

## Board Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2024 | Online Meeting

### ATTENDEES & REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

New Jersey Department of Transportation, **Eric Powers**  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, **Keith Henderson**  
New Jersey Governor's Appointee, **Ed Potosnak**  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, **Larry Shifflet**  
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee, **Jonathan Korus**  
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office, **Michael Shorr** (PA DCED)  
Burlington County, **Tom Stanuikynas**  
Camden County, **Ilene Lampitt**  
Gloucester County, **Nick Cressman**  
Mercer County, **Dan Benson**  
Bucks County, **Bob Harvie**  
Chester County, **Brian O'Leary**  
Delaware County, **Christine Reuther**  
Montgomery County, **Neil Makhija, Scott France**  
City of Camden, **Edward Williams**  
City of Trenton, *(not represented)*  
City of Chester, *(not represented)*  
City of Philadelphia, **Mark Squilla**

### NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Division, **Jason Simmons**  
Federal Highway Administration, PA Pennsylvania Division, **Gene Porochniak**  
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, **Kellie Bellina**  
New Jersey Transit Corporation, **Lou Millan**  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, *(not represented)*  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, **Sachin Shankar**  
Delaware River Port Authority, **Jalila Parker, Darlene Callands**  
Port Authority Transit Corporation, **Rohan K. Hepkins**  
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy, **Donna Rendeiro**  
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, **Michael Shorr** (acted as Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office representative)

### DVRPC CO-COUNSEL

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel: **Jonathan Bloom**  
New Jersey Co-Counsel: **Thomas Coleman**

### GUESTS

Bucks County, Rich Brahler  
Chester County Economic Development Council (CEEDC), Jim Lauckner  
City of Philadelphia, Chris Puchalsky

Delaware County, Gina Burritt  
Gloucester County, Bill Fleming,  
Mercer County, Matt Lawson  
Mercer County, Leslie Floyd  
Montgomery County, Matt Popek  
NJ Gov, Laura Wilton  
NJDOT, Megan Fackler  
PPTF, Maryann Sandone  
PPTF, Judith Fagin  
PPTF, Jerrett Johnson  
PennDOT, Kristen Mulkerin  
PennDOT, Lars Delorenzi  
42Freeway.com, Mark Matthews

## DVRPC STAFF

Ariella Maron, Alyssa Driscoll, Renee Wise, Wideleine Desir, Jesse Buerk, Travis Spotts, Alison Hastings, Gina Myers, Shoshana Akins, Patty Elkins, Jason Crouch, Richard Murphy, Matt Gates, Ethan Fogg, Mike Boyer, Shawn Megill Legendre, Alyson Dressman, Christopher Mulroy, Kevin Murphy, Andrew Svekla, Joe Banks, Bill Laidlaw, Tom Edinger, Karin Morris, Tammy DiMeo, Greg Diebold, Chris Linn, Amy Lam, Glenn McNichol, Gregory Krykewycz, Ian Schwarzenberg, Jonathan Alexander, Matthew Galenas, Liz Compitello.

## CALL TO ORDER: CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Eric Powers called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

### Executive Director's Report

- a. *DVRPC Board-* This meeting was the first DVRPC Board meeting for two new Board members: Montgomery County Commission Neil Makhija and Mercer County Executive Dan Benson.
- b. *IIJA Updates-* The DVRPC region continues to win IIJA discretionary program awards. This month, Philadelphia was awarded \$158M for the Chinatown Stitch, which brings the new total of IIJA Funding spent to \$941M. There are a number of open opportunities for additional awards, including the 2024 round of Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration and Implementation Grant with several application deadlines coming up in April, May, and August.

Discussions have begun around the reauthorization of the IIJA. IIJA has had a significant impact on the DVRPC region; not just the discretionary awards but the increases in formula transportation funding, as well: it has helped to mitigate the effects of inflation on members' priority projects already on the TIP/LRP; it has brought new funding for innovative projects to move forward; and has helped improve our ability to center equity, sustainability, and resilience into work across the region. DVRPC will continue to track the impact of funding from IIJA, as well as from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), has on DVRPC's work and the region as a whole.

- c. *TCDI-* DVRPC received 30 applications for the FY25 round of the PA TCDI program, with projects totalling \$3.03 million. The total available funding for this round is \$1.2 million, so a process is in place to develop a short list of recommended projects. After the PA TCDI Review Committee meets on April 29, they will provide the determined list to the RTC and Board in May.
- d. *TASA-* NJDOT is seeking DVRPC's assistance to identify major Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) program eligible projects with a regional impact that can be obligated within two years. DVRPC staff have reached out to each county and the cities of Trenton and Camden to discuss potential projects and will provide NJDOT a recommended list of candidate projects by May 17, 2024. DVRPC's recommendation does not guarantee funding.
- e. *Regional Trails Program-* The Regional Trails Program is open for a 10th round of funding and applications are due May 3, 2024. There is up to \$2 million available regionwide, the maximum award will be \$200,000. No match is required, Circuit Trails and connections to them are eligible, and the funds can be used for any project phase. [\[DVRPC Regional Trails Program\]](#)

- f. *Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)*- DVRPC submitted the Priority Climate Action Plan to the US EPA on March 1, 2024. This milestone is a part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program that DVRPC is leading for the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). [Priority Climate Action Plan]

## Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

There were two public comments on Agenda Items submitted prior to the meeting.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024

**ACTION:** Approve minutes of the Board Meeting on February 22, 2024.

**MOTION** by Mr. Shifflet, seconded by Mr. Cressman. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

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

Jesse Buerk, DVRPC, Manager, Office of Capital Programs presented the proposed TIP Actions to the Board. [PRESENTATION](#) Note that Action Items were combined for discussion and voting purposes.

- a. PA23-99: North Philadelphia School Zones (RAISE 2023) (MPMS #120993), City of Philadelphia – Add New Project to the TIP [Action Item Description](#)
- b. PA23-100: Reconnecting Our Chinatown (RCP 2022) (MPMS #119896), City of Philadelphia - Add New Project to the TIP [Action Item Description](#)

A public comment was submitted by Jerrett Johnson [\[Comment\]](#)

- c. PA23-101: US 1 BAT Lanes: Hellerman/Bustleton – Bucks (ARLE) (MPMS #118074), City of Philadelphia - Add New Project to the TIP [Action Item Description](#)

#### Board Discussion

Chris Puchalsky acknowledged DVRPC's work and contribution to Chinatown for over a decade. He noticed that the many small infrastructure projects build up to make an impact in people's daily life within a community. Council member Mark Squilla emphasized how this project is an example of federal, state and local government working together.

#### ACTIONS:

- Approve TIP Action PA23-99, PennDOT and the City of Philadelphia's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, North Philadelphia School Zones (MPMS #120993) in the amount of \$29,000,000 programmed as follows: \$1,119,000 Local funds for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase in FY24, \$1,119,000 Local funds for the Final Design (FD) Phase in FY25, and \$26,762,000 (\$25,000,000 RAISE/\$1,762,000 LOC) for the Construction (CON) Phase in FY26.
- Approve TIP Action PA23-100, PennDOT and the City of Philadelphia's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, Reconnecting Our Chinatown (RCP 20220) (MPMS #119896) in the amount of \$4,055,000 (\$1,805,000 RCP/\$600,000 State 581D/\$1,650,000 LOC) for the Study Phase in FY24.
- Approve TIP Action PA23-101, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, US 1 BAT Lanes: Hellerman/Bustleton - Bucks (MPMS #118074) in the amount of \$3,100,000 programmed as follows: \$1,100,000 State 244 funds for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase in FY24, \$300,000 State 244 funds for the Final Design (FD) Phase in FY24, and \$1,700,000 for the Construction (CON) Phase in FY25.

**MOTION** by Mr. Squilla, seconded by Ms. Lampitt. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- d. PA23-102: Pleasant View Road Bridge (MPMS #92637), Montgomery County - Advance CON Phase [Action Item Description](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approve TIP Action PA23-102, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the Construction (CON) Phase funding and federalizing the Pleasant View Road over Sanatoga Creek (MPMS #92637) project from outside the 4-year program into FY24 and increasing the funding by \$1,000,000 BOF to a total of \$3,250,000 BOF for CON in FY24.

**MOTION** by Mr. Shifflet, seconded by Mr. Squilla. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- e. PA23-103: Projects of Significance (MPMS #115472), SEPTA - Add New Federal Funds [Action Item Description](#)

A public comment was submitted by Jerrett Johnson [\[Comment\]](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approve TIP Action PA23-103, SEPTA's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding new federal grant funds to the Projects of Significance Program (MPMS #115472) for the Market Frankford Vehicle Replacement Project, in the amount of \$317,160,000 for the Engineering/Right-of-Way/Construction (ERC) Phase, programmed as follows: \$48,453,000 RVR in FY24, \$134,757,000 RVR in FY25, and \$133,950,000 RVR in FY26.

**MOTION** by Mr. Shifflet, seconded by Mr. Squilla. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- f. NJ24-018: Route 47, Grove St. to Route 130, Pavement (DB #12305), Gloucester County – Increase CON Phase [Action Item Description](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approve TIP Action NJ24-018, NJDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the FY24 Construction (CON) Phase of the Route 47, Grove St. to Route 130, Pavement project by \$18.2 M NHPP from \$66.5 M NHPP to \$84.7 M NHPP.

**MOTION** by Ms. Lampitt, seconded by Mr. Stanuikynas. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- g. NJ24-019: Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 4 (DB #355E), Camden County – Delay and Increase CON Phase [Action Item Description](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approve TIP Action NJ24-019, NJDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by delaying the Construction (CON) phase of the Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 4 (DB #355E) project from FY25 to FY28 and increasing the CON cost estimate by \$10.45 M. The multi-year NHFP-HWY funding and NHPP funding for the CON phase will be reprogrammed as follows:

- FY28: \$50 M NHPP
- FY29: \$80 M (\$20 M NHFP-HWY/\$60 M NHPP)
- FY30: \$80 M (\$20 M NHFP-HWY/\$60 M NHPP)
- FY31: \$90.45 M (\$20 M NHFP-HWY/\$70.45 M NHPP)
- FY32: \$58.5 M (\$6.243 M NHFP-HWY/\$52.257 M NHPP)

The CON Phase will have an overall increase of \$10.45 M, from \$348.5 M (66.243 M NHFP-HWY/\$282.257 M NHPP) to \$358.95 M (66.243 M NHFP-HWY/\$292.707 M NHPP).

**MOTION** by Mr. Cressman, seconded by Mr. Stanuikynas. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- h. NJ24-020: Resurfacing & Safety Improvements to Kings Highway (CR 551) from the Roundabout To Glen Echo Avenue (CR 538) (DB #D2406), Gloucester County – Add New Project to the TIP [Action Item Description](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approve TIP Action NJ24-020, Gloucester County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by adding the Resurfacing & Safety Improvements to Kings Highway (CR 551) from the Roundabout to Glen Echo Avenue (CR 538) (DB #D2406) project to the TIP for Construction in FY24 in the amount of \$1.339 M STBGP-PHILA.

**MOTION** by Ms. Lampitt, seconded by Mr. Henderson. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- i. Quaker Bridge Road Bridge over AMTRAK (DB #TBD1), Mercer County [Action Item Description](#)
- j. Old Trenton Road (CR 535) Multimodal and Operational Improvements, Paxson Road to County Line LCD [Action Item Description](#)

**ACTIONS:**

- Approve TIP Action NJ24-024, Mercer County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new Local Concept Development (LCD) project, Replacement of Quaker Bridge Road Bridge over AMTRAK (DB #D2407), to the TIP in the amount of \$0.7 M STBGP-TRENTON in FY24.
- Approve TIP Action NJ24-025, Mercer County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new Local Concept Development (LCD) project, Old Trenton Road (CR 535) Multimodal and Operational Improvements, Paxson Road to County Line (DB #D2408), into the TIP in the amount of \$1.8 M STBGP-TRENTON in FY24.

**MOTION** by Mr. Benson, seconded by Ms. Lampitt. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

3. **Adoption of the 2023 Congestion Management Process (CMP)**

Tom Edinger, DVRPC Manager, Congestion Management Programs, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 30\)](#)

**ACTION:** Adopt the Congestion Management Process (CMP).

**MOTION** by Ms. Lampitt, seconded by Mr. Shifflet. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

4. **Memorandum of Understanding with Pottstown Area Rapid Transit**

Mike Boyer, DVRPC Director of Regional Planning, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 39\)](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Borough of Pottstown pertaining to Pottstown Area Rapid Transit.

**MOTION** by Mr. O'Leary, seconded by Ms. Reuther. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

5. **FY2024 Work Program Amendment: West Windsor Township Travel Model**

Matt Gates, DVRPC Associate Director, Travel Trends and Forecasts, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 43\)](#)

**ACTIONS:** Approves amending the FY2024 Work Program to include the West Windsor Township Travel Model.

*MOTION by Ms. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Squilla. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.*

## PRESENTATION ITEMS

- 6. Refresh on DVRPC Compact and By-Laws, including Executive Committee Membership and Nominating Process** Thomas Coleman, New Jersey Counsel from Raymond, Coleman, Heinold, gave an overview of the DVRPC by-laws regarding Board membership, voting requirements and representation, and executive officer descriptions in anticipation of the launch of the FY25 nomination process for executive officers. [\[DVRPC By-Laws\]](#)
- 7. Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Project Update** Scott France, Planning Director for Montgomery County and Brian O’Leary, Planning Director for Chester County, presented an update on the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Project [PRESENTATION \(slide 49\)](#)

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8. One Minute Reports**

Eric Powers, NJDOT, expressed gratitude that New Jersey Governor Murphy approved reauthorization of the Transportation Trust Fund through 2029. Half of the funding increases in 2027, 2028, and 2029 will be channeled through local county aid programs. Mr. Powers also expressed thanks for the passing of the federal budget, which includes funding for the rest of Fiscal Year 2024. He ended by discussing August Redistribution, a process through which unspent Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds from the previous fiscal year are reallocated to states during the month of August. Mr. Powers acknowledged the hectic nature of the process, but since no changes have been made in the redistribution process, the DVRPC Board could see more TIP amendments or modifications during the month of August when NJDOT and PennDOT will be absorbing the additional Federal resources. He thanked everyone in advance for working on these additional items and helping the region succeed. [\[Trust Fund Reauthorization Article\]](#)

Keith Henderson, DCA, highlighted that last week Governor Murphy signed sweeping revisions to the New Jersey Fair Housing Act. DCA will be undertaking a major initiative to determine statewide affordable housing needs and corresponding municipal obligations during the next seven months.

Ed Potosnak, NJ Governor’s Appointee, shared that a large portion of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund investments would go to New Jersey Transit. This helps combat pollutants by reducing the amount of cars on the road.

Bill Fleming, Gloucester County, updated the Board on the Gloucester County Light Rail Project, suggesting a future presentation to the DVRPC Board, highlighting the multimodal opportunities that can be connected to the project. He also suggested a presentation from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority regarding their Widening Program.

Larry Shifflet, PennDOT, echoed Mr. Powers sentiments on the August Redistribution. He also said that PennDOT is close to announcing the projects selected for the Transportation Alternative Set Aside Program. Lastly, he announced that he will be moving to Executive Deputy Secretary and will be replaced by Kristen Mulkerin, who will be moving into the position of Deputy Secretary after June.

Michael Shorr, PA DCED, shared that the Multimodal Transportation Fund through the DCED CFA program award opportunities were announced on Tuesday, March 26. This program is currently open and accepting applications until July 31. [\[Multimodal Transportation Fund Information\]](#) [\[CFA Awards\]](#)

Christine Reuther, Delaware County, announced the awarding of \$2.5 million Reconnecting Communities, Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant for reconnecting communities along Route 291. This grant will cover both the preliminary engineering and final design phases of the project, including the extension of the East Coast Greenway alongside the segment of Route 291 in the City of Chester. A large portion of the award will go towards community engagement. She thanked PennDOT



for administering the grant. [\[Reconnecting Communities, Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant\]](#)  
[\[East Coast Greenway\]](#)

Scott France, Montgomery County, announced that the county is launching new rounds of planning education courses, sponsored by Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute. Many staff members are certified instructors, and it is available for outside the county as well. Topics include Community Planning, Subdivision and Land Division review, and Zoning and Zoning Revision. The first round of classes start April 4, and are geared towards elected officials and appointed officials.

[\[Montgomery County Planning Courses\]](#)

Christopher Pulchalsky, City of Philadelphia, briefly mentioned the Chinatown Stitch Grant and expressed appreciation. He then spoke about the Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) reauthorization and highlighted bridge funding. When asked to comment on the bridge collapse in Baltimore, Mr. Puchalsky stated that there has been a notable increase in funding for bridges, which is good, but it does not meet the need to keep up with bridge repairs and modernization. He closed by sharing that the City is coordinating with DVRPC and others for a regional approach to the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program, which he expects will be more successful as larger, regional applications seem to be more likely to win this award. .

Louis Millan, NJ Transit, gave a ridership update, sharing that ridership numbers have stabilized with two out of three commuter rail riders compared to 2019, three out of four light rail, bus, and paratransit at 93%. He also commented on the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Service presentation, noting that there are many discussions in the Northeast about rail service, including service from Scranton to New York City and the Allentown rail service.

Rohan Hepkins, PATCO, addressed the Baltimore bridge collapse. He restated what CEO John Hanson and Chief Engineer Mike Venudo said at a press conference: DRPA operates four bridges, Commodore Barry Bridge, Waln, Whitman Bridge, Ben Franklin Bridge, and Betsy Ross Bridge, which all have—or are getting—bumpers around the base of the structures that support the bridges. The bumpers are designed to stop a wayward ship.

## 9. Committee Reports

- a. [Regional Technical Committee](#)
- b. [Regional Safety Task Force/ Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force](#) [Joint Meeting](#)
- c. [Healthy Communities Task Force](#)

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

None

**ACTION:** *Adjourn the Board meeting at 12:06 and move into the Executive Session.*

**MOTION** *by Mr. Potosnak, seconded by Ms. Lampitt. Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.*