

DVRPC NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DVRPC TO ALLOT TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS AND REVISE LONG-RANGE PLAN

DVRPC believes that it is the responsibility of each citizen to become involved in regional issues and to play a role in the decision-making process. However, we also believe that it is our responsibility to provide as many opportunities as possible for residents to be informed and aware of the decisions that will affect the future of this region.

In keeping with this policy, DVRPC opened a public comment period from May 6 to June 5, 2002 to provide an opportunity for citizens to review and address the Draft FY 2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey (FY2003 - FY2005) and for Pennsylvania (FY2003 - FY2006); and for Amendments to the Year 2025 Long-Range Plan.

“As the agency that funnels federal dollars into the Delaware Valley, the Commission has been seeking input from the public...”

As the agency that funnels federal dollars into the Delaware Valley, the Commission has been seeking input from the public regarding how to prioritize transportation projects and how to move forward with the region's plan for the future. As the short-range list of transportation improvements, the FY 2003

TIP lists more than 500 projects worth almost \$3.5 billion in the Pennsylvania portion of the region over the next four years. At the same time, more than 200 projects totaling \$910 million are on the table in New Jersey for the next three years. Both TIPs contain a wide variety of projects that will improve the entire transportation system, such as:

- PA-413 Corridor improvements and repair/replacement of 40 bridges in Bucks County;
- US 322 corridor improvements and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) on I-476 in Delaware County;
- Restoration and reconstruction of Route 1, Chester County;
- Reconstruction of PA-309 in Montgomery County;
- Reconstruction of I-95 and pedestrian streetscape improvements at 30th Street Station, Philadelphia;
- Frankford Transportation Center (Philadelphia) Reconstruction, SEPTA;
- New connector between I-295 and the New Jersey Turnpike in Burlington County;
- Collingswood and Berlin Circle improvements in Camden County;
- Intersection and roadway improvements along Route 47 in Gloucester County;
- Bike and safety improvements along Route 29, Mercer County; and
- Overhaul of PATCO rail cars by DRPA.

“DVRPC believes that it is the responsibility of each citizen to become involved in regional issues and to play a role in the decision-making process.”

The Commission's Year 2025 Long-Range Plan, *Horizons*, which was adopted in April of 2001, was also up for review to reflect the Commission's adoption of revised population forecasts for the region as well as the addition of three new studies to the Plan: PA Turnpike Capacity Improvements, Bus Rapid Transit in the Princeton Area, and the Potential for Expanded Transit for the

Story continued on page 6.

IN THE SUMMER 2002 ISSUE:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▼ Leaders Tout Rail Freight Industry | 2 |
| ▼ Happy Trails: Commission Sponsors "Tales of Trails Conference" | 3 |
| ▼ DVRPC Focuses Attention on Previously "Ignored Communities" | 4 |
| ▼ Take Our Daughters to Work Day | 4 |
| ▼ Ozone Action Kicks off 7th Year of Drive for Cleaner Air | 5 |



LEADERS TOUT RAIL FREIGHT INDUSTRY

TRAIN TRIP GRABS CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT

In May, more than 200 railroad professionals converged upon the Delaware Valley for the **2002 Pennsylvania Joint Rail Freight Seminar**.

Hosted by DVRPC, the Pennsylvania Rail Freight Advisory Committee and the Keystone State Railroad Association, the three-day conference featured expert speakers, exhibits, and scholarship awards. The conference theme, *A Proud History, A Secure Future*, set the context for celebrating the state's rich freight railroading heritage while examining tough security issues in the post 9/11 world.

The major highlight for the conference attendees was a four-hour train tour of rail, port, and industrial facilities in Philadelphia. The train included two historic locomotives, a business car used by several U.S. Presidents, and a lounge car fully stocked with soft pretzels. The excursion attracted elected officials and was augmented with narration and a special trip book prepared by DVRPC.

The Pennsylvania Joint Rail Freight Seminar is conducted annually at various locations around the state and is widely regarded as the premiere conference of its kind in the nation. The seminar joins the state's freight railroads (the most of any state in the country with 68) with PennDOT, the MPOs, and others with a strong interest in the industry. First held in 1991, this year's event marked the twelfth seminar.

“...we need a healthy, robust rail freight industry.”

—John J. Coscia, DVRPC Executive Director

Summing up the sentiments of many seminar attendees, **DVRPC Executive Director, John J. Coscia**, stated: “Since the days of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the
Story continued on page 3.




Senior railroad executives who fielded audience questions at a Town Hall Forum included (l-r) **Fred Green** of the Canadian Pacific Railway, **Dan Mazur** of the Norfolk Southern Corporation, **Don Shanis** of DVRPC (facilitator), **Randy Evans** of CSX Transportation, and **Charlie Marshall** of Genesee & Wyoming Inc.




DVRPC Executive Director **John Coscia** (right) welcomes keynote speaker **Senator Arlen Specter** of Pennsylvania to the 2002 Pennsylvania Joint Rail Freight Seminar hosted by DVRPC. Other speakers included DRPA Chairman **Manny Stamatakis**, the FRA's **Curt Secretst**, and **Steve Sullivan** of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association.




HAPPY TRAILS: COMMISSION SPONSORS "TALES OF TRAILS CONFERENCE"

 Pictured ABOVE is locomotive 5711A, restored to its 1952 splendor in Tuscan Red. The locomotive was loaned by local rail champion **Bennet Levin** and was used for a train inspection of Philadelphia freight facilities.

Commonwealth has been a vital center of rail freight activity. This conference is a terrific way to increase the visibility of the industry and to encourage public-private solutions to transportation challenges. Simply put, we need a healthy, robust rail freight industry."

Copies of many of the formal presentations made at the seminar can be accessed through the transportation section of the DVRPC webpage (www.dvrpc.org). 



 PennDOT Deputy Secretary **Liz Voras** provides her thoughts on **A Proud History, A Secure Future**, the theme for the 2002 conference on rail freight. More than 200 people from across Pennsylvania attended the annual event. Expert panels explored topics such as security, funding, corridor planning, and customer initiatives.

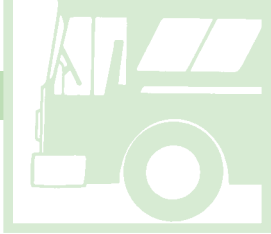
In communities across the region, growing interest in hiking, biking and walking has fueled a new appreciation for off-road trails, paths and bike lanes. And, municipalities are blazing new trails in response to the growing demand. In Montgomery County, for instance, more than 70 miles of trails are under design or in construction. Philadelphia is on its way to installing 300 miles of bike lanes on the city's road network. To add momentum to this emerging trend, DVRPC organized a special conference—**Tales of Trails**. The event was held on May 9th in West Conshohocken, PA.

"In communities across the region, growing interest in hiking, biking and walking has fueled a new appreciation for off-road trails, paths and bike lanes."

The conference brought together about 50 municipal officials, planners and advocates to learn, network and share resources. Guest speakers and panelists from throughout the region shared their stories of success and insights. Luncheon speaker **Ken Edmonds** of the **East Coast Greenway Alliance** spoke about his organization's ambitious plans to create a continuous trail from Maine to Florida. Local trail expert and architect **Bob Thomas** led a group on a tour of the Schuylkill River Trail.

More information is available on existing and planned trails in the region by visiting www.dvrpc.org/mapping.htm





DVRPC FOCUSES ATTENTION ON PREVIOUSLY "IGNORED COMMUNITIES"

Focusing on *Revitalizing Older Suburbs* proved to be a subject of great interest to a diverse audience.

Almost 300 attendees packed the conference area of the Philadelphia Marriott West in Conshohocken, PA, on April 30th to hear strategies to revive communities. DVRPC, along with Temple University Ambler's new Center for Sustainable Communities, were co-hosts of the one-day conference devoted to a theme of *Building from Strength*.

"...these older communities have not received enough attention. They have been the ignored communities for too long."

The event examined local suburbs such as **Bristol, Chester Heights, Yeadon, Pennsauken, Downingtown, Merchantville, Lansdale, Doylestown** and **West Chester**.

DVRPC Assistant Executive Director,

Barry Seymour, noted "these older communities have not received enough attention. They have been the ignored communities for too long." Attendees included elected leaders, planners, architects, affordable-housing advocates, redevelopment experts and state government policy officials.

Several attendees, including East Norriton Township supervisor **F. Bud Denner** left the conference with valuable information such as how to reinvigorate once-vibrant commercial districts. Denner noted that his township would like to capture some of the shopper traffic that passes through on the way to King of Prussia, recreating the retail growth they once knew.

Much of Denner's information and inspiration commenced with **speaker Judith Rawson**. Rawson, Mayor of the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio described the consortium of 30 older Cleveland suburban communities organized to stimulate reinvestment in their towns.

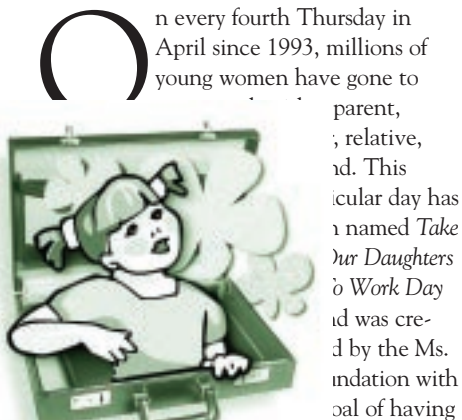
Highlighting the seminar was the

release of the Brookings Institute's latest report on older towns, *Valuing America's First Suburbs*. The report addresses the assets and challenges of older suburbs in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions of the country, and provides recommendations for federal, state and local officials to improve community competitiveness.

Bruce Katz, Director of the Center for Urban and Metropolitan Policy of the Brookings Institution cited Pennsylvania and New Jersey's fragmented political structure of municipal government as an impediment to action. Within the nine-county Philadelphia metropolitan area exists 352 municipalities, each with the power to make land-use decisions. Katz urged local officials to start practicing the new land-use laws passed by Pennsylvania in 2000.

DVRPC believes that it is only by putting these new laws into practice that this region can promote the goals of less sprawl and congestion and better quality of life. 🌱

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY



On every fourth Thursday in April since 1993, millions of young women have gone to parent, relative, and this particular day has named *Take Our Daughters to Work Day* was created by the Ms. Foundation with a goal of having



DVRPC welcomes young women from University City High School in West Philadelphia. Above, DVRPC Executive Director John Coscia, poses with his "daughters" for the day.

young women recognize their value in the workplace. On April 25, 2002, DVRPC hosted this event, welcoming four young women from University City High School in West Philadelphia. The young women were each paired with a "mentor", a DVRPC employee who spoke with them about their future goals and about their own respective roles at DVRPC.

At the end of the event-filled day, each "daughter" left with a certificate of completion of the program... and a greater vision of the broad horizons in career options for women. 🌱



OZONE ACTION EVENT KICKS OFF 7TH YEAR OF DRIVE FOR CLEANER AIR

Air quality in the Delaware Valley received considerable attention last month as over 75 state and local officials, environmental advocates, business partners and members of the media gathered for a common goal – *cleaner air for the Delaware Valley region.*

Highlighting this year's Ozone Action Kick-Off Event was the Ozone Action Partnership's participation in the Tour de Sol, the Great American Green Transportation Festival – an alternative-fuel car road rally that came through Philadelphia on May 16th. Held from 11am to 2pm on the Ben Franklin Parkway, this event, sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), showcased energy efficient and alternative fuel vehicles that can help to improve this region's air quality. The Ozone Action Partnership was proud to sponsor two of the competition's entrants, West Philadelphia High School and Cinnaminson High School.

“Administered by DVRPC, the summer-long Ozone Action Program alerts the public to the hazards of ground-level ozone and forecasts Ozone Action Days when levels are unhealthy.”

At the conclusion of the Tour de Sol event, Ozone Action Partners and dignitaries from Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey rode a SEPTA bus to the Ozone Action program's main kickoff – a reception at the Independence Visitors Center at 6th and Market Streets, Philadelphia. Participants heard **Bill Ryan**, DVRPC's ozone forecaster, discuss the

challenge of predicting ground-level ozone. He also announced the first Ozone Action forecast of the new season.

Awards were presented to Ozone Action partners for outstanding contributions to the partnership and to members of the media for exceptional coverage of ozone issues. Recognized at this year's event were: **DART First State**, **Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association**, **James Salvaggio** (special recognition), **6 ABC**, **WPVI**, and **Radio Y-100**.

The Ozone Action Partnership is a coalition of more than 150 business, government and environmental groups, representing Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, that work collaboratively

to inform the public of ways in which to improve and maintain the region's air quality. The Partnership's kick-off event launched the seventh season of the multistate Ozone Action Program. Administered by DVRPC, the summer-long Ozone Action Program alerts the public to the hazards of ground-level ozone and forecasts Ozone Action Days when levels are unhealthy.

Additional information about the Ozone Action Program, as well as printed materials are available by contacting DVRPC at 215-592-1800. A daily air quality forecast is available via the Ozone Action Hotline at **(800) 872-7261**. Or visit the DVRPC Web site at www.dvrpc.org.



On a Clear Day... You can talk about the ground-level ozone problem but not have to experience the bad side effects. Discussing the health problems associated with ozone are (from left) **William F. Ryan**, meteorologist to the Ozone Action Partnership and affiliated with Penn State University; **John J. Coscia**, DVRPC Executive Director; **Charles Pietarinen**, Chief, Bureau of Air Monitoring, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP); and **Samuel Wolfe**, Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Regulation, NJDEP.



No "Coaching" Needed... Appearing at the Ozone Action Kick-Off Event with Coach Ozone are the 2002 Ozone Action award winners (from left): **DART First State**, accepted by **Stephen Kingsberry**; Special Recognition, **James Salvaggio**; **6 ABC WPVI**, accepted by **Sally Ann Mosey**; **John Magee**, SEPTA and Ozone Action Board Chair; and **Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association**, accepted by **Sandra Brillhart**.

●●DVRPC TO ALLOT... (cont. from page 1) ●●

Delaware River Waterfront Areas. In addition, three highway widening projects in Montgomery County will be transferred to the studies list. Finally, the revised Plan will reflect updates to the Regional Aviation System Plan.

To provide the public with an opportunity to comment on these documents, DVRPC held public meetings in Blackwood, NJ, and Phoenixville and Philadelphia, PA. In addition, copies of the draft TIP and changes to the Long-Range Plan were available for review at numerous libraries throughout the region, as well as in DVRPC's library, and on the DVRPC website at www.dvrpc.org. (DVRPC's Board adopted the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as the changes to the Long-Range Plan, at its meeting in late June).

Watch for a special issue of DVRPC News – in the mail to you in late August, 2002. Highlights of the Commission's recent Celebration of Excellence Annual Dinner will be featured as well as winners of the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grants.



DVRPC NEWS

VOLUME 23, NO. 2

PUBLISHED BY THE DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
THE BOURSE BUILDING
111 SOUTH INDEPENDENCE MALL EAST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106-2515

PHONE: 215-592-1800
FAX: 215-592-9125
WEBSITE: www.dvrpc.org

DVRPC NEWS

Published by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office
Bucks County
Chester County
Delaware County
Montgomery County
City of Chester
City of Philadelphia

State of New Jersey
New Jersey Dept. of Transportation
New Jersey Dept. of Community Affairs
Burlington County
Camden County
Gloucester County
Mercer County
City of Camden
City of Trenton

2001-2002 BOARD OFFICERS

Jerald R. Cureton, Esq., Chairman
Robert E. Baker, Jr., Vice Chairman
John J. Coscia, Executive Director

Charles H. Martin, Secretary
Thomas Gurick, Treasurer

DVRPC News is funded through grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, and DVRPC's member governments.

Candace B. Snyder, Editor
Kendall Miller, Jenny Ruth and
Megan Sandora, CoEditors

Design: Marketing Design Inc.
Photography: Raymond Holman, Jr.



Since its establishment in 1965, DVRPC has been instrumental in ensuring the orderly growth of the bi-state region. As the federally-funded metropolitan planning organization, DVRPC also provides data and consulting services to public and private sector organizations, and fosters cooperation among all levels of government. Shown above is the nine-county Delaware Valley region.