DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of March 26, 2020

Location:  This meeting was held via remote webinar

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  Sean Thompson
New Jersey Department of Transportation  Mike Russo
Andrew Swords
New Jersey Governor’s Appointee  Rudy Rodas
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  Larry Shifflet
Jim Mosca
Pennsylvania Governor’s Appointee  Gina Burritt
Pennsylvania Governor’s Policy & Planning Office  Nedia Ralston
Bucks County  Bob Harvie
Chester County  Brian O’Leary
Kevin Madden
Delaware County  Linda Hill

Montgomery County  Matthew Edmond
Burlington County  Mark Remsa
Camden County  Lou Cappelli
Andrew Levecchia
Gloucester County  Theresa Ziegler
Mercer County  Leslie Floyd
Matt Lawson
City of Chester  Peter Rykard
City of Philadelphia  Mark Squilla
Chris Puchalsky
Eleanor Sharpe

City of Camden  June Morton
City of Trenton  Jeffrey Wilkerson

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration  Brian Goodson
New Jersey Division (not represented)
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 (not represented)
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority  Catherine Popp-McDonough
New Jersey Transit Corporation  Lou Millan

3/26/2020
Call to Order - Chair’s Comments

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Seymour noted that he would be leading the meeting for Chair Sean Thompson. Mr. Seymour thanked Board members and alternates for participating and noted some of the functions available to participants through Zoom. Mr. Seymour asked if there was any press in the room and if anyone was recording the meeting.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items
No public comments were stated.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Minutes of Meeting of February 27, 2020**

   The Board adopted the following motion:

   **MOTION** by Ms. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Puchalsky, to approve the minutes of February 27, 2020.

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

2. **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions**

   Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Associate Director, Transportation Programs presented the following TIP actions to the Board:

   a. **PA19-112: ADA Ramps 2020 Bucks and Montgomery Counties (MPMS #12842), Various Counties**

   PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing funding for the Construction phase of the ADA Ramps 2020 Bucks and Montgomery Counties project (MPMS #12842), from the 2nd and 3rd four years of the TIP (FY25: $130,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY27: $7,370,000 STU/Toll Credit) to FY20 in the amount of $7,500,000 STU/Toll Credit.

   This project involves the design and construction of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, signal appurtenances, and other miscellaneous sidewalk features for various state routes in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. In addition to ADA upgrades, signal upgrades may include new or relocated pedestrian push buttons, pedestrian signal heads, or signal poles. Other miscellaneous work may include grading, seeding, signage installation, pavement striping and roadway adjustments.

   This project will improve the ADA facilities along several main roadways in Bensalem, Bristol, Falls, Hulmeville, Lower Makefield, Lower Southampton, Middletown, Morrisville, New Hope, Newtown, Northampton, Penndel, Wrightstown and Yardley in Bucks County; and Abington, Horsham, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland in Montgomery County. These main roadways in Bucks and Montgomery Counties include Bristol Pike, Lincoln Highway, Delmorr Avenue, River Road, Moreland Road, Bustleton Pike, Buck Road, State Road, Otter Street, Trenton Avenue, Oxford Valley Road, and Swamp Road. A total of 496 ramps along these facilities have been identified as having ADA barriers.
Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

b. PA19-113: ADA Ramps 2020 Chester and Montgomery Counties (MPMS #12885), Various Counties

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing funding for the Construction phase of the ADA Ramps 2020 Chester and Montgomery Counties project (MPMS# 12885), from the 2nd and 3rd four years of the TIP (FY25: $188,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY27: $3,612,000 STU/Toll Credit) in the amount of $3,800,000 (FY20: $1,936,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY22: $1,864,000 STU/Toll Credit).

This project involves the design and construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, signal appurtenances, and other miscellaneous sidewalk features for various state routes in Chester and Montgomery Counties. In addition to ADA upgrades, signal upgrades may include new or relocated pedestrian push buttons, pedestrian signal heads, or signal poles. Other miscellaneous work may include grading, seeding, signage installation, pavement striping and roadway adjustments.

This project will improve the ADA facilities along several main roadways in the following municipalities: Atglen, Caln, Coatesville, Elverson, Downingtown, East Caln, East Nantmeal, North Coventry, Parkesburg, Phoenixville, Schuylkill, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, West Nantmeal, and West Vincent in Chester County; and Souderton and Pottstown in Montgomery County. These main roadways in Chester and Montgomery Counties include Main Street and Anderson Avenue, Starr Street and Washington Avenue, Pottstown Pike, West Uwchlan Avenue, Hanover Street, Farmington Avenue and Hanover Street. A total of 252 ramps along these facilities have been identified as having ADA barriers.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

c. PA19-114: 2019 Philadelphia ADA Ramps (MPMS #12824), City of Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing funding for the Construction phase of the 2019 Philadelphia ADA Ramps project (MPMS #12824), from the 2nd and 3rd four years of the TIP (FY24: $783,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY25: $613,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY27: $2,566,000 STU/Toll Credit) to FY20 in the amount of $3,962,000 STU/Toll Credit.

This project involves the design and construction of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, signal appurtenances, and other miscellaneous sidewalk features for various state routes in the City of Philadelphia. In addition to ADA upgrades, signal upgrades may include new or relocated pedestrian push buttons, pedestrian
signal heads, or signal poles. Other miscellaneous work may include grading, seeding, signage installation, pavement striping and roadway adjustments.

This project will improve the ADA facilities along several main roadways in the City of Philadelphia, including Henry Avenue, Stenton Avenue, Godfrey Avenue, Clarissa Street, Wayne Avenue, Bethlehem Pike, Mount Airy Avenue, Easton Road, Wadsworth Avenue, Girard Avenue, Cheltenham Avenue, Princeton Avenue, Willits Road, Spring Garden Street, Whitby Avenue, Kingsessing Avenue, Parkside Avenue, Chester Avenue, 52nd Street, 42nd Street, and 65th Street. A total of 660 ramps along these facilities have been identified as having ADA barriers.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

The Board adopted the following motion:

**MOTION** by Mr. Edmond, seconded by Mr. Russo that the Board adopt the following TIP actions:

PA19-112, PennDOT’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing funding for the Construction phase of the ADA Ramps 2020 Bucks and Montgomery Counties project (MPMS #12842), from the 2nd and 3rd four years of the TIP (FY25: $130,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY27: $7,370,000 STU/Toll Credit) to FY20 in the amount of $7,500,000 STU/Toll Credit.

PA19-113, PennDOT’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing funding for the Construction phase of the ADA Ramps 2020 Chester and Montgomery Counties project (MPMS# 12885), from the 2nd and 3rd four years of the TIP (FY25: $188,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY27: $3,612,000 STU/Toll Credit) in the amount of $3,800,000 (FY20: $1,936,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY22: $1,864,000 STU/Toll Credit).

PA19-114, PennDOT’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing funding for the Construction phase of the 2019 Philadelphia ADA Ramps project (MPMS #12824), from the 2nd and 3rd four years of the TIP (FY24: $783,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY25: $613,000 STU/Toll Credit; FY27: $2,566,000 STU/Toll Credit) to FY20 in the amount of $3,962,000 STU/Toll Credit.

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

d. **PA19-115: Districtwide Barrier Repair (MPMS #112280), Various Counties**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, Districtwide Barrier Repair (MPMS #112280) to the TIP in the
amount of $25,000 State 581 for the Utility phase in FY20 and $3,000,000 NHPP/Toll Credit for the Construction phase in FY20, for a total amount of $3,025,000.

This project involves the repair and replacement of damaged and deteriorated roadway barriers in Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Chester counties. The work will be done on approximately 2,500 linear feet of barriers on I-76 in Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, and approximately 5,800 linear feet of metal and concrete barriers on Route 82/Manor Road in Chester County.

The continued deterioration of barrier along I-76 and Route 82/Manor Road has led to conditions which require the extensive replacement of whole sections of barrier. For segments where barrier repairs are needed, I-76 carries over 200,000 vehicles per day and Route 82/Manor Road carries over 15,000 vehicles per day.

The median barrier within the project limits along I-76 was initially built in 1967 and was rehabbed in 1986. Over the years, it has deteriorated due to age and vehicular impacts. Temporary repairs have been completed using W-beam rail; however, full replacement is needed to maintain the safety of the barrier. The median barrier on Route 82/Manor Road consists of steel tubular rail. Due to its age and vehicular impacts, the barrier has deteriorated. Repair materials for this type of rail are no longer available and therefore replacement is required.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

The Board adopted the following motion:

MOTION by Mr. Shifflet, seconded by Mr. Thompson that the Board adopt the following TIP action:

PA19-115, PennDOT’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, Districtwide Barrier Repair (MPMS #112280) to the TIP in the amount of $25,000 State 581 for the Utility phase in FY20 and $3,000,000 NHPP/Toll Credit for the Construction phase in FY20, for a total amount of $3,025,000.

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

e. PA19-116: SEPTA Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512), SEPTA

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the Purchase (PUR) phase of the Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) by an overall amount of $41,795,000. Funding shifts will be made accordingly: adding $107,838,000 ($3,802,000 Section 5339/$920,000 State 1514/$31,000 Local/$103,085,000 Other) and removing $66,043,000 ($43,376,000 Section...
5307/$20,579,000 State 1514/$686,000 Local) all in FY20, and adding $1,122,000 (Section 5307/$271,000 State 1514/$9,000 Local) in FY21.

SEPTA is requesting amendments to the Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) and the Debt Service Program (MPMS #60275) in order to add $120,000,000 of loan funds to the Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) and the requisite $140,000,000 repayment (principal plus interest) to the Debt Service Program (MPMS #60275). The borrowing will support the ongoing procurement of 525 New Flyer 40-foot buses. SEPTA will repay the loan over 12 years at a rate of $11,700,000 per year ($9,360,000 Section 5307/$2,265,000 State 1514/$75,000 Local).

On February 3, 2020, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced full apportionments for FY2020 Section 5307, Section 5337, and Section 5339 funding. In accordance with the FAST-ACT funding authorization and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, SEPTA is requesting changes to FY20 funding.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

f. **PA19-117: Debt Service (MPMS #60275), SEPTA**

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the Debt Service (DS) phase of the Debt Service program (MPMS #60275) in FY20 by $8,455,000 (program total changes from $51,140,000 to $59,595,000 in FY20) and to add the Bus Purchase Program Debt Service to the description of the program. This increase will allow SEPTA to increase annual debt service payment going forward in the amount of $11,700,000 ($9,360,000 Section 5307/$2,265,000 State 1514/$75,000 Local) for 12 years.

SEPTA is requesting amendments to the Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) and the Debt Service Program (MPMS #60275) in order to add $120,000,000 of loan funds to the Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) and provide for the requisite total $140,000,000 repayment (principal plus interest) in the Debt Service Program (MPMS #60275). The borrowing will support the ongoing procurement of 525 New Flyer 40-foot buses. SEPTA will repay the loan over 12 years at a rate of $11,700,000 per year ($9,360,000 Section 5307/$2,265,000 State 1514/$75,000 Local).

On February 3, 2020, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced full apportionments for FY2020 Section 5307, Section 5337, and Section 5339 funding. In accordance with the FAST-ACT funding authorization and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, SEPTA is requesting changes to FY20 funding for several projects, including many that are Administrative Actions and contribute to these funding changes.
Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

Mr. Seymour noted that two public comments were submitted. One public comment was submitted prior to the Board meeting from Claudia Crane of Philadelphia on action item 2e. Ms. Crane commented on the importance of using electric buses and noted how much more energy efficient they are. A response from SEPTA is pending. A public comment was also submitted on action item 2e during the meeting from Ann Dixon who noted that arrangements have already been made for the bus purchase and she asked what financial plans have been made for the bus purchases. Catherine Popp-McDonough, SEPTA, noted that someone will get back to Ms. Dixon shortly.

**MOTION** by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. Shifflet that the Board adopt the following TIP action:

PA19-116, SEPTA’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the Purchase (PUR) phase of the Bus Purchase Program (MPMS #90512) by an overall amount of $41,795,000. Funding shifts will be made accordingly: adding $107,838,000 ($3,802,000 Section 5339/$920,000 State 1514/$31,000 Local/$103,085,000 Other) and removing $66,043,000 ($43,376,000 Section 5307/$20,579,000 State 1514/$686,000 Local) all in FY20, and adding $1,122,000 (Section 5307/$271,000 State 1514/$9,000 Local) in FY21.

PA19-117, SEPTA’s request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the Debt Service (DS) phase of the Debt Service program (MPMS #60275) in FY20 by $8,455,000 (program total changes from $51,140,000 to $59,595,000 in FY20) and to add the Bus Purchase Program Debt Service to the description of the program. This will provide enough resources for SEPTA to increase annual debt service payment in the amount of $11,700,000 ($9,360,000 Section 5307/$2,265,000 State 1514/$75,000 Local).

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

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

3. **One Minute Reports**

Sean Thompson, NJ DCA, noted that we are in uncharted territory and that NJ DCA is preparing and building capacity for online offerings.

Mike Russo, NJDOT, thanked DVRPC for arranging today’s meeting. Mr. Russo reported that NJDOT is continuing with essential functions, construction is ongoing and
the capital construction program is ongoing. There was a Safety Summit scheduled for April 21 but it is being postponed.

Rudy Rodas, NJ Governor’s Office, introduced himself to the Board and thanked DVRPC for setting up the meeting.

Mark Remsa, Burlington County, wished everyone well and noted that most of his staff is still coming in to the office.

Theresa Ziegler, Gloucester County, reported that some of the county’s staff is working from home but many are still going in to the office.

Leslie Floyd, Mercer County, reported that her staff is working from home and that their building is closed. Ms. Floyd thanked DVRPC for setting up today’s call.

Nedia Ralston, PA Governor’s Policy and Planning Office, reported that the shutdown of non-essential businesses can be confusing and if anyone needs more information on the waivers for this she noted that she is happy to provide this. Ms. Ralston wished everyone well and to stay safe.

Larry Shifflet, PennDOT, reported that though there is a stop on construction projects things will continue in the future. Mr. Shifflet thanked DVRPC for holding this meeting.

Gina Burritt, PA Governor’s Office, thanked DVRPC for utilizing technology and holding this meeting.

Bob Harvie, Bucks County, introduced himself and reported that he is taking over representation for Commissioner Marseglia. He wished everyone well and to stay safe.

Brian O’Leary, Chester County, reported that the county is working remotely. He wished everyone well and to stay safe.

Kevin Madden, Delaware County, reported that he really appreciates all the collaboration with the various counties. Mr. Madden expressed his gratitude to Chester County for providing their public health assistance to the county since Delaware County does not have a public health department.

Matt Edmond, Montgomery County, reported that Montgomery County is doing its best to provide updates continually. There is a drive thru testing site and the county is continuing to collect data. The county is one of the hot spots for the virus and there have been 219 active cases with an age range of 1 to 95 and an average age range of 48.5 years old.

Chris Puchalsky, City of Philadelphia, reported that the City of Philadelphia is adapting to this crisis and everyone is pulling together. Residents can text updates and more information is available on the website for resources. The bike share system is continuing and there has been more usage near grocery stores.
Catherine Popp-McDonough, SEPTA, reported that SEPTA is only deploying buses with driver shields and plastic seats. Ridership is at a 94 percent ridership reduction on regional rail and a 75 percent decline in transit ridership. They are trying to get a transit relief package into the CARES Bill. This is 100 percent federal funding and this would go to helping with operating expenses. The apportionments would be $647 million in aid and statewide there is $1.1 billion. SEPTA will be holding virtual public meetings on the Operating Budget on April 22 and 27 and a virtual public hearing on the Capital Budget on April 29.

Lou Millan, NJ Transit, reported that most staff are working remotely. Most services in the DVRPC region are operating and enhanced cleaning procedures have been implemented. Ridership is down 88 percent right now and schedule changes continue.

Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, reported that PATCO’s ridership is down 90 percent and that the bridges have gone cashless. PATCO’s schedules are continuing to change and she encouraged everyone to check PATCO’s website for more information.

Brian Goodson, FHWA NJ, reported that the staff is working from home and he thanked DVRPC for organizing the meeting.

Donna Rendeiro, NJ Office for Planning Advocacy, reported that her office has been working with municipalities and holding virtual meetings with partners.

Aliyah Stanger, PA DCED, reported that her office is dealing with the governor’s shutdown and noted that the Working Capital Access program is available for small businesses. If anyone needs more information on waivers for businesses to please let her know.

4. **Executive Director’s Report**

   a. Follow-up from Last Month’s presentations

   Mr. Seymour noted that at last month’s Board meeting there was a presentation on Safety Culture and there was discussion on New York City’s Failure to Yield Law. The Law allows police officers to write tickets for those who failed to yield to bicyclists or pedestrians. If there is a traffic infraction where they failed to yield, fines are issued. This was a city law and since the law was enacted 9,000 summonses were issued where failure to yield was a top violation; of these 50 percent were dismissed.

   There were also some questions about DVRPC’s work with PennDOT on getting bike lanes resurfaced and the schedule for this. So far this has been paid for through an existing engineering contract and is relatively low cost. This process has been working well in terms of counties reviewing the contracts before they come. It is estimated that about five percent of all resurfacing is for bike treatment.
DVRPC also did a presentation on local trip generation near transit-oriented development and it was suggested that we connect with NJTPA. We did contact them but have not had a chance to talk about collaboration on this.

b. NJ CMAQ Funding

Mr. Seymour reported that NJDOT is launching its CMAQ funding opportunity and that roughly $5 million in our region will be available. The application period is open and DVRPC is dedicating $1 million to Circuit Trails projects. The deadline for applications is May 29.

c. Transportation and Climate Initiative

Mr. Seymour called the Board’s attention to the fact that DVRPC signed a support letter for the Transportation and Climate Change Initiative. This is a cap and invest program to support a low carbon transportation program. Mr. Seymour noted that he is happy to share this letter with Board members if they are interested.

d. Transition of RideECO Program

Mr. Seymour noted that after almost 30 years DVRPC is ending its administration of the RideECO program. DVRPC has partnered with Edenred who runs commuter services programs in other cities as well. We will be turning our program over to them next month and we will work with them on the transition.

5. Committee Reports

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

(1) Regional Technical Committee
(2) Information Resources Exchange Group

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m. on a

MOTION by Mr. Puchalsky, seconded by Ms. Floyd.

3/26/2020
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, 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.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

_________________________________
Renee Wise, Recording Secretary