



Transportation Operations Task Force (TOTF)

Highlights from the April 15th, 2021 Transportation Operations Task Force Meeting (Held via Zoom)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chris King, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), thanked everyone for attending.

2. Two Minute Agency Report

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC): Elizabeth Schoonmaker thanked the group for its work, while informing every one of her upcoming retirement. John Ward, Deputy Executive Director at DVRPC will also be retiring in Summer 2021.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg recently announced \$1 billion in discretionary grant funding through Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. Projects for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, the Department will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change and create good-paying jobs.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): Enhanced Move Over Law goes into effect on April 27th, which will increase penalties for drivers who do not move over or slow down for emergency vehicles.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA): SEPTA is in the beginning phases of redesigning its entire bus network throughout the Delaware Valley.

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): NJDOT roadways have experienced 20-25% reduction in traffic volume, so lane closures for construction purposes have been extended an hour throughout the state.



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Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): Variable Speed Limits (VSL) are being tested along I-76 and will be fully automated by August; US 30 reconstruction and widening project in Chester County is currently in its early stages.

Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA): Total volume on all four bridges was down 24% from 2019 to 2020, and PATCO experienced a 64% decrease over that same time period.

3. Construction Updates

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): The Direct Connect Project, which will ultimately allow for continuous movement of traffic along I-295 through the RT 42 interchange, is in Contract #3. Once complete in 2024, SB I-295 through this region will be continuous. Contract #4, which will connect NB I-295 is slated to being in 2023, but this timing is dependent on the progress of Contract #3. Complete connection between RT 42 NB to I-295 SB and I-295 NB to RT 42 SB is scheduled to be finished in May of 2024.

Scudders Falls Bridge Replacement Project to be complete in May of 2022. The Rt. 42 Bridges over Blackwood Railroad to be advertised in June 2021; Rt. 70, from Rt. 38 to Cooper Avenue to be resurfaced/reconstructed as needed, including additions of new drainage, ADA compliant sidewalks, and ITS components, project to be advertised in May of 2021.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): PennDOT currently undertaking a 41 mile reconstruct of the I-95 corridor, with construction planned through 2031. Sector B, ranging from I-676 to Broad Street, is the next phase, and will include the CAP over I-95 at Penn's Landing; project to be let in Fall of 2022. Entire corridor will implement Active Traffic Management (ATM) strategies, while requiring comprehensive coordination with a multitude of local and regional partners.

Roosevelt Expressway, between Broad Street and Wissahickon Avenue, is currently being rehabilitated, with construction scheduled to be complete in 2022.

Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) along I-76 from the Pennsylvania Turnpike to US 1 is in its early phases, with Variable Speed Limits (VSL) recently being implemented. ATM will be used along the entire corridor, and flex lane construction will begin in 2025.



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Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA): Elwyn to Wawa service restoration is nearing completion; Middletown Station (Wawa Station) is roughly 30% complete, with expected completion in first quarter of 2022; Media-Sharon Hill Line will experience outage this summer to allow for updated infrastructure; Annual Trolley Blitz to take place July 9th to July 26th (closure of trolley tunnels) to allow for yearly maintenance; Southwest Connection Improvement Project will require ‘bus bridges’ throughout the region to allow for significant infrastructure upgrades along rail lines; Trolley modernization will require coordination with regional partners, while upgrading the entire trolley network; KOP rail is progressing, with close coordination with Federal Transit Administration taking place; Currently reviewing status of all bridges and sub-stations, long-term projects will include overhaul of transit line from 30th Street to Jefferson Station.

Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT): I-95 Rehabilitation from I-495 split to US 202 (Concord Pike); includes rehabilitation of 19 bridges, 3 miles of pavement, 11 exit/entrance ramps, and addition of 4th lane on Brandywine River Bridge NB. The construction zone has experienced a high number of crashes and queue jumping, some of which can be attributed to temporary lane closures and close proximity of on/off ramps. As part of the corridor upgrade, 200 Wilmington traffic signals are now connected to, and controlled by, the Traffic Management Center. SR 141 and I-95 Interchange Project is ahead of schedule; SR 273 project is expected to be completed in 2023/2024. To improve overall Traffic Incident Management throughout the state’s construction zones, DelDOT conducted significant outreach with first responders. Though some efforts were derailed by COVID-19, the partnerships and initiatives are once again moving forward.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): Delaware Valley Interchange Route 13 Connector is complete, along with turnaround for emergency vehicles; New Falls Road Bridge Replacement underway and will open late summer of 2021; Widening of mainline turnpike to occur between Bensalem Interchange and Neshaminy Toll Plaza, to be advertised in late 2022. Mainline turnpike in Chester County (MP 324-326) to be widening, project going out to bid later this year; NE Extension widening from A31-A38 almost complete, with next phase up to A44 starting soon; A new Fiber-Optic Network to be installed from Harrisburg to the NJ border, and along the entirety of the NE Extension. By 2024, the eastern portion of the turnpike will be all Open Road Tolling.

Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA): Current and upcoming projects include: Rehabilitation of the Suspension Spans and Anchorages on Ben Franklin Bridge; I-76 EB Corridor Rehabilitation



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at Walt Whitman Bridge; Painting of WWB on NJ approach, and full cable investigation of WWB; Resurfacing on the NJ approach of Betsy Ross Bridge; Deleading and Repainting of Commodore Barry Bridge.

Montgomery County Planning Commission: Ridge Pike from Norristown to Philadelphia to be completely rebuilt; Section D, from Crescent Avenue to the Philadelphia line is slated to go out to construction later this year; Section B in Plymouth Township will go out to construction in Spring/Summer of 2022; Sections A and C are nearing final design phase. Several county bridges are under/will soon be under construction.

PATCO: Ridership is slowly increasing, though significantly lower than past years; Franklin Square Station is still slated to open as planned.

Delaware River Bay Authority (DRBA): NB Delaware Memorial Bridge will undergo a redecking project in Fall of 2022/Spring of 2023 and to suspend construction during the summer travel season; considering using contraflow to alleviate likely congestion during the project. Installing ship collision prevention on its bridge towers.

4. 2021 Meeting Dates

- July 15th, 2021
- October 21st, 2021