

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS

December 11, 2014

Agenda Item:

2g. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action

**PA15-13: Statewide Pennsylvania Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
Selected Projects, (Various MPMS #s), Region Wide**

From: John Boyle
County: Philadelphia
Zip Code: 19102

Date Received: December 9, 2014

Comment/Question: The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia supports the awarding of TAP dollars. The conformity issue may not be well understood among applicants, what would make a project non-conforming and what does that do to the viability of the project?

Response: Thank you for your comment. The Clean Air Act and Final Conformity Rule identify three groups of projects that are exempt from transportation conformity analysis:

1. Projects exempt from all conformity requirements include specific projects under the categories of safety, mass transit, air quality, and a small group of "other" types that include studies, signage, and planning activities (§93.126)
2. Projects exempt from regional emissions analysis include intersection channelization, and interchange reconfiguration (§93.127), and
3. Traffic Signal Synchronization projects (§93.128)

Most of the TAP projects awarded in the DVRPC region are included in this list of "exempt" project types.

Two of the projects that were awarded TAP funding include road diets which remove travel lanes and change the capacity of regionally significant facilities. Since removing travel lanes is not an exempt project type listed in Table 2. of 40 CFR 93.126, and since these projects are being implemented on regionally significant roadways serving business and employment centers, these projects must be included in the transportation conformity analysis before the projects are added to the TIP. The inclusion of these projects in the conformity analysis does not mean that projects are "not conforming" to the state implementation plan to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. It simply means that those projects have the potential to change, even by a small amount, the regional emissions analysis that was previously conducted on the PA TIP and require a conformity determination.

DVRPC does not anticipate that these projects will adversely affect the transportation conformity finding and intend to run the analysis on the projects in the PA TIP in the spring of 2015 along with other new regionally significant and non-exempt projects being added to the TIP. The timing of this determination will not adversely affect the scheduling or implementation of this project.

3a. Work Program Amendment: Building the Circuit

From: Cyndi Steiner

County: Essex

Zip Code: 07043

Date Received: December 3, 2014

Comment/Question: On behalf of the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition, we support amending the work program to include the Circuit, and the authorization of a contract with the William Penn Foundation.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

From: Cyndi Steiner

County: Essex

Zip Code: 07043

Date Received: December 9, 2014

Comment/Question: Commenting on behalf of the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition: The NJ Bike & Walk Coalition strongly favors this project and we thank the William Penn Foundation for their continuing support to fully develop the Circuit. We ask that the four New Jersey Counties use a prioritization process to develop a regional trail priority list and encourage DVRPC staff to facilitate the development of a process.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

From: John Boyle

County: Philadelphia

Zip Code: 19102

Date Received: December 9, 2014

Comment/Question: The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia strongly favors this project and we thank the William Penn Foundation for their continuing support to fully develop the Circuit. We ask that the four New Jersey Counties use a prioritization process to develop a regional trail priority list and encourage DVRPC staff to facilitate the development of a process.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

From: Matthew Norris

County: Camden

Zip Code: 08103

Date Received: December 10, 2014

Comment/Question: Tri-State Transportation Campaign strongly favors this project and thanks the William Penn Foundation for their generous support of the Circuit regional trail network. We urge Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Mercer counties to work with DVRPC and local partners to develop a trail segment prioritization process. By working together, the four New Jersey counties can better move forward with the planning and design of individual trail segments that advance the goal of completing a regional network.

Response: Thank you for your comment.