

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**BOARD COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting of September 22, 2016

Location: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
190 N. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
New Jersey Department of Transportation  
New Jersey Governor's Appointee  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee  
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office  
Bucks County

Sean Thompson  
Thomas Wospil  
Tyler Yingling  
James Ritzman  
(not represented)  
James Mosca  
Diane Ellis-Marseglia

Chester County

Lynn Bush  
Michelle Kichline  
Brian O'Leary

Delaware County

John McBlain  
Linda Hill

Montgomery County

Valerie Arkoosh  
Jody Holton

Burlington County

Carol Thomas

Camden County

Louis Cappelli

Gloucester County

Andrew Levecchia  
(not represented)

Mercer County

Leslie Floyd

City of Chester

(not represented)

City of Philadelphia

Mark Squilla

City of Camden

Angela Dixon

City of Trenton

Edward Williams

(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration  
New Jersey Division

Calvin Edghill

Pennsylvania Division

(not represented)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Tim Lidiak
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	(not represented)
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	Barbara Holcomb
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Phil Spinelli
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy	Gerard Scharfenberger
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Jasmine Sadat

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Megan Albright
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff

Barry Seymour, John Ward, Chris Puchalsky, Patty Elkis, Alison Hastings, Kwan Hui, Greg Krykewycz, Taghi Ozbeki, Karin Morris, Tom McGovern, Van Doan, Glenn McNichol, Kevin Murphy, Shoshana Akins, Ken Peters, Paul Smith, Kim Korejko, John Griffies, Amy Bernkopf Sandy Clark, Zoe Neaderland, Elise Turner, Justin Neff.

Guests

PennDOT 6-0	Jonathan Korus
Pennoni Associates	Donald Shanis
Dewberry	Lisa Peterson
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions	Sue Herman

**Call to Order - Chair's Comments**

Chair Valerie Arkoosh called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked if there was any press in the room.

**Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**

No public comments were received.

**Action Items**

**1. Minutes of Meeting of July 28, 2016**

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

**MOTION** by Ms. Kichline, seconded by Mr. Mosca, to approve the minutes of July 28, 2016.

Ms. Ellis-Marseglia abstained.

**2. MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Memoranda of Understanding**

John Ward, DVRPC Deputy Executive Director, presented multiple memoranda of understanding between DVRPC and neighboring MPOs – Lancaster County Transportation Coordinating Committee (LCTCC), North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO), and Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) regarding each organization’s transportation planning and programming responsibilities as they relate to established urbanized areas that cross defined MPO boundaries.

These MOUs are updated following each decennial Census and the development of new urbanized areas by the US Census Bureau.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

**MOTION** by Mr. Ritzman, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve:

Three Transportation Planning and Program MOUs between DVRPC, and (1) NJTPA, (2) LCTCC, and (3) WILMAPCO/SJTPO.

**DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION ITEMS**

**3. FY2018 DVRPC Work Program**

John Ward, DVRPC Deputy Executive Director, provided an overview of the Work Program and an update on the timing and process of developing the FY2018 DVRPC Work Program. The presentation also included a lengthier discussion of the USDOT’s Planning Factors and Planning Emphasis Areas.

The Work Program is a federal requirement for MPOs that guides the expenditure of federal planning funds. It is an annual statement of the Commission’s planning work. It addresses planning priorities within the DVRPC region.

DVRPC organizes its Work Program into three main parts: Program Areas (broader groups of activities); Projects (specific tasks or separate contracts); and Pass-Through funds (funding provided to member governments through grant programs or other means).

Mr. Ward shared a timeline for the development of the Work Program. DVRPC leadership met individually with member governments in August and September to discuss Work program ideas. Board members are instructed to submit project ideas to John Griffies by October 7<sup>th</sup>. DVRPC's Work Program Committee, made up of member government technical staff, will meet on October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss work program ideas. DVRPC staff will then draft the Work Program document throughout November. Staff will bring the draft document to the Board in December, and ask the Board to approve releasing the Draft for public comment. A Public Comment period will open on 12/8 and close on 1/11/2017. This will be a 34-day period. A revised document will be presented to the Board at its January meeting.

Mr. Seymour added that the Work Program is a policy statement for everything the Commission undertakes. Mr. Seymour also drew attention to two new planning factors: a) Improve the resilience and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and b) enhance travel and tourism. DVRPC has undertaken some early work on these topics; additionally these factors may recognize that there is need and opportunity to work on these issues at both the local and regional scale.

Mr. Seymour also added that the Work Program is partially funded through Comprehensive Planning funds – funds contributed by the member governments. These funds are used in a variety of ways, including matching competitive grants, private grants, and federal transportation planning dollars. These funds also give the Commission flexibility in addressing regional planning issues, such as economic development or environmental mitigation. He encouraged the Board to think about proposing work program ideas that can be applied or undertaken at the regional level.

#### **4. Age-Friendly Communities**

Patty Elkis, DVRPC's Director of Planning, introduced the staff presentation. Ms. Elkis spoke that DVRPC is incorporating Age-Friendly Communities into its work in three ways: 1) Policy; 2) Plans; and 3) Partnerships. She then introduced Karin Morris, Associate Director of Planning. Ms. Morris shared an informative presentation on how the United Kingdom is integrating Age-Friendly Communities and Aging in Place in their planning. Ms. Morris' research trip was funded through a German Marshall Fund Fellowship.

#### **5. One Minute Reports**

Barbara Holcomb, speaking on behalf of both DRPA and PATCO, reported on PATCO's car refurbishing project. About 53% of all its cars are still to be refurbished. This multi-year project is expected to be completed by 2018. Ms. Holcomb also reported that PATCO's ridership is up 11.11% since it completed its track replacement project and returned to a normal schedule.

Lou Millan, NJTransit, reported that some work is on hold due to the uncertainty of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund.

Calvin Edghill, FHWA NJ, spoke about USDOT's emphasis area on performance-based planning and this new emphasis will change how we all, collectively, do business. FHWA has hosted and will continue to host training programs for different federal funding recipients, such as universities and state DOTs, to understand these new requirements.

James Ritzman, PennDOT, shared that the DOT hosted its State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) the day before. The STIC brings together nearby state DOTs, FHWA partners, MPOs, RPOs, and professional associations to inform PennDOT on best practices or ways to improve.

Tom Wospil, NJDOT, shared that the DOT is optimistic that it will spend all of its federal funds by the close of the federal fiscal year at the end of September. However, it will go "on pause" as it awaits FAST Act funds to kick in sometime in December.

Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County, reported that the County passed a \$5 fee on motor vehicle registration (via the PA Act 89 provisions). This fee will generate approximately \$3.5 million a year. Most of this funding will go towards the County's bridge rehabilitation program. Over 50 bridges are structurally deficient. She also thanked Mr. Seymour for testifying at a public hearing about the fee. Montgomery County joins Chester County, Bucks County, and Philadelphia in passing the fee.

Louis Cappelli, Camden County, shared that the county's agri-tourism community is thriving. He also shared that the county is hosting the Tri-County Economic Development Summit on 10/7 in Collingswood, NJ. Barry Seymour will be a featured speaker.

Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Bucks County, shared that Bucks County also has the \$5 Motor Vehicle Registration fee.

Michelle Kichline, Chester County, reported that the County just launched the update to its comprehensive plan, Landscapes 3. Over the next few months, the county will host events/meetings focused on different themes or issues

addressed in the plan. Ms. Kichline also shared that the county has recently received a number of awards including one from Greater Valley Forge TMA (GVFTMA) and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-PA).

John McBlain, Delaware County, shared his observations on the conditions of I-95 from Florida to Pennsylvania, and particularly noted the worsening conditions of the Pennsylvania section.

Mark Squilla, City of Philadelphia, announced that the City will temporarily close streets in Center City Philadelphia (from Front/South to West Fairmount Park) on Saturday, September 24, 2016 in the morning. This event is inspired by the September 2015 Pope weekend.

Leslie Floyd, Mercer County, shared that the county is looking into resources and certification available from AARP regarding age-friendly communities.

## **6. Executive Director's Report**

### a. New Jersey Transportation Funding Projects

Mr. Seymour stated that DVRPC and member governments are awaiting news about conversations between New Jersey's State Legislature and the governor regarding the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund.

### b. Proposed USDOT Rule for MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform

Mr. Seymour shared that USDOT is extending the comment period on this proposed rule for an additional 30 days. Mr. Seymour heard that USDOT received comments that were overwhelmingly against this proposed rule and reform. DVRPC's biggest concern is the workload and coordination that would be required to create a single long-range plan and a single TIP for a 7-state urbanized area. DVRPC will use the new public comment time to submit additional comments.

### c. Board Retreat

Mr. Seymour shared that the Board Retreat will be a two-day conference jointly convened with the FHWA and focusing on mega-regions. Board members should save the dates of Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The first day will focus on the Mid-Atlantic, while the second day will focus on Greater Philadelphia. The event will take place at the Sheraton Valley Forge. More details will be made available.

### d. Safe Routes to Transit

Mr. Seymour directed Board members to the postcard about Safe Routes to Transit, a new technical assistance program available to municipalities. More information is available at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/SafeRoutesToTransit/>. Applications are due by October 7<sup>th</sup>.

As an aside, Mr. Seymour also noted that New Jersey's Transportation Alternative Program is currently accepting applications. Applications are due November 10<sup>th</sup>.

e. FHWA Safety Video

Mr. Seymour asked Kevin Murphy, DVRPC's Assistant Manager of Safety Programs, to introduce a video that USDOT released that highlights a recently completed roundabout in Burlington County. DVRPC worked with the county to use data-driven safety analysis, identifying the cost/benefits of the transportation improvement.

f. Urban Land Institute Event

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to an event taking place on 9/27. Mr. Seymour is moderating a panel featuring Leslie Richards, PennDOT Secretary, and USHUD's Harriet Tregoning, among others, about businesses and communities adapting to a changing world.

g. DVRPC's Building on Our Strengths Event

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to a DVRPC event taking place on 11/4 about investing in "Centers." The event will start with a "Development Opportunities Marketplace" during which interested developers can meet with municipalities to talk about development opportunities and available sites. The event will also include a panel discussion where local officials and developers will discuss the important role transit is playing in new development throughout the region.

h. New Releases

Mr. Seymour noted several new releases including data bulletins on population estimates and residential permits.

i. Staff Retirement

Mr. Seymour concluded the Executive Director's report by announcing the retirement of Francis Miller, Executive Secretary. Ms. Miller has

served at DVRPC for over 33 years, 25 of which she has worked with Mr. Seymour. The Board thanked Ms. Miller for her years of service.

## **7. Committee Reports**

The following committee reports were provided for the Board's review:

- (1) Public Participation Task Force (PPTF)
- (2) Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was stated.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m. on a **MOTION** by Ms. Kichline and seconded by Mr. Cappelli.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org), may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 592-1800 or email [public\\_affairs@dvrpc.org](mailto:public_affairs@dvrpc.org).

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

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Alison Hastings, Recording Secretary