



Environmental Justice
WORKGROUP
dvrpc

May 8, 2014 EJ Work Group Highlights

Attendees:

Nicholas Baker	Philadelphia Streets Department
Eudora Burton	Philadelphia Nurse Family partnership
Annemarie Byrnes	Milligan Co.
J.R. Capasso	City of Trenton
Justin Dula	Delaware County Planning Department
Paul Glover	
Joe Henwood	Chester Business Association/Binnacle Group LLC
Sandra Johnson	Camden Redevelopment Authority
Jasper Jones	UB EA Community Trust, Inc.
Dick Linderman	Architect
Peter Meyer	EP Systems Group
Chris Mohr	Community Design Collaborative
Katie Monroe	Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
Hamil Pearsall	Temple University
Gillian Pollard	Urban League of Philadelphia
Aissia Richardson	Uptown Entertainment Development Corporation
Nick Saunders	Ethical Society UNA-GP
Jerome Shabazz	Overbrook Environmental Education Center/JASTECH
Diane Sicotte	Drexel University
Jay Vasell	Chester Business Association/PA Resources Council
John Waffenschmidt	CVA
Carl Watson	
Alice Wright	Pennsylvania DEP

Upcoming Events, Outreach, and Recent Publications:

- DVRPC has recently updated its Title VI Compliance Plan, available at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/reports/TM14010.pdf>
- Every year, DVRPC published “Environmental Justice at DVRPC”, which describes the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage method, DVRPC’s regional technical analysis, and highlights DVRPC projects, plans, and programs that may have a significant EJ or public participation element: <http://www.dvrpc.org/reports/TM14006.pdf>.
- Planning for a Healthy Region flyer shows how the policies in DVRPC’s long-range plan affect health in the region.

- DVRPC recently released countywide analysis for the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage. County thresholds for each of the Indicators of Potential Disadvantage were developed.
- The DVRPC Planner's Methodology is designed to provide guidance to staff in meeting Title VI and EJ mandates and structuring a public participation plan at the project or study level. Available online at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/reports/TM14005.pdf>
- Upcoming Events:
 - May 15, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.: Facing the Future event: http://www.dvrpc.org/email/2014-04_FacingTheFuture.htm
 - May 16, 2014 @ 10:00 AM: Healthy Communities Task Force Meeting: <http://www.dvrpc.org/health/>
 - June 5, 2014 @ 9:00 AM: Improving Air Quality in Latino Communities Roundtable
 - June 26, 2014 @ 4:00 P.M.: Public Meeting for FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Connections Long-Range Plan Amendments, and Conformity Determination for the TIP and the Plan

Presentations:

Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Public Participation in the Regional Planning Process...*Jane Meconi, AICP, DVRPC Public Involvement Manager*

This presentation provided an overview of the mandates guiding DVRPC's Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Public Participation programming. Several federal mandates guide public participation at DVRPC: Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice (EJ), and public participation mandates within the current transportation legislation. Public Participation is an integral part of DVRPC's work, and the Commission consistently strives to expand outreach and seek new opportunities to engage the residents of the greater Philadelphia region.

For more information on DVRPC's Title VI, EJ, and public participation activities, see www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved.

The Future of Scenario Planning at DVRPC...*Brett Fusco, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner*

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia region, DVRPC recognizes that equity, opportunity, and creating a sustainable future for all residents are the core focus of our mission.

Brett Fusco, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, presented the future of Scenario Planning. Scenario planning plays an important role in the long-range planning process. It can foster strategic thinking about the future, help deal with uncertainty, improve decision-making, and engage stakeholders and the public in the visioning process.

Previously, DVRPC has conducted four scenario planning exercises and launched an online scenario application, "Choices & Voices" at <http://www.dvrpc.org/choicesandvoices/>.

DVRPC staff is currently reviewing the Commission's scenario planning experience and how it can improve its practices, including:

- improving collaboration with regional stakeholders in scenario work;

- broadening public outreach and using social media to reach diverse constituents;
- continuing to build on the Choices & Voices framework, adding new options and allowing for more variance; and
- identifying action steps to achieve a desired future or to better prepare for drivers of change.

As part of developing the scenarios, DVRPC staff will facilitate a scenario working group to guide the effort. The goal will be to form a collaborative group that can:

- blend perspectives from the transportation, land use, economic, environmental, and health fields;
- challenge conventional wisdom and convene outside experts;
- brainstorm global drivers of change and regional game changers;
- analyze 4-5 differentiated scenarios;
- identify action steps; and
- guide public outreach efforts.

Meeting attendees participated in a discussion of ideas on potential regional gamechangers, and other proposals that will have significant impacts on the region and its people:

- *Sea level and climate change. Must plan for sea level rise, but also storm surges.*
- *Fracking peaked last year. Other fracking issues: transport of liquefied natural gas—more pipelines, transport of gas (or oil) by rail may be very dangerous for adjacent communities around rail lines.*
- *Carless households are an opportunity to have more people take transit and ride bicycles.*
- *Discussion of generations: millennials and their impact, particularly in regard to cities; Baby Boomers: people are living longer and the over 65 population is growing. This group also faces a lack employment opportunities and potential for a rise in poverty.*
 - *Aging in place? More nursing homes? A return for older adults to urban areas?*
- *Efficient agricultural practices can be translated locally. Vacant lot agriculture in cities may combat rising energy and transportation costs.*
- *Hollowing out of the middle class—an increasing concentration of wealthy and lower-income individuals.*
- *The “middle class” will become the “mutual class”: a sharing economy, less money used per household.*
- *Energy efficiency—many low-income individuals cannot update their home to be more energy efficient (better insulation, etc.)*
- *Bike sharing should increase, with a focus on access and equity throughout the city and region.*
- *Continuing failure and vacancy of suburban malls and strip malls- how do we repurpose auto-oriented development, particularly in the suburbs? Mixed use development may be the answer.*
- *Rebuild trolley lines and reuse existing infrastructure.*
- *Streamline transportation funding for both transit and roads.*
- *Creating more multimodal opportunities- trolleys to trails, last mile connectors, locating bikeshares. Must coordinate different modes.*
- *How will the potential Philadelphia Gas Works sale impact the region?*
- *What are the political implications for future development and projects? Where is the funding coming from?*

- *In selecting projects for these regional plans, there should be transparency and a standard evaluation process to show how resources are invested.*

Moving forward, participants recommended several potential outlets to continue engagement with the EJ community: in-person meetings, community radio, non-English outreach.

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) 238-2871 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.