Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Yeadon, Aldan, Colwyn, and Darby are considered a first generation community. Ms. Bell explained that the report presents a detailed profile of demographic and socioeconomic conditions within each municipality; summarizing the data by defining challenges facing the communities as well as opportunities and strengths as they move toward revitalization.

Ms. Bell continued to explain the challenges, opportunities, municipal goals and objectives, region-wide revitalization strategies, intermunicipal cooperation, and the municipal recommendations for each study area.

In summary, Ms. Bell stated that it is DVRPC's hope that this study will provide a useful tool for area opportunities, challenges, and strategies to achieve change and that a partnership of county and local officials will work with the assistance of state and federal financial resources and programs to provide a catalyst for revitalization that will enhance the quality of life in this study area.

Discussion ensued and John J. Coscia, Executive Director, commented that DVRPC has not been very aggressive in addressing development and redevelopment needs in older communities. Although several studies have been done, at some point DVRPC would like to recommend that we earmark a certain amount of TIP funds for revitalization and urban renewal in the Boroughs.

John Pickett, Delaware County, commented that property taxes in some of these households could be as high as 20% of their income. This seems to be an unacceptable burden to these older communities wherein the quality of education is not as good as in other communities (i.e., Radnor).

John Moore, New Jersey Department of Transportation believes that these communities do not receive as many arterial improvements and that there is a constant wearing-away of the community infrastructure.

Mr. Coscia commented that the Environmental Justice laws will force us to think along the lines of a more balanced approach to include these lower income and minorities in our planning.

Ronald K. Bednar, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development commented that the Main Street Program; a program oriented toward improving main street facades (store fronts) in business districts is one way to revitalize these communities. However, transportation and transit problems are numerous in these areas and perhaps this is where DVRPC could assist.

Colin A. Hanna commented that he would like to see DVRPC begin to examine the broad base public policy issues that could make a lasting impact in changing some of the trends found in the Study. The Main Street Program restores retail areas. However, this is more aesthetic and not a principle economic driver. He believes that the quality of education is the principle economic driver. What would have happened to the trends, since World War II, if the three top school districts in the entire nine county area were Philadelphia, Camden and Chester? Would we have seen the same exodus and deterioration in the cities? He would like to step beyond the mere focus of infrastructure planning and studies. He believes that if the principal driver, in fact, is education, then DVRPC should begin to examine what means might be necessary in order to affect the quality of education. Mr. Hanna continued, that although these issues are outside of DVRPC's traditional purview, these are public policy issues which dovetail very well with other initiatives and are well within the overall scope of a regional planning agency. The Pennsylvania legislature is examining the process of how schools are funded and this will probably be considered in New Jersey also. He strongly feels that now is the time to take-on a bolder public policy role with regard to these trends of suburbanization and urban revitalization.

Ridgeley P. Ware, Burlington County agreed with Mr. Hanna and suggested that a special committee of the Board be formed to examine these issues.

Mr. Hanna suggested that this might be a good Year 2000 Board Retreat theme that could become a priority set for the future.

Arthur Loeben, Montgomery County commented that one criteria not mentioned in the study was the quality of leadership. He believes this has deteriorated in these

older communities and this reflects what has happened. If better leadership could be obtained, he believes these communities would turn around.

Mr. Coscia agreed with Loeben and added that the FY 2002 DVRPC Work Program will begin to be developed shortly and, if possible, we should try to incorporate some of the programs and recommendations heard here today.

Timothy Carson, Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee, commented that it is very difficult to coordinate several governing bodies at one time and Ms. Bell agreed that the logistics of dealing with several municipalities at one time would be an enormous hurdle.

Mr. Coscia stated that only a small number of municipalities have resources and qualified staff to start up new programs. DVRPC and the county planning departments could assist the municipals with the needed expertise.

Mr. Hanna questioned when the final study would be released and if there would be any follow-up to this study?

Ms. Bell answered that the study would be released as a report in mid-July and presented to the Delaware County Commissioners and that a similar case study would be performed as a follow-up to the Delaware County Study.

7. Executive Director's Report

- a. New Jersey Regional Intergovernmental Transportation Study Commission (RITCSC) Meeting, June 6, 2000

Mr. Coscia reported that the RITCSC sub-committees have prepared a preliminary report consisting of the findings and recommendations for: (1) corridor studies, (2) intergovernmental cooperation, and (3) specific legislative language changes to the Transportation Development District (TDD) Act in New Jersey. The next RITCSC meeting is scheduled for June 27th in which the proposed recommendations will be reviewed and prepared for a public comment period in July.

At present, the TDD's are constrained to fast growing (25% or higher growth area) municipalities and counties. The commission is going to recommend broadening the use of the TDD concept throughout New Jersey.

Mr. Coscia commented that he would present the proposed recommendations to the DVRPC Board at the regular July meeting for their review and support.

A final report listing the final commission recommendations will be presented to the Governor and the legislature no later than September.

b. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), May 31, 2000 and June 20, 2000

Mr. Coscia reported that a staff presentation was made to the ITS Coordinating Council on the results of the ITS study. The ITS Coordinating Council is made up of all the agencies in the Delaware Valley region that will be implementing sophisticated state-of-the-art technology on highway and transit systems. He continued that recommendations from the council will be submitted to the Board for action at the regular July meeting for DVRPC ITS implementation work.

c. Central New Jersey Forum Meeting of June 9, 2000

Mr. Coscia reported that the Central New Jersey Forum meetings are proceeding extremely well and are very well attended. The Forum is examining the expanded Route 1 corridor analysis. Consultants continue to run models and are looking at different alternative scenarios for that area. Before long, alternative futures will be tested for the entire Central New Jersey region and the elected officials at the municipal and county level are being requested to relay what needs to be done to meet the development decisions which have been made.

e. DVRPC Board Policy Analysis Committee Meeting, June 29,2000

Mr. Coscia announced that a Board Policy Analysis Committee meeting will be held on June 29, 2000 at DVRPC. He pointed out two very important items on that agenda as follows: (1) presentation on the draft TIP, and (2) formulating the FY 2002 Work Program.

f. Changes to the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Act

Mr. Coscia reported that two bills are in the legislature for the Pennsylvania Governor's signature. If signed into law, these bills would give municipalities, that plan together for growth, the authority to establish growth areas. Those municipalities also will get protection from developer lawsuits. As a result of these new laws, Mr. Coscia believes that many outreach efforts will develop. DVRPC may be able to assist the municipalities in this outreach effort. Also, DVRPC could help with measuring the success of these new opportunities.

8. Election of New Jersey County and Pennsylvania County Representatives to

Serve on Executive Committee for FY 2001

Commissioners Ridgeley P. Ware, Burlington County, and Charles P. Martin, Bucks County, were selected by the Pennsylvania County Board members and the New Jersey County Board members, respectively, to serve on the Executive Committee during Fiscal Year 2001.

9. Committee Reports

a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

Activities were reported under the appropriate agenda items.

b. Land Use and Development Committee

Mr. Seymour briefed the Board on the activities from the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting Highlights (distributed to the Board) of June 5, 2000.

The committee received a presentation from Michael Merkle, Principal of MCW Enterprises, a developer of market rate rental projects on infill locations in southern New Jersey. Mr. Merkle described his experiences in completing several projects in our region and the difficulties inherent in infill construction. Although there is a strong market demand for high-end rental units, there is still "not-in-my-back-yard" (NIMBY) opposition to this type of development. There is a definite need for regional leadership to identify available sites for redevelopment and a need to work with the local officials to build support for revised zoning to support higher density or mixed use projects.

Mr. Seymour also commented that the committee discussed the draft Year 2025 Land Use Plan. A number of excellent comments were received from that discussion which are listed on the report.

c. Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG)

Mr. Seymour reported the highlights (distributed to the Board) from the IREG Meeting of June 7, 2000. The following presentations were given at the meeting: (1) Moving From Welfare to Work: Using GIS to Link Information About Child Care and Transportation given by the Delaware Valley Child Care Council (DVCCC), and (2) *Information Systems for Transportation Planning* given by DVRPC staff.

d. Regional Aviation Committee (RAC)

Roger Moog, DVRPC staff, reported the highlights of the RAC Meeting of June 15, 2000 (distributed to the Board).

Mr. Moog commented that with the signing of the Air-21 Bill, additional funding has been made available for aviation and airport development. However, much opposition is being met trying to get airport development underway and completed. Citizens from Yardley in Bucks County attended to express their concerns with the development of the new terminal at the Trenton-Mercer Airport. The issues included the increase of commercial airlines at this airport and citizen mistrust of the environmental assessment process.

DVRPC is in the process of preparing the Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP) update to 2025. Some issues the Plan must address are: (1) trends in aviation demand since 1995; (2) difficulty of funding for privately owned airports for runway safety and capacity improvements; (3) state regulatory actions causing RASP airports to close; (4) changes in federal and state capital subsidy levels and program criteria; and (5) the closing of private airports.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

Christopher Patton, SEPTA, pointed out the letter (distributed to the Board) to John J. Coscia from John K. Leary Jr., General Manager of SEPTA dated June 5, 2000. This letter was written in response to the resolution submitted by the RCC to SEPTA on the Schuylkill Valley Metro (MetroRail). He stated that action on this project will be taken at the SEPTA Board Meeting on this date (June 22, 2000). Mr. Patton also stated that this project has overwhelming support from all parties involved.

Mr. Coscia added that once the SEPTA Board adopts the locally preferred alternative it will be submitted to DVRPC for Board approval to be included in the TIP and the Transportation Plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for June 22, 2000
- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for June 22, 2000

Additional Documents distributed to the Board:

- (1) *Alert*, June 2000
- (2) *Freight Lines*, June 2000
- (3) Articles from The Mercury dated May 28, 2000 entitled: *TIP of the Transportation Iceberg, From Roads to Rail, Wish List is Fulfilled, Nearly \$10 Million Phoenixville-Bound, and Agencies Getting on Same Page in Transportation Plans*
- (4) Article from Philadelphia Inquirer dated June 19, 2000 entitled: *A Change in Status for 3 Local Airports*
- (6) NARC Newsletter May/June 2000 entitled: *Regions*

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Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	Timothy Carson
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Larry M. King
Pennsylvania Counties	Lynn Bush
New Jersey Counties	Charles E. Romick
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Philadelphia	Larry Wilson

Guests

Chester County	Colin A. Hanna Charles Coyne William Fulton
Delaware County	John E. Pickett

Montgomery County	Arthur F. Loeben
Burlington County	Ridgeley P. Ware Carol Ann Thomas
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DVRPC New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Colman

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Charles Dougherty, Roger Moog, Mary Bell, Michael Ontko, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Call to Order

Chairman Jerrold D. Colton called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting of May 25, 2000

On a **motion** by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Romick, the minutes of the meeting of May 25, 2000 were approved as distributed.

2. Election of DVRPC Executive Committee Officers for Fiscal Year 2001

Chairman Colton reported the proposed slate of Executive Committee officers for Fiscal Year 2001 (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001) as follows:

Chairman:	Timothy J. Carson, Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Vice Chairman:	Ridgeley P. Ware, Burlington County
Secretary:	Charles Martin, Chairman, Bucks County Commissioners

There were no further nominations from the floor and the nominations were closed. The slate of Executive officers for Fiscal Year 2001 proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.