DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 2004

Location: Commission Offices
The Bourse Building, 8th Floor
111 S. Independence Mall, East
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Joyce Paul

New Jersey Department of Transportation
James Lewis

New Jersey Governor’s Appointee
Keith D. Barrack

Pennsylvania Governor’s Appointee
(not represented)

Pennsylvania Governor’s Policy Office
Kenneth Klothen

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Larry King

Bucks County
(not represented)

Chester County
William H. Fulton

Delaware County
John Pickett

Montgomery County
Kenneth Hughes

Burlington County
Jerald R. Cureton, Esq.
Carol Ann Thomas

Camden County
Thomas J. Gurick

Gloucester County
Charles E. Romick

Mercer County
Donna Lewis

City of Chester
William Payne
City of Philadelphia  Larry Wilson
City of Camden  Arijit De
City of Trenton  (not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
   New Jersey Division  Lawrence Cullari
                      Patty Leech

   Pennsylvania Division  (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 Smart Growth  (not represented)

Federal Transit Administration, Region III  Janet Kampf

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority  Christopher Patton

New Jersey Transit Corporation  James Schwartzwalder

Port Authority Transit Corporation  (not represented)

Delaware River Port Authority  Linda Hayes

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  (not represented)

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  (not represented)

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development  Kevin Gallagher

Regional Citizens Committee Chairman  Dennis Winters

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel  Timothy J. Carson, Esq.
Call to Order

Vice Chairman Thomas J. Gurick presided in the absence of Joanne R. Denworth, Chair, and called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Public Comments

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

1. Minutes of Meeting of June 24, 2004

On a motion by Ms. Gould, seconded by Mr. Romick, the minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2004 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

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

a. TIP Action PA03-58: FTA Section 5311 Program, Capital Assistance - Capital Trailways Intercity Bus Terminal, Montgomery County

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by programing funds for the Federal Transit Administration’s
Section 5311 Program (formerly Section 18) which would provide funds for the construction of an intercity bus terminal at the Norristown Transportation Center garage which is being constructed by SEPTA. Jointly sponsored by Capitol Trailways and Montgomery County, the intercity bus terminal would be programmed in FY04 for engineering ($75,000) and construction ($331,000) using $325,000 Section 5311 funds/$81,200 Local match provided through a combination of funds from Montgomery County and Capitol Trailways. Five Bus berths, a ticket office, and an ADA compliant restroom would be included in the project. Funds would be authorized in FY04, but construction will not get underway until SEPTA completes its portion of the project (the garage) approximately 18 months from now. Participation in the program by private for-profit enterprises is encouraged.

Financial Constraint will be maintained as these are additional funds to the region and the TIP’s conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

After favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) and the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC), the Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

**MOTION** by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Fulton that the Board approve TIP Action PA03-58, Montgomery County’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding funds into the TIP for the FTA’s Section 5311 Program. This amendment will program a total of $406,000 ($325,000 Section 5311 funds/$81,000 Local Match) in FY04.

b. **TIP Action PA03-59a: Route 29 / Route 113, from Black Rock Road to Hopwood Road, Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Route 29/Route 113 from Black Rock Road to Hopwood Road Signal and Roadway Improvement project (MPMS #71174) located in Upper Providence Township in Montgomery County. The project will be programmed with a locally funded $890,000 FY04 Preliminary engineering phase. Additional turn lanes and signalized intersections on Route 29 and Route 113, and extended through lanes on Route 29 between the US Route 422 on/off ramps and the vicinity of Arcola Road are included in the project. The township's goal is to improve the access between Route 29 and State Route 113 via a new connector road through a planned commercial development. Current access between Route 29 and Route 113 runs through a residential neighborhood. A federal earmark will be sought for the estimated $5.3 million construction phase in later fiscal years, and programming on the TIP now allows a PENNDOT project manager to be assigned. Subsequently, this action will add the project to the recently adopted FY05 TIP, showing only the construction phase in later fiscal years.
Financial Constraint will be maintained as the design phase is using only local funds and the TIP’s conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC for approval of TIP PA03-59a.

Favorable recommendation was also received from the RCC, however the RCC also urges PENNDOT to incorporate design that ensures safe bicycle and pedestrian access, and to address the Bicycle/Pedestrian Checklist, which can be found in appendix J of Design Manual 1-A.

John J. Coscia, Executive Director responded that the RCC’s recommendation would be forwarded to PENNDOT for their consideration.

The Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

**MOTION** by Mr. De, seconded by Mr. King that the Board approve TIP Action PA03-59a, PENNDOT’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The Route 29/Route 113 from Black Rock Road to Hopwood Road Signal and Roadway Improvement project will program a $890,000 locally funded final design phase in FY04. Acknowledge addition of this project to the newly adopted FY05 TIP, showing a $5.3 million construction phase in later fiscal years.

c. **TIP Action PA03-59b: I-76 Over Schuylkill River, Philadelphia**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the I-76 Over Schuylkill River (Bridge) project (MPMS #71709). $500,000 State bridge funds will be programmed for a FY04 construction phase. Recent Inspections of the bridge revealed that load bearing members (connection angles and web plates) require immediate attention due to corrosion, and PENNDOT District has been authorized to use emergency bidding procedures.

Financial Constraint will be maintained as this project is using state funds only. The TIP’s conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

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

**MOTION** by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Gould that the Board approve TIP Action PA03-59b, PENNDOT’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP...
for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project. The I-76 Over the Schuylkill River (Bridge) project, will program a $500,000 state funded construction phase in FY04.

d. TIP Action PA03-59c: PA 309 Commerce Road to Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Washington Interchange, Montgomery County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY06 construction phase for the Route 309 Commerce Road to Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Washington Interchange project (MPMS #64275) by $6 million federal highway funds ($5.8 million NHS/$1.2 million Toll Match), for a total FY06 construction phase of $42.892 million. The additional funding is required to cover anticipated increased construction costs associated with placement of the temporary Norfolk Southern Railroad run-around structure over PA Route 309, placement of the permanent Norfolk Southern Railroad structure over PA Route 309, the replacement of the structure that carries PA Route 309 over SEPTA and Pennsylvania Avenue, and the construction engineering costs associated with these increases.

Financial Constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. The attached letter and fiscal constraint charts provided by PENNDOT show all of the adjustments taking place. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

The TIP’s conformity finding will not be impacted by this modification as this project is exempt.

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

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-59c, PENNDOT’s request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by increasing the FY06 construction phase by $6 million federal highway funds, acknowledging a 20% toll match for the PA 309 Commerce Road to Pennsylvania Fort Washington Interchange project.

e. TIP Action NJ04-20: Candidates for FY 2004 Supplemental Funding, Various Counties

Based upon calculations of funding received to date, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) believes there is potential to receive approximately $100 million dollars in federal funding that was not originally anticipated in FY 2004. NJDOT proposes that each MPO adopt a contingency list of projects that could be funded if the additional funds materialize. The requested projects exist in both the Fiscal Year 2004 and 2005 TIPs and Statewide Transportation Improvement programs (STIP). “Fair share” has been maintained with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.
receiving 75%, DVRPC 20%, and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization 5%. These projects would not replace existing commitments in the first year of the current STIP; but rather enable DVRPC and NJDOT to have a contingency list if the additional resources are made available.

Financial constraint will be maintained through additional resources and this action will have not impact on the conformity finding since all projects were included in the conformity test.

The Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

**MOTION** by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Barrack, that the Board approve amending the FY 2004 New Jersey TIP with over $20 million in project changes. All projects being changed exist in both the current FY 2004 TIP and the recently adopted FY 2005 TIP.

3. **Selection of the New Jersey Travel Corridor from the Year 2025 Plan for FY 2005 Study**

Mr. Dougherty explained to the Board that the DVRPC FY2005 Planning Work Program includes the project, “Year 2025 Plan Corridor Study - NJ (Project # 5-43-180)”. A potential study corridor is to be recommended by the NJ Subcommittee of the RTC based on analyses performed by staff under another work program project, “New Jersey Problem Identification and Prioritization (Project # 4-47-080)” in last year’s work program. Staff identified a number of remaining corridors in New Jersey from the Year 2025 Plan that have not been studied to date. Information from the DVRPC transportation management systems on bridge, pavement condition, accidents, and congestion levels was tabulated and mapped for each corridor for review by the subcommittee.

The recommendation of the NJ Subcommittee, presented on July 13 to the full RTC, was to advance the NJ Route 33 Corridor Study during FY2005. While the Year 2025 Plan indicated a corridor along I-295 extending through eastern Mercer County, the recommended corridor would focus on the section of Route 33 on either side of I-295 in Hamilton Township. DVRPC will coordinate its corridor study with NJDOT which plans to begin a Concept Development study this summer of the portion of Route 33 east of I-295 in Hamilton Township. The department would like to involve DVRPC in the public involvement action plan of their effort.

Donna Lewis stated that development of the Washington Town Center has begun and inquired if this is a part of the study.

Mr. Dougherty responded that a steering committee will meet and discuss the boundaries and scope of the study area and expects Mercer county representatives to be part of the discussions.

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

**MOTION** by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Lewis, that the Board approve the selection of the NJ Route 33 Corridor for study under the Year 2025 Plan Corridor Study - NJ project in the FY 2005 Planning Work Program.

4. **DVRPC Revised Year 2030 Regional and County Employment Forecasts**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, explained to the Board that DVRPC prepares and utilizes long-range population and employment forecasts as essential elements in all transportation and regional planning analysis, including area corridor studies, air quality modeling, and the long-range plan. Population forecasts for the year 2025 were last updated and adopted by the DVRPC Board in February 2002. Employment forecasts to the year 2025 were also adopted in 2002, but were last revised in 1999. Federal regulations under TEA-21 require that the MPO maintain a 20-year planning horizon for all transportation planning activities, thus it is important that the forecasts be revisited and extended to 2030.

The release of the U.S. Census Transportation Planning Package (CTTP) in 2003 with year 2000 municipal employment data presents an opportunity to review and revise the employment forecasts to assure that the most current and accurate data is used as the basis for the forecasts. Working with each member county planning staff, the municipal and county data for 2000 was reviewed and county forecasts were revised and extended to 2030, utilizing the year 2000 Census data as the new baseline year. These new county employment forecasts will form the control values for revised municipal employment forecasts, to be completed later this year.

The results show the revisions to the previously-adopted county employment forecasts. Based on the new year 2000 baseline data, in some cases the trend line for employment growth was accelerating, while in others the recent trends and revised forecasts now point towards a slowing of growth. Overall, the regional rate of employment growth has slowed somewhat from previous forecasts. While the previous forecasts saw the region reach total employment of 3.2 million in 2025, that number is now not reached until 2030.

Mr. Seymour also presented and explained slides which showed the revised county and regional employment forecasts from 2000 to 2030, regional employment 1970-2030, Pennsylvania employment 1980-2030, and New Jersey employment 1980-2030.

Donna Lewis, Mercer County, stated that the counties in New Jersey, as part of their work on cross-acceptance, are preparing revised population and employment projections. Ms. Lewis requested that when they are disaggregating the county-wide numbers that the time frame be included with the cross-acceptance so as to minimize the set of projections.
Mr. Coscia responded that this would be coordinated as requested.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC.

Favorable recommendation was also received from the RCC, however the RCC makes this recommendation with the understanding that the employment data will be reviewed every three years.

After discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

MOTION by Mr. Fulton, seconded by Ms. Paul, that the Board approve the year 2030 regional and county employment forecasts as recommended and utilize these values to develop municipal employment forecasts to the year 2030.

5. Approval of Revised DVRPC Meeting Date and Annual Retreat for December, 2004

Mr. Coscia explained to the Board that each year, in December, a Board Retreat is held. The original scheduled date was for December 3, 2004. This year, DVRPC, would like to hold the Retreat at the Airport Marriott, however the hotel did not have availability for that date. Board approval is being requested to change the Board Meeting and Annual Retreat date from December 3, 2004 to December 9, 2004.

The Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

MOTION by Mr. De, seconded by Mr. Cureton, that the Board revise the December Board Meeting and Annual Retreat date from December 3, 2004 to December 9, 2004.

6. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, reported to the Board on some additional activities form the meeting of July 20, 2004. Mr. Winters called the Board’s attention to the section of the RCC’s Recommendations to the Board for July 22, 2004 (attached as part of these minutes) entitled In Other Business - A Shared Vision: A Regional Approach to Transit. Mr. Winters requested that the Board review the RCC’s comments pertaining to this request.

7. Board Committee Appointments for FY 2005

Vice Chair Guick pointed the memorandum to the Board (distributed to the Board) with reference to the approved FY 2005 Board Committee Appointments.

8. Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Coscia reported on the following items:

a. UPLAN Conference held at DVRPC on July 14, 2004

Mr. Coscia reported that DVRPC’s modeling work has been refined over the years and one specific area being explored is linking land use with our transportation model. Professor Robert Johnston from the University of California has given DVRPC presentations on their UPLAN model which seems to be a very workable model for our region. It uses data that we readily collect and the model seems to be within our reach. DVRPC will continue to pursue this particular land use model and anticipates using it for our 2030 modeling.

b. Policy Analysis Committee Meeting scheduled for July 29, 2004

Mr. Coscia reported that the Policy Analysis Committee Meeting will be held on July 29, 2004 which will include the start of developing the FY 2006 DVRPC Planning Work Program. Mr. Coscia urged all Board members and alternates to attend.

c. Update on the new Transportation Bill

Mr. Coscia reported that President Bush has raised the funding for the new transportation bill from $256 billion to $284 billion, however it is not clear if the U.S. Senate will agree to the $284 billion as opposed to the $318 billion. An extension is needed to the end of September and then discussions will be resumed.

9. Status of Region-wide Transportation Geographic Information System (GIS) Project

Will Stevens, DVRPC staff, reviewed the background of the GIS project. Mr. Stevens explained that the GIS program, funded by the TIP, was for the purpose of creating a GIS sharing system to be shared between DVRPC, member governments, and operating agencies. A consultant was hired to (1) create a project design and a file architecture that met the project goals; (2) evaluate the existing transportation GIS files; (3) provide a plan for seamless exchange of GIS data systems; and, (4) create a flexible design that could be expanded and enhanced by the partners.

Mr. Stevens explained that the consultant presented three scenarios which included: (1) coordinate route prototype; (2) common LRS demonstration and (3) extended NSDI prototype. After close evaluation by DVRPC, the common LRS was chosen because of its accuracy, relative low cost, and ease of implementation.
Implementation of the program began in 2002 and DVRPC developed contracts for each participant and created a scope of work which included: (1) coordination; (2) upgrading capabilities, (3) developing a transportation network; (4) developing a transportation database; and (5) information updating and sharing.

David Johnson, Director, GIS/Transportation, Bucks County Planning Commission explained to the Board the benefits achieved by Bucks County through participation in this project.

Mr. Stevens then concluded with the next steps for the project which include:

- complete state route LRS implementation,
- receive additional training
- complete address data conflation
- implement local road LRS
- add LRS reference fields to existing data
- merge county files into regional file
- develop rail and transit networks
- collect transportation data
- establish data exchange methodology
- develop maintenance procedures

Mr. Coscia added that all nine counties are at different levels in the development of their GIS. Some are less sophisticated than others and need to advance to a better level. Work programs have been developed and DVRPC provides the expertise, training, and funding for the counties to move forward so that all counties can take advantage of the regional data.

10. Committee Reports

a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

All action items were previously covered.

b. Regional Land use and Development Committee

Mr. Seymour reported on the activities of the Regional Land Use and Development Committee meeting held on July 9, 2004. Mr. Seymour pointed that a presentation was made by Dave Hess, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, on Pennsylvania’s Brownfield Action Team and Land Recycling Program.

DVRPC staff presented the preliminary results of a study entitled: *Realizing Density: Strategies for Compact Suburban Development.*

The committee also voted for priority projects for the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2006 Planning Work Program.
c. Goods Movement Task Force

Mr. Coscia reported that the Goods Movement Task Force met on July 21\textsuperscript{st} and was very well attended. Three major presentations were given as follows: (1) the new $3.3 million PENNDOT Long Range Transportation Plan; (2) the $1.3 million New Jersey State Freight Plan; and (3) a brief insight of the State of Delaware’s Freight Plan.

The committee also voted for priority projects for the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2006 Planning Work Program.

d. Regional Housing Committee

Mr. Seymour reported Whittona Burrell, United States Census led a discussion on the status of the American Community Survey. The Census bureau is proposing to eliminate the “long-form” questionnaire with a new annual survey. The annual survey will collect more up-to-date information as opposed to the detailed population and household data available every 10 years through the traditional Census. However, the “long-form” data is better for transportation planning purposes and much of the detailed information will be lost by the annual survey.

11. One Minute Reports

Vice Chair mentioned the Burlington County devastation from the flooding and offered his help and support.

Jerald Cureton, Burlington County, responded that FEMA and the counties are working hard to restore the affected areas.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attachments:
(1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for July 22, 2004
(2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for July 22, 2004

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:
(1) Alert, July 2004
(2) TravelSmart, July 2004
DELWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 2004

Location: Commission Offices
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Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
(not represented)

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Larry King

New Jersey Department of Transportation
Brent Barnes

New Jersey Governor’s Appointee
Keith D. Barrack

Pennsylvania Governor’s Appointee
Joanne R. Denworth

Pennsylvania Governor’s Policy Office
Richard W. Hayden, Esq.

Pennsylvania Counties
Lynn Bush

New Jersey Counties
Thomas J. Gurick
J. Douglas Griffith

City of Camden
Edward Williams

City of Philadelphia
Gary Jastrzab

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation
Brian Cuccia

Chester County
William H. Fulton

Delaware County
John Pickett

Montgomery County
Kenneth Hughes
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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Regional Citizens Committee Chairman

Cross County Connection Transportation Management Association

Salmon Ventures LTD

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel

New Jersey Co-Counsel

Dennis Winters

William Purdie

Kevin Gallagher

Dennis Winters

William Ragozine

John Garton

Joseph Falcone

Thomas J. Coleman, Esq.
Call to Order

Joanne R. Denworth, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting of July 22, 2004

On a motion by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Barnes, the minutes of the meeting of July 22, 2004 were approved as distributed.


Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, explained that DVRPC has prepared and maintained aerial photographs of the entire nine-county region each five years since its inception in 1965. In 2000, we transitioned from traditional aerial photography to digital orthophotography, which is available for use by our member governments and is offered for sale at a nominal cost to the public. DVRPC staff uses the aerials to update base map information, create regional land use and transportation network files, and present information in reports and at meetings.

DVRPC recently solicited proposals to update its aerial imagery for the nine county region with flights in 2005, maintaining the five year update schedule. The desired product is digital color infrared orthorectified image tiles with a design scale of 1"=200' and a pixel resolution of one (1) foot; a digital elevation model; and five (5) foot contours for the entire DVRPC region. These photos will be at the same scale as the year 2000 photos, but with better detail resolution. This will also create the best available topographic contour map of the region. The vendor will have approximately 18 months to complete the project, with flights expected in Spring, 2005, and final delivery of all products no later than June 30, 2006.

A total of 10 proposals were submitted in response to the RFP. A review committee consisting of state and county representatives from Pennsylvania and New Jersey reviewed the proposals and met on September 8 and 20 to select a final contractor.

The total cost to produce the aerial photography and digital orthographic imagery is $1,200,000, allocated as follows: PA Supplemental PL FY05 ($452,800); PA Supplemental PL FY06 ($226,400); NJ TIP FY04 ($347,200); NJ TIP FY05 ($173,600). Funding is currently in place to support this initiative.

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the following motion:
MOTION by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Griffith that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into, negotiate and execute a contract with the selected consulting firm for the Year 2005 Aerial Photography and Digital Orthographic Imagery Production. If such negotiations prove not to meet the financial requirements of the Commission, negotiations with the second ranked firm is authorized.

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.