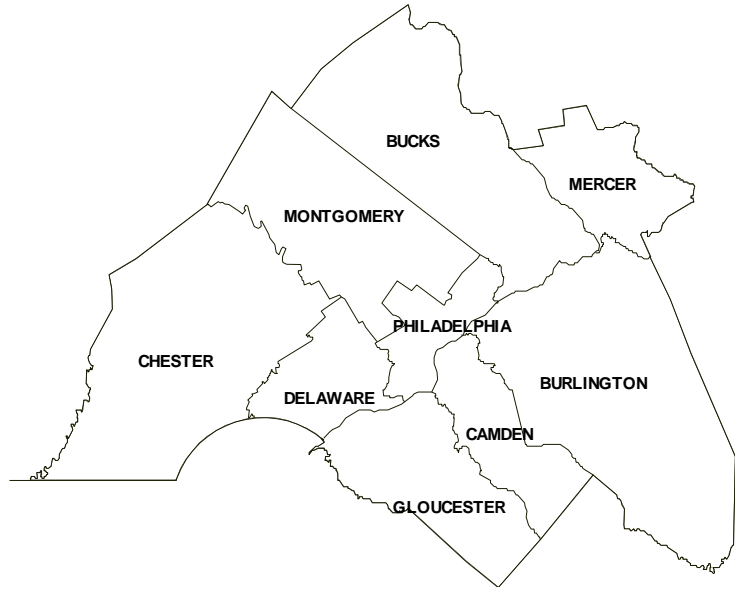


DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Fiscal Year 2016 Planning Work Program

INTRODUCTION

The Fiscal Year 2016 Planning Work Program for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission incorporates the planning programs and support activities of DVRPC and its member governments within the nine-county DVRPC region for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The Work Program is developed annually by the DVRPC Board with its planning partners to reflect the region's short-range planning needs.

Federal laws and regulations require the formation of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for each urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 to coordinate a comprehensive, coordinated and continuing transportation planning program. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is the designated MPO for the nine-county metropolitan region that includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties and the City of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer counties in New Jersey.



DVRPC's mission is to unite the region's elected officials, planning professionals and the public with a common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment and enhancing the economy.

DVRPC emphasizes technical assistance and services and conducts high-priority studies for member state and local governments. The Programs and Projects outlined in this Planning Work Program seek to address priority emphasis areas as identified by our federal and state partners. Examples of these emphasis areas include the following:

- Programs and Projects should strive to incorporate MAP-21 requirements where applicable;

- Include actions which foster a performance-based planning approach which results in recommendations that will operate, maintain and improve a safe, efficient, and reliable multimodal transportation network. These actions should include involvement with USDOT and state DOTs on the development and implementation of selected performance measures;
- Promote cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across state boundaries;
- Develop “Ladders of Opportunity” which provide access to essential services as part of the transportation planning process;
- Improve traffic operations through Intelligent Transportation System upgrades and enhanced multijurisdictional and multidisciplinary coordination;
- Pursue congestion relief strategies such as Transportation Demand Management (TDM), low cost operational improvements and Complete Streets implementation;
- Continue to enhance the project development/problem intake process and local public agency project delivery;
- Improve primary freight corridors and hubs for more efficient access and improved system performance;
- Explore risk management strategies for improving the resilience of the transportation infrastructure against the impacts of extreme weather;
- Include planning activities that support land use and transportation linkages;
- Provide assistance to the state DOT in the delivery of the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP);
- Maintain and/or update the region’s Long-Range Plan, TIPs, Travel Demand Model, Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), Congestion Management Process, Public Participation Plan, and Title VI Plan as appropriate; and
- Leverage additional funding sources (both public and private) and promote partnerships.

MAP-21 & CAAA

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the region, DVRPC must respond to the planning requirements of two federal laws: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA). MAP-21, adopted in 2012, continued many of the regional transportation planning programs first advanced in ISTEA, TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU. However, with MAP-21 set to expire on September 30, 2014, the US Congress passed an extension of this legislation on July 31, 2014 that continues the federal surface transportation programs and funding until May 31, 2015.

Under MAP-21, certain highway and transit funds are to be administered by a region's MPO, and the MPO is a partner in the planning for the use of all transportation funds. MAP-21 also requires the MPO to produce and oversee a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the region's short-range investment plan, which must be consistent and serve to implement the region's long-range plan. The TIP prioritizes all of the Delaware Valley's transportation related projects within the constraints of federal funding that Pennsylvania and New Jersey can reasonably expect to receive within four years.

MAP-21 identifies eight national performance goals that must be considered in the metropolitan planning process:

- Economic Vitality
- Safety
- Security
- Accessibility and Mobility of People and Freight
- Environmental and Energy Sustainability and Planning Consistency
- Enhanced Integration and System Connectivity
- Efficient System Management and Operation
- Preservation of the Existing System

The requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) establish a program and set a timetable for improving the nation's air quality. The Philadelphia area has been classified as a non-attainment area for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter and must attain the mandated air quality standards for these factors. Although the responsibility for attaining the standards falls directly on the states, DVRPC is responsible for a key role in developing many of the programs relating to air quality attainment. The projects in the TIP and the Long-Range Transportation Plan must conform to the states' air quality implementation plans. These projects must not lead to any further degradation of the region's air quality, but, instead improve air quality and move the region toward meeting the federal clean air standards.

Comprehensive Planning and Other Programs

DVRPC's annual Planning Work Program is also defined in part by the planning needs of the city and county member governments and additional regional needs, such as those identified in plans like the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The purpose of the New Jersey State Plan is to coordinate planning activities and establish statewide planning objectives based on the following 8 goals: 1) revitalize the state's cities and towns, 2) conserve the state's natural resources and systems, 3) promote beneficial economic growth, development and renewal for all residents of New Jersey, 4) protect the environment, prevent and clean-up pollution, 5) provide adequate public facilities and services at a reasonable cost, 6) provide adequate housing at a reasonable cost, 7) preserve and enhance areas with historic, cultural, scenic, open space and recreational value, and 8) ensure sound and integrated planning and implementation statewide. Planning activities to address each of these goals are encompassed within many of the Work Program's Major Program Areas highlighted on pages 11 through 16. Major Program Areas which relate to achieving these goals include: Regional Forum (Goal 8), Title VI and Environmental Justice (Goal 3, 8), Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Program (Goal 5, 8), Smart Growth (Goal 1, 3, 6, 8), Economic Analysis and Coordination (Goal 3, 8), Strategies for Older Communities (Goal 1, 3, 6, 7, 8), Energy and Climate Change Initiatives (Goal 2, 4, 8), Long-Range Plan (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8), Air Quality Planning (Goal 4, 8), Environmental Planning (Goal 2, 4, 5, 7, 8), Transportation Improvement Program (Goal 5, 8), Performance Based Planning and Asset Management (Goal 5, 8).

The member governments' contribution to a Comprehensive Planning fund provides support for DVRPC to address key issues of regional significance that would not otherwise be eligible for federal and state transportation funding. The Comprehensive Planning program supports initiatives such as open space and environmental planning projects, economic development planning, housing analysis, and local or regional land use planning. Many programs, while broad in scope, affect transportation conditions in the region. For example, DVRPC's TCDI program (Transportation and Community Development Initiative) is an important effort whereby DVRPC provides planning grants, based on the competitive review of proposals, to counties and municipalities, to support projects that link revitalization, economic development and transportation needs.

DVRPC also responds to the needs of other partners, including state and federal agencies, operating authorities, as well as nonprofit foundations and organizations. Consequently, DVRPC annually undertakes a number of special projects funded under a variety of programs to address pressing regional issues. DVRPC continues to implement programs like Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia, which is aimed at growing, revitalizing, and supporting the region's older suburbs and urban neighborhoods; coordination with the region's environmental protection and open space organizations and reporting on the region's locally funded open space programs; and continuing food system planning and coordination activities. DVRPC continued involvement in PennDOT's Linking Planning and NEPA initiative activities, meetings and

program tasks. DVRPC also continued energy, climate change and resiliency initiatives that included coordination and facilitation, analyses, management tool development and technical assistance to local governments.

In FY 2015, staff initiated necessary work to amend the region's Long Range Plan, *Connections 2040*, to account for the additional revenue expected to the region as a result of Act 89 in Pennsylvania. Complementary and supportive initiatives continued, including the development of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, planning for transit system improvements, advancing transportation operations and safety projects, and responding to many other needs of DVRPC's member governments and agencies.

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

DVRPC, as the regional MPO, has the lead responsibility to ensure that the transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with federal and state regulations. Several other agencies, however, also play key roles in the transportation planning process, as discussed below.

State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) — DVRPC works cooperatively with the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Departments of Transportation (PennDOT and NJDOT) as well as the Delaware and Maryland DOTs in carrying out all of its transportation and air quality planning activities. PennDOT and NJDOT representatives serve on all transportation related committees, as well as the DVRPC Board. Delaware and Maryland transportation departments serve on the committee responsible for coordinating transportation-related air quality issues.

The state DOTs are responsible for a number of activities that affect the metropolitan planning process. They are charged with development of statewide long-range plans, which include coordination with the long-range transportation plan developed by DVRPC. Each state DOT also develops a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which must embody the appropriate sections of DVRPC's regional TIP. Accordingly, both state DOTs participate actively in the process by which projects are prioritized and included in DVRPC's TIP.

The state DOTs have the lead responsibility for developing the statewide management systems and tools provided for in MAP-21. Development of these systems involves extensive consultation with DVRPC and other MPOs. These systems help DVRPC to identify transportation needs and recommendations for addressing them.

The state DOTs also serve as the primary intermediaries between DVRPC and federal transportation agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

State Departments of Environmental Protection (DEPs) — The Pennsylvania and New Jersey Departments of Environmental Protection have overall responsibility for compliance with the Clean Air Act, including development and adoption of air quality plans known as State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Both agencies rely on DVRPC as the lead planning agency for highway-related control measures for air quality in the metropolitan area. As a result, DVRPC provides transportation data used in emissions inventories and identifies and analyzes potential air quality strategies. State air quality agencies from all four states in the Philadelphia Ozone Nonattainment Area serve on DVRPC's Regional Air Quality Committee.

Transit Operators — The largest provider of public transportation in the Delaware Valley region is the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). Substantial service is also provided by New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJTC), Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO), and Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART). Each is responsible for both the capital needs and service needs in their respective service areas. They are the principal source for identifying transit projects for inclusion in the transit portion of DVRPC's TIP. They also carry out many of the transit planning activities, funded in part through DVRPC's Planning Work Program and through other sources. PATCO, a subsidiary of the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), is responsible for operations management of the transit agency, while DRPA is responsible for planning. All transit operating agencies participate in DVRPC Board and committee meetings.

City and County Planners — The eight counties and four cities that comprise the DVRPC Board and region are key partners in the regional planning process. Using the federal planning funds made available to DVRPC, funding is passed through to the member governments to support their transportation planning work and the extensive coordination needed to prepare and maintain a regional process. Member governments participate in all regional committees, identify and prioritize projects, and provide the local knowledge and perspective needed to integrate with the regional program.

DVRPC's Working Committees

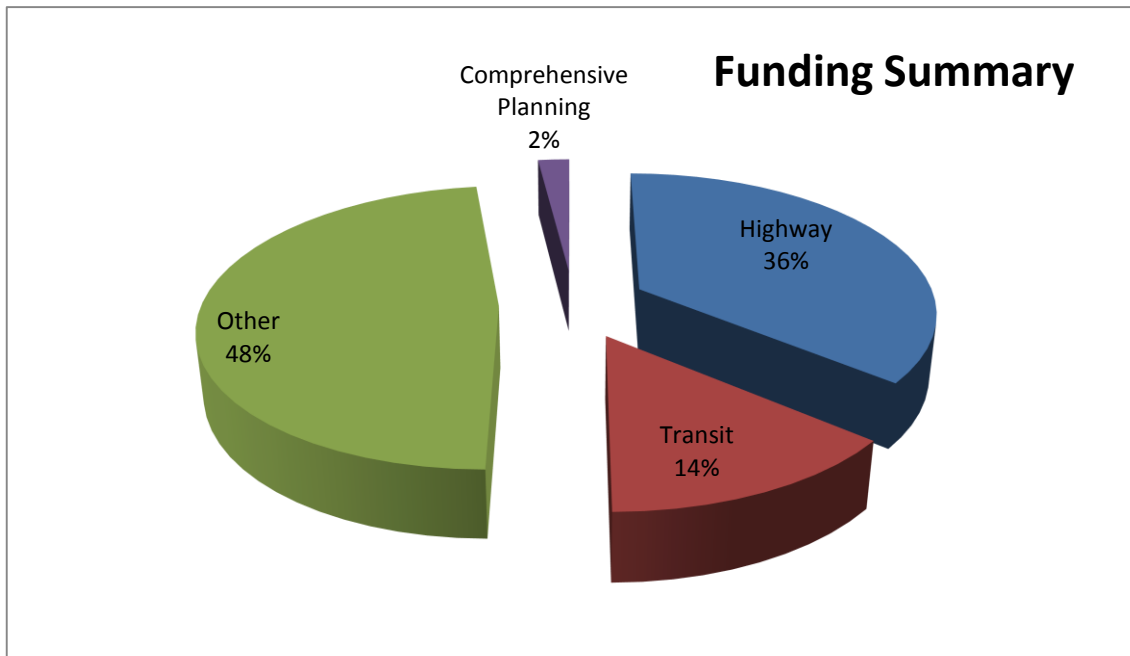
One of the primary roles of DVRPC is to coordinate its planning programs, and those of its member governments, with citizens residing in the region. To accomplish this objective, the DVRPC Board has established several committees to address the regional issues of transportation, land use, air quality, housing, airports, goods movement and citizens' concerns. These committees enhance the regional forum provided by the Board and extend it so that all interested and involved parties can discuss and provide direction for policy on regional planning in the Delaware Valley. The working committees include:

- **The Regional Technical Committee (RTC)**, which serves as an advisory unit, reporting to the DVRPC Board, in reference to: (1) Transportation Planning consisting of a long-range element and a short-range element; (2) the Transportation Improvement Program; (3) the Transportation Planning Work Program consisting of the DVRPC Work Program; (4) all other transportation planning as directed by the Board and (5) other functional planning projects and programs related to the Long-Range Plan and the Work Program.
- **The Public Participation Task Force (PPTF)**, The mission of the PPTF is to provide the public access to the regional planning and decision-making process, to review timely issues, and to advise on public outreach strategies. The Task Force is composed of appointed members, as well as citizens at large, who are selected through an application process.
- **The Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force (DVGMTF)**, which was established to maximize the Delaware Valley's goods movement capability by sharing information and technology between public and private freight interests, promoting the region's intermodal capabilities and capacity, and developing and implementing a regional goods movement strategy. It advises the DVRPC Board on all goods movement issues, studies and projects.
- **The Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG)**, which provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, practices and experiences among regional data managers.
- **The Regional Community and Economic Development Forum**, which facilitates the various economic development, land use and housing agencies in the region to work together on issues of regional importance, fosters greater cooperation between agencies, and strives to coordinate regional transportation and land use planning activities with the needs of the economic development community.
- **The Regional Aviation Committee (RAC)**, which provides technical and policy guidance concerning regional airport systems to the states, DVRPC and the Federal Aviation Administration.
- **The Regional Safety Task Force (RSTF)**, which is an interdisciplinary team of safety stakeholders/professionals that offers guidance and direction to the Commission's transportation safety planning program. The focus of the task force is diverse and addresses all users and operators of the transportation network, as well as all modes.
- **The Transportation Operations Task Force (TOTF)**, which is the focal point of regional ITS and operations coordination. The Task Force is a forum for agencies to share information on ITS deployments, develop a consensus on regional operations issues, and respond to federal and state initiatives. It has

the ability to establish subcommittees to tackle specific issues as they arise. As a technical-level group, it directs DVRPC's ITS and Operations planning activities that in turn support the Task Force.

FY 2016 Program Budget

The total budget for the FY 2016 Planning Work Program is **\$28,025,182**, an increase of **\$3,114,736** from that contained in the FY 2015 Planning Work Program. Table A, *Funding Summary* (see Page 21), shows DVRPC's funding by major source. Table B, *Project Funding* (see Chapter 2), shows the budget and funding for each project.



FY 2016 Programs and Projects

This Work Program continues the reorganized structure begun in FY 2008 which consolidated many related projects into program areas. Some initiatives remain as stand alone projects due to special circumstances. Each program's concept allows various tasks and initiatives to be emphasized from year to year at the DVRPC Board's direction. The list below shows each of DVRPC's major program areas and their goals.

DVRPC Major Program Areas and Related Tasks

Technical Assistance to Member Governments

Ensure intergovernmental coordination, technical evaluation, and regional policy formulation on transportation issues, projects, and plans through monthly meetings of the Regional Technical Committee and quarterly meetings of the Regional Aviation Committee (including meeting minutes and

pertinent presentations, research and technical assistance activities). Special studies and local asset inventory activities are also included.

RideECO Marketing

RideECO provides area employers the opportunity and structure to provide employees with a transit benefit per federal IRS tax code, up to \$130/month as of January 2014. Originally instituted under clean air legislation, this program has become popular among employers since it provides a tax break for both participating employees and their employer(s). All regional transit providers support the program and accept its vouchers, as do most third-party vanpool operators.

Regional Forum

This project ensures continued intergovernmental and policy coordination, as well as administrative oversight by the DVRPC Board and its Committees, through the provision of secretariat and management services. Through the Board Policy Committee, identification, monitoring and formulation of policy analyses for issues of regional significance is undertaken. Staff activities include researching and monitoring key issues, review of pertinent federal and state legislation or policy guidance, technical assistance and drafting proposed position statements or comment letters for consideration by the Policy Committee and the Board.

Work Program Administration

Preparation of the Unified Planning Work Program includes negotiating program and project funding, monitoring progress throughout the year, and preparing and submitting required applications and contract documents. Administering the UPWP also includes preparing, administering and providing technical assistance for contracts between DVRPC and PA/NJ member governments to advance regional highway planning and transit supportive planning at the local level.

Title VI and Environmental Justice

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have had a longstanding policy of actively ensuring nondiscrimination in federally funded activities under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1994 President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice. A renewed emphasis on Title VI issues and environmental justice has become a more integral focus of the transportation planning and programming process. This renewed commitment is reflected in DVRPC's Work Program, publications, communications, public involvement efforts, and general way of doing business.

Regional Congestion Management Process

The CMP is a systematic process for managing congestion in the DVRPC region. It analyzes the multimodal transportation system, defines congested corridors, and results in agreed-upon strategies for each congested sub-corridor at a regional planning level. The CMP strengthens the connection between the Long-Range Plan, TIP, and other projects. It includes work with

DOT and county project managers and others to help make transportation investments more effective.

Transportation Operations

Transportation Operations is one of the transportation planning factors mandated by federal metropolitan planning regulations. It represents a broad array of short-term improvement strategies employing technology and interagency coordination that will address recurring congestion and incident management.

Corridor Planning

This program is the nexus between the long-range plan and project development. Corridor planning takes needs identified in the long-range plan related to routes identified as essential to the movement of goods and people in the region, refines the understanding of those needs, and evaluates potential strategies to address them. The process is designed to better inform regional transportation and land use decision making.

Regional Transit Planning Program

This program supports the conduct of transit planning studies, with project selections guided by our planning partners through the Regional Transit Advisory Committee (RTAC). Work includes evaluations of proposed services or facilities, corridor level transit analysis, evaluations of enhancements to transit access, studies to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity with transit, and examinations of the relationship between land use and transit for specific sites or corridors.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Program

This program promotes transportation facilities and land use decisions that support active modes of transportation to make walking and biking more safe, convenient, affordable, and attractive transportation options throughout the region. Projects emphasize stakeholder outreach, the development and sharing of new data resources using bicycle and pedestrian counters, and the conduct of analysis to develop appropriate, safe, and context-sensitive bicycle and pedestrian facilities and "complete streets" in communities throughout the DVRPC region. As an area of focus, this work includes an emphasis on Active Transportation and Active Places—the idea that those places where walking and biking (Active Transportation) are prevalent are good for the vibrancy and quality of life of a community (Active Places), and vice versa. With this integrated approach, communities gain health benefits, increased mobility, economic stability, and an overall sense of vibrancy.

Delaware Valley Freight Planning

This program is intended to maximize the Delaware Valley's position in the global economy by promoting cooperation within the local freight community and implementing a regional goods movement strategy in accordance with State DOT and MAP-21 guidance.

Transportation Safety and Security

This program supports the goals of DVRPC's Long-Range Plan, Regional Safety Action Plan, and the DOTs' Strategic Highway Safety Plan. It incorporates the transportation safety and security planning factors, as required by federal metropolitan planning regulations, into the transportation planning process, and seeks to improve the safety and security of the region's transportation system, while maintaining acceptable levels of accessibility and efficiency. The program addresses transportation safety and security from a multipronged approach in which coordination and outreach are important factors.

Travel Monitoring

This continuing project collects and processes travel data, the primary form being traffic counts, including hourly and 48 hour traffic volumes, for selected locations on the regional highway network. Data collected will provide input to VMT forecasting, the Traffic Monitoring System (TMS), the Congestion Management Process (CMP), travel simulation models, individual project level analysis and traffic monitoring and trend analysis. This information is vital to all project studies that address highway deficiencies and proposed solutions. The types of data collected have recently been enhanced to include the monitoring of selected bicycle and pedestrian movements. In addition, DVRPC facilitates the periodic review and revision of the highway functional classification system.

Smart Growth

The Smart Growth work program will continue DVRPC's work on linking land use and transportation planning while also enhancing the level of outreach, education, coordination, advocacy, and overall support for smart growth principles. This program supports greater understanding of sprawl and its impacts on the region's accessibility and mobility, land preservation, urban revitalization, and economic development.

Economic Analysis and Coordination

The Economic Analysis and Coordination program supports and fosters coordination and information exchange between the economic development and business community on one hand, and the transportation and land use planning community on the other. The program includes various economic analyses and reports and administration of the Regional Community and Economic Development Forum. It incorporates the voices of the economic development and business community into DVRPC's planning activities.

Strategies for Older Communities

Many of the region's oldest suburbs and boroughs face social and economic challenges due to aging infrastructure and disinvestment that are uncharacteristic of more affluent growing suburbs. At the same time, the older suburbs often lack the resources and attention available to the region's core cities to address these issues. This program will continue to convene forums for these municipalities to learn from outside experts as well as their peers, while also providing technical assistance.

Energy and Climate Change Initiatives

This program focuses the attention of local governments on developing policies and actions for reducing energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to predicted climate change impacts by providing leadership, coordination, and technical assistance on these issues.

Long-Range Plan

The Long-Range Plan program fosters and maintains a long-range vision to guide development patterns and transportation investments in the region and identifies strategies to implement the vision. The program ensures that the region's transportation investments are linked to long-range land use, environmental protection, economic development, and transportation goals, while providing guidance and a policy framework for numerous other DVRPC programs.

Air Quality Planning

The Air Quality Planning program improves air quality in the region through coordination of intra- and interregional policies, public education and demonstration of transportation conformity of the region's long-range plan and transportation improvement programs.

Environmental Planning

The Environmental Planning program promotes a clean and sustainable environment and implementation of *Connections 2040* by assisting in efforts to preserve the 2040 Greenspace Network and 2040 Conservation Focus Areas, and to complete The Circuit (Greater Philadelphia's regional trail network) for natural resource protection, agricultural preservation, outdoor recreational, and alternative commuting purposes.

Data Exchange and Analysis

This program facilitates the acquisition, organization, analysis, automation, and dissemination of available data sets to support all regional land use and transportation planning activities. This data includes (but is not limited to) newly released Census data products, residential building permit data, and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, as well as data for which DVRPC is a primary source, including the TIP, traffic counts, land use and aerial photography. Additional program tasks include maintaining DVRPC's regional online information network; coordinating with the Census Bureau; and administering the Commission's Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG).

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

This program area provides for transportation financial planning and capital programming for the DVRPC region. Staff will work with state, regional, and federal planning partners to identify financial resources available from public and private sources to implement the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as well as the long-range plan. Serving as the facilitator for the region's stakeholders, DVRPC will both develop and maintain a regional

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as mandated by federal regulations; identify and select transportation projects that address the needs of the region; advance the goals of the long-range plan; document modifications to the program; and provide information and documents related to those processes, funding, and capital programming issues. This information will be provided to stakeholders and the public via meeting materials and postings on the DVRPC website. DVRPC will undertake an extensive public participation program that responds to the requirements of MAP-21 and environmental justice concerns, as it relates to this project.

Performance Based Planning and Asset Management

Greater and greater demands are straining the region's transportation system: increased congestion, more truck travel, growing population, aging infrastructure, higher customer expectations, and escalating construction and operating costs. These factors threaten the viability of our transportation system unless the region is able to more effectively and efficiently deploy financial resources to maintain and upgrade existing assets. A more strategic and systematic process of operating, maintaining, upgrading, and expanding these physical assets is needed. By effectively refocusing business and engineering practices on life cycle costs and benefits, better resource allocation and utilization will result. Such an approach requires quality information and well defined objectives.

Travel and Land Use Modeling

The Travel and Land Use Modeling work program element is intended to develop, enhance, maintain, and apply DVRPC's Land Use, Travel Demand, and Air Quality Models in support of a wide variety of planning activities. Short and long-range regional, corridor, and facility planning studies require accurate socioeconomic, land use, and travel forecasts. Certification of the regional plan and planning process require up to date models that address federal regulations. The models that produce these projections and perform these analyses need to be validated and calibrated with current data. Furthermore, refinement and revalidation of DVRPC's land use, travel simulation, and mobile source emissions models are needed on a continuing basis to maintain the accuracy and credibility of forecasts and to respond to new mandates and guidance from the federal government, state agencies, and member governments. In addition to the studies performed by DVRPC, staff will also provide support and assistance under this program to DVRPC's consultants as they upgrade the land use and travel models and related software.

Competitive Program and Project Management

MAP-21, the current federal authorizing legislation for highways and transit, includes funding for nontraditional transportation projects such as multiuse trails, streetscapes, historic restorations, alternative fueled vehicles, and travel demand management, local highway and bridge projects, as well as projects that contribute to the attainment of the Clean Air Act by reducing emissions from highway sources. Three categories of federal funding that

provide broad eligibility for these nontraditional and local transportation projects are: Transportation Alternatives, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and the Surface Transportation Program. TIP funds are also provided to the subregions through the Local Concept Development Program in New Jersey. The goal of the Local Concept Development program is to complete a study that identifies potential alternatives, identifies any environmental issues, and completes a conceptual design. This will ensure that projects that move into Preliminary Engineering are ready to move forward in a timely manner and are eligible for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Geographic Information Systems

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is an important planning tool that provides benefits to DVRPC, its member agencies, and others by supporting state, regional, county, and local planning and technical projects. GIS is the integration of hardware, software, and data used to collect, store, analyze and display spatially referenced information. GIS allows planners to view and query spatial data and perform advanced analysis to discover relationships, patterns, and trends that support their planning activities. Visualizing information is an integral part of nearly every project, and GIS is highly utilized to create maps necessary for meetings and reports. Improving the accessibility of spatial data is critical to the continued success of GIS and tasks under this program will be coordinated with the Data Exchange and Analysis program.

Work Program Organization

The FY 2016 Planning Work Program is divided into six chapters. Chapter One serves as an introduction to DVRPC's operations and relationship to other transportation agencies in the Delaware Valley region. Chapter Two details the programs and projects which DVRPC will be undertaking during FY 2016. Chapters Three and Four contain the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP) and the Transit Support Program (TSP), respectively, which are funded by DVRPC and carried out by its member governments and transit operating agencies. Chapter Five includes other projects to be carried out by member governments. Chapter Six includes high priority projects which could not be funded in FY 2016 for both DVRPC sponsored projects and those of its member governments. Additional funding would need to become available in order for these projects to be implemented. It also includes those planning efforts anticipated to be carried out by other transportation agencies to ensure coordinated transportation planning efforts. Within the framework of available financial and human resources, this work program effectively addresses the key regional issues. The program, however, is dynamic in nature and may be modified to respond to any emerging priority issue or special need vital to the orderly growth and development of the Delaware Valley.

Achievement of Long- Range Plan Key Principles

The four key principles of the Long-Range Plan serve as a framework for many of the projects and programs undertaken by DVRPC. The Work Program serves as an important implementation tool to achieve the future land use and transportation development vision that is set forth in the Long Range Plan. In an effort to highlight the connection between the Work Program and the Long-Range Plan, a matrix (*Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan Key Principles) was developed that shows the linkage between these two core documents. Both primary and peripheral associations between the programs and the four key principles of the Long-Range Plan are shown in the matrix. As DVRPC develops future work programs, we will continue to strive to meet the key principles of the Long-Range Plan.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)

The eight factors of MAP-21 must be considered in the MPO planning process for all projects and strategies. The Work Program serves as an important implementation tool to achieve the directives of MAP-21. In an effort to highlight the connection between the Work Program and MAP-21, a matrix (MAP-21 Projects and Strategies) was developed that shows the linkage between the Work Program and the current surface transportation act. Both primary and peripheral associations between the programs and the eight project and strategy areas are shown in the matrix. As DVRPC develops future work programs, we will continue to strive to meet the key principles of the current Surface Transportation Act.