

our REGION, *my* HOME



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TOP LEFT: @DVRPC VIA INSTAGRAM
TOP RIGHT: @WDSV VIA INSTAGRAM
CENTER: @DVRPC VIA INSTAGRAM

FY 2015 DVRPC ANNUAL REPORT
2016 MONTHLY CALENDAR

our REGION,
my HOME



Barry Seymour
DVRPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Leslie Richards

FY15 BOARD CHAIR,
PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY,
& FORMER MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMISSIONER



Diane Ellis-Marseglia
FY15 BOARD CHAIR &
BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

our REGION, my HOME



We at DVRPC are very proud of the role we've played in helping the region grow these past 50 years. From the beginning, DVRPC has provided the leadership and innovation and practical application on the ground needed to turn plans into reality. But we also always recognized that to accomplish anything in a region as complex as this one, we would need cooperation, we would need consensus, and we would need partnerships.

This 50th Anniversary year was an opportunity for us to highlight our accomplishments, thank our partners, engage new stakeholders, teach about planning, and envision the next 50 years. For example:

- We launched a special 50th Anniversary webpage, with a timeline of planning and transportation milestones (www.dvrpc.org/50).
- We brought together 300 planners and local officials to learn about building livable communities at the Breaking Ground conference in March.
- We asked stakeholders and the public what "Future Forces" will impact our region over the next 25 years, as part of our long-range planning activities.
- We "Stood Up 4 Transportation" at a rally in April where we asked attendees to tell us how they commuted that day and shared on Twitter (#SU4T).
- We asked residents to snap a photo of what they love about Greater Philadelphia and post on social media, using our hashtag #OurRegionMyHome.
- We convened 200 emergency responders and transportation professionals at the Traffic Incident Management Conference in June.
- We set up a photo booth in Dilworth Park on our anniversary date, June 30, and surveyed passersby about what they love about our region.
- And finally, we celebrated planning and partnerships at the 50th Anniversary Celebration in December where we recognized nine landmarks, or county milestones, that shaped the region.

Thank you to each and every one of our Board members, member governments, partners, involved citizens, and friends for celebrating with us this past year. We look forward to the next 50 years of working together toward a common vision.

It's what makes us proud to call our region, my home.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS of PLANNING and PARTNERSHIPS





PHOTO CREDIT : STEPHANIE LIPARTITO

**Leading the
way to a
better future.**

our mission

THE DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION is dedicated to uniting 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. We serve a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey. DVRPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region - LEADING THE WAY TO A BETTER FUTURE.

who we are and what we do

Our goal is to address current and ongoing issues while fostering cooperation among member governments, private sector organizations and the general public. To do so, we work closely with a variety of groups, including the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, community affairs and environmental protection agencies, the federal government and regional transportation providers. We also partner with a wide variety of non-profit organizations in the areas of community and economic development, environmental protection and land use.

All of our activities are directed by an 18-member Board which establishes regional policy, defines committee duties, and adopts the annual work program. A 10-member Executive Committee oversees general operations and fiscal matters. Financial support for our activities comes primarily from federal transportation funding through the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation. Additional financial resources are provided by funding from other state or federal agencies, counties, cities, operating agencies, foundations and the private sector.

DVRPC does not discriminate based on race, color, age, sex, disability or national origin in any of its programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



CONNECTIONS 2040

PLAN FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA



PHOTO CREDIT: J. FUSCO FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA®
PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Between now and 2040, we anticipate over 600,000 additional people and 300,000 additional jobs in our region. Where those people live, what kind of work they do, and how they travel between work and home will define our future.

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Greater Philadelphia, DVRPC puts forth a bold but achievable plan that guides us in creating a vibrant and thriving future. The Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan serves as a blueprint for future growth, including the prioritization and funding of capital transportation investments.

The Plan is guided by four core principles:

- managing growth and protecting the environment
- creating livable communities
- building the economy
- establishing a modern multimodal transportation system

Over the past year DVRPC has begun to develop an update to the Long-Range Plan, and worked with stakeholders to explore what forces will shape the way we live and travel in the future. Changing demographics and preferences, fast-changing technologies, climate change, and new economic drivers are just a

few of the future forces that may shift regional trends. This work was augmented with a public survey that asked the questions, "What trends do you think have shaped our region since DVRPC was founded 50 years ago?" and "What forces will shape the way we live and travel over the next 50 years?" To learn more about Future Forces, visit www.dvrpc.org/FutureForces. For more information about Connections 2040, visit www.dvrpc.org/Connections2040.

All DVRPC programs support the principles of the Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan. This annual report summarizes the work completed by DVRPC over the last year.

january moon phases

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DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING (10 AM)

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BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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"I like that there is so much to explore in this great region, and after living here close to a decade, I still feel like a tourist."

"I like how the majority of people I've met are very different from me, but share the same concept, they also want this region to also be the home and sense of community for all."



QUOTES & PHOTOS: *morgan hugo*



a modern transportation system

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

As population and employment increases in the future, we must continue to maintain and preserve our transportation facilities, make existing facilities more efficient, and consider new roads and transit routes to meet growing demand.

This year, the DVRPC Board amended the *Connections2040* Long-Range Plan to include two new major regional projects: the PATCo Franklin Square Station and 9th Street Station in Lansdale on SePTA's Doylestown Regional Rail Line. In order to receive federal transportation funding, transportation projects must be included in the region's Long-Range Plan.

DVRPC works to achieve its long-term goals through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which prioritizes short-term capital improvements. The FY 2016-2019 TIP for NJ was approved in 2015, and contains over 125 projects worth almost \$1.9 billion (an average of \$474 million per year), including over \$1 billion for projects primarily addressing the highway

system and \$850 million for transit projects for DRPA/PATCo and J TRAn SIT. An updated TIP for Pennsylvania is forthcoming in 2016. To view projects by county or type, visit www.dvrpc.org/TIP.

Transportation conformity is a process established by the Clean Air Act to ensure that federal transportation projects and investments are consistent with state commitments for meeting air quality goals. This year, DVRPC has performed an emissions analysis to demonstrate conformity of the *Connections2040* Long-Range Plan, FY 2015 Pennsylvania TIP and FY 2016 New Jersey TIP.

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<i>mon.</i> 08	<i>tues.</i> 09 REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)	<i>wed.</i> 10 ASH WEDNESDAY	<i>thurs.</i> 11	<i>fri.</i> 12	<i>sat.</i> 13
					<i>sun.</i> 14 VALENTINE'S DAY

<i>mon.</i> 15 PRESIDENTS' DAY (DVRPC OFFICES CLOSED)	<i>tues.</i> 16	<i>wed.</i> 17	<i>thurs.</i> 18	<i>fri.</i> 19	<i>sat.</i> 20
					<i>sun.</i> 21

<i>mon.</i> 22	<i>tues.</i> 23	<i>wed.</i> 24	<i>thurs.</i> 25 BOARD & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)	<i>fri.</i> 26	<i>sat.</i> 27
					<i>sun.</i> 28

mon. | 29

february moon phases
08: ○ | 15: ● | 22: ●

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"The reason I love Philly (and our region) is because it's always on. There's always something exciting happening."



QUOTE & PHOTOS: *jason heritage*



better corridors

PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL REITANO PHOTOGRAPHY
BERWYN, PENNSYLVANIA

A vital component of transportation planning is the ability to forecast future travel, using a well-tested travel modeling process. We need a firm understanding of the region's current travel characteristics in order to produce reasonable forecasts for future highway and transit travel.

Last year, modeling work was done for a number of transit routes and stations including: the SEPTA Norristown High Speed Line, Roosevelt Boulevard bus service, Franklin Square PATCO station, Amtrak Northeast Corridor, SEPTA Regional Rail Bethlehem Branch, SEPTA Trolley Route 34, the Broad Street subway line, and the Glassboro–Camden rail line. Traffic forecasts were completed for I-95, US 322, US 202, the US 30 Bypass, and the PA Turnpike in Montgomery County. To learn more, visit www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/Modeling.

Each year, DVRPC looks at specific corridors in the region to identify challenges and make recommendations to guide transportation and land use decisions. Prioritized based on the Congestion Management Process and the Long-Range Plan, corridor studies enhance transportation and land use linkage opportunities.

The Camden County Highway Plan, a key element to the county's Master Plan update, sets the direction for Camden County's highway network to keep pace with changes expected by 2040. The recommendations support the Land Use Plan, emphasize multimodal travel options, and foster partnerships for implementation. In Philadelphia, a "road diet" for Race Street made recommendations for making the road safer for all users. Other efforts included preparing an internet-based tool and database for tracking and managing conditions on municipal roads and bridges around Pottstown; an inventory of ADA sidewalk and curb ramps in the City of Camden; and a brochure introducing PA municipalities to the concept of access management.



dvrpc | march

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<i>mon.</i> 07	<i>tues.</i> 08 REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)	<i>wed.</i> 09 INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP MEETING (10 AM)	<i>thurs.</i> 10	<i>fri.</i> 11	<i>sat.</i> 12
					<i>sun.</i> 13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

<i>mon.</i> 14	<i>tues.</i> 15	<i>wed.</i> 16	<i>thurs.</i> 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)	<i>fri.</i> 18	<i>sat.</i> 19
					<i>sun.</i> 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING / PALM SUNDAY

<i>mon.</i> 21	<i>tues.</i> 22	<i>wed.</i> 23	<i>thurs.</i> 24 BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)	<i>fri.</i> 25 GOOD FRIDAY	<i>sat.</i> 26
					<i>sun.</i> 27 EASTER SUNDAY

<i>mon.</i> 28	<i>tues.</i> 29	<i>wed.</i> 30	<i>thurs.</i> 31
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march moon phases
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 TO CONFIRM MEETING DATES, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER GROUPS NOT FINALIZED AS OF THIS PRINTING, VISIT WWW.DVRPC.ORG OR CALL 215.592.1800



"The reason I enjoy living in Collingswood, NJ, other than the many great restaurants, shopping, parks, and fairs, is because it is my town, and your town, and anybody's town."

"But the main reason I enjoy living here is because it is the town that I call home."

QUOTES & PHOTOS: *chris wagner*



dvrpc

safer roads

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL WINSLOW
LANSDOWNE, PENNSYLVANIA

DVRPC strives to make our region's roads safer for all users. Transportation safety is incorporated into many of DVRPC's initiatives ranging from corridor planning to operations and incident management to safety planning. Understanding crash trends on the Delaware Valley's roadways is an important first step in increasing safety.

The most recent *Annual Crash Data Bulletin* showed that in 2013, there was a 10% decrease in fatalities region-wide, despite a small increase in the number of crashes. An in-depth analysis of crashes that occurred between 2010 and 2012 revealed that the eight emphasis areas addressed in the DVRPC Transportation Safety Action Plan were contributing factors in 97 percent of crash fatalities. Working to implement the Plan on a local level, DVRPC completed a Road Safety Audit for North Maple Avenue in Evesham Township, New Jersey, and assisted both PennDOT and NJDOT in advancing safety improvement projects with federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds.

Coordination with partner agencies is an essential component of safety planning. The Regional Safety Task Force celebrated its ten year anniversary with a special meeting on safety culture and Vision Zero, the national goal to work toward zero roadway fatalities. DVRPC also worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve transportation security regarding the distribution of goods from ports. For more details on DVRPC's safety initiatives, visit www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety.

DVRPC manages forums for emergency responders to meet and coordinate efforts so they are prepared at the time of an incident. The Traffic Incident Management Program facilitates Incident Management Task Forces (IMTFs) and provides software applications (RIMIS and IDRUM) to improve incident response. In FY15, DVRPC hosted a Traffic Incident Management Conference, at which 200 first responders learned about the various aspects of the incident timeline and promoted the need for a unified command structure so that responders can perform their jobs efficiently, and more importantly, safely.

A growing role for DVRPC is to assist our transportation agencies in better managing and operating their systems. The Commission played an important role in planning for the Papal visit in September 2015 by coordinating key players at all levels – state, regional, and local. Staff provided modeling analysis and worked closely with the incident response community to develop situational and detour maps, and provided a private network for local and county first responders to view traffic cameras.



dvrpc | april

april moon phases
 07: ○ | 14: ● | 22: ● | 29: ○

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 APRIL FOOLS' DAY

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 REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)

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 DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING (10 AM)

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 EARTH DAY
 PASSOVER (BEGINS AT SUNSET)

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 BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

fri. | 29
 ARBOR DAY

sat. | 30



"I love the feel and look of the cherry blossoms giving a feel of renewal to our Union Hill Cemetery in Kennett Square. I captured this picture on April 1st."

QUOTE & PHOTO: *danielle chamberlain*



a multimodal transportation system

PHOTO CREDIT:
J. FUSCO FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA®
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

We travel throughout the Delaware Valley using more than just roads and highways. Our transportation network becomes more inter-connected and diverse every year. Our region can be explored in dozens of ways from trains to trails!

Through its publications, research, and tools, DVRPC advanced public transit access across the region. *Safe Routes to Transit* identified ways municipalities could expand bicycle and pedestrian access to rail stations. A study of the stations in Haverford Township along the Norristown High Speed Line suggested enhancements that would improve parking and promote nonmotorized means of reaching the stations. In FY15, DVRPC also created RideScore, an online tool assessing the current and potential bike-friendliness of different transit stops, a crucial step toward increasing ridership.

In order to improve the quality of public transportation, DVRPC analyzed specific routes and corridors. For instance, DVRPC explored inexpensive, actionable solutions to Roosevelt Boulevard's transportation challenges. An enhanced bus service would strengthen Roosevelt Boulevard's connectivity in the short term and also lay a sensible foundation for longer term upgrades. When evaluating the possibility of restoring trackless trolley

service along SEPTA routes 29 and 79, DVRPC considered the benefits of three technologies: trackless trolleys, diesel hybrid buses, or new zero-emissions battery-electric buses. The final report found that electric buses reduce noise and pollution like trolleys but offer flexibility and affordability like hybrid buses, and recommended an electric bus pilot program.

Bicycle infrastructure and multiuse trails also made strides this year. DVRPC partnered with Code for Philly, an organization using the power of technology to better Philadelphia. Data from over 12,000 users of CyclePhilly, Code for Philly's bicycle-trip logging smartphone app, will help planners build better bike routes in our region. Finally, Camden County formally adopted DVRPC's Camden County Multiuse Trails Plan, which recommends a network that will enhance travel for pedestrians and bicyclists of all levels, and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the county.

may moon phases

06: ○ | 13: ● | 21: ● | 29: ○

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MOTHER'S DAY

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REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)

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BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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MEMORIAL DAY (DVRPC OFFICES CLOSED)

"Our classic towns are deeply meaningful to me as I was raised in one in New Jersey. Because classic towns supply all of our essential, restorative and spiritual needs, they have deep roots in the community."

"Those of us so fortunate to be nurtured by this sense of "wholeness" never forget that gift. The community is our collective parent, friend, educator, and supporter."



QUOTES & PHOTO: peter scott



accessible transportation

PHOTO CREDIT: ADAM SMITH
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

DVRPC ensures that all people, despite their income or ability, have access to transportation choices. A healthier and safer transportation system not only connects communities, it also connects people to opportunity.

DVRPC maintains a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP), which seeks to help improve transportation options and provide better service to transportation disadvantaged riders. DVRPC is currently working on a new CHSTP – entitled Equity Through Access – which has a broader approach than previous updates, and focuses on developing and prioritizing projects that may be funded outside of the traditional CHSTP funding sources. To learn more, see www.dvrpc.org/ETA.

Through its Mobility Alternatives Program, DVRPC helps employees save time and money on their commute. For those who must drive to work, DVRPC promotes carpooling, vanpooling, and other options through

Share-A-Ride and the Emergency Ride Home programs. RideECO provides a tax break for both employers and their employees who commute to work using transit. Commuters purchasing RideECO through pre-tax payroll deductions can realize more than \$900 in annual savings and vouchers can be redeemed with all of the region's transit providers. RideECO Select provides additional benefits, including vouchers, the RideECO Stored Value Card, direct loads to PATCO FREEDOM Cards, SEPTA fares (monthly passes and ten trip tickets), and, when allowable by the employer, bicycle commuter benefits.

June moon phases

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FATHER'S DAY

REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)

INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP MEETING (10 AM)

FLAG DAY (DVRPC OFFICES CLOSED)

REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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"I love Manayunk for many reasons. It is a very warm and friendly place to work. Main Street is the heart of Manayunk offering luxury shopping, charming restaurants, and an exciting night life. What I love most is the arts and culture Manayunk offers."

"Each year we hold several festivals and events, my favorite being the Philadelphia International Cycling Classic held every year in June."

QUOTES & PHOTO: *linda hollinger*



strengthening global connections and improving local operations

PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL REITANO PHOTOGRAPHY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Our region's world-class freight and aviation systems connect the Delaware Valley to global markets and provide immeasurable local benefits. These large systems and individual facilities pave the way to future prosperity and cultural exchanges and interactions.

DVRPC supports several projects and initiatives designed to improve freight and aviation operations, while minimizing adverse community impacts. For example, a new engine in a freight locomotive in Camden City will be installed with funding assistance from the CMAQ program to reduce emissions and fuel consumption. Similarly, at the New Garden Flying Field in Chester County, a grant from the PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Fund will be used to construct new aircraft hangars.

To engage stakeholders from these important industries, DVRPC held quarterly meetings of its freight and aviation advisory committees. Special dialogue sessions pooled stakeholder expertise to help identify key emerging trends in freight and aviation as part of the Greater Philadelphia Future Forces Initiative. The Downtown Delivery Symposium in July 2015 brought together 100 stakeholders to analyze conditions, highlight best practices, and determine priorities for improving the

last-mile movement of goods to and from businesses and residences. In June 2015, Wings Field in Montgomery County hosted a unique meeting of the DVRPC Regional Aviation Committee.

In FY15, DVRPC also created several educational tools and technical products to advance the understanding of freight and aviation activity and trends. The first installment of its Commodity Profile Series, *Crude Oil in the Delaware Valley*, explained the history, impact, and future of this critical commodity. The updated Philly Freight Finder application allowed users to explore the region's diverse and interconnected freight system (www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/phillyfreightfinder/).

The Commission also published two Airport Operations Count reports, providing information crucial for future airport planning.

July moon phases

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DVRPC BEGINS FY 2017

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REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING (10 AM)

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BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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"What I like most is the friendly small town charm and the history. I also love the independent small businesses you find in these towns."

"The businesses are as unique and full of charm as the towns in which they are located!"

QUOTES & PHOTOS: carla zambelli





livable communities

PHOTO CREDIT:
M. FISCHETTI FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA®
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

DVRPC creates more livable communities by promoting intelligent land use decisions. Smart growth is a planning approach that encourages the revitalization of existing urban centers and older communities, rather than the development of open space and farmland into suburban sprawl.

DVRPC maintains a database of smart growth projects across the region at www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/SGPD/.

In FY15, DVRPC awarded \$2.2 million for community revitalization projects through its Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI). The grants support planning and local development and redevelopment efforts.

To support older suburbs and encourage smart growth principles throughout the region, DVRPC last year held several events. In March 2015, the Breaking Ground Conference series drew over 350 planners, municipal officials, economic development professionals, real estate developers, and others who are working to make their communities and the entire region more walkable, bikeable, vibrant, equitable, and economically competitive. To learn more about Strategies for Older Suburbs, visit www.dvrpc.org/sos.

Our region has a variety of communities with special assets that make them great places to live – historic character, walkable neighborhoods, and unique housing options. The Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia program promotes

the benefits of living in our region's older suburbs and urban neighborhoods, and provides those communities with the resources to market themselves to potential residents and businesses. Last year, Jenkintown was welcomed into the program and an online photo contest highlighted the enthusiasm for these towns. For more details and information about the Classic Towns program, see www.classictowns.org.

Also in FY15, DVRPC staff completed the community vision for Gloucester County's Master Plan update, reflected in *gc2040: People, Place, Prosperity*. Over 2,000 people completed a survey about what they like about Gloucester County and what they'd like to see in the future. Fifty stakeholder groups also helped create the community vision. In addition, DVRPC identified ways to improve bus service on West Chester Pike between West Chester Borough and the 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby. It described an operational concept for Enhanced Bus Service (EBS) along the corridor that includes consolidated stops, improved passenger amenities, and branded service.



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august moon phases
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TO CONFIRM MEETING DATES, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER GROUPS NOT FINALIZED AS OF THIS PRINTING, VISIT WWW.DVRPC.ORG OR CALL 215.592.1800



"Philadelphia is so different than my country, México, in so many aspects. I love the snow and seasons, it's so magical and inspiring!"

"One day there's white tree branches and a few days later, the city looks like a cherry painting. I also love the city's architecture and parks."



QUOTES & PHOTOS: maria bravo



a strong regional economy

PHOTO CREDIT:
M. KENNEDY FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA®
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Thanks to Greater Philadelphia's diverse economy, the region has remained steady, resilient, and ready to grow. We see opportunities in biotechnology, health services, higher education, and the creative industries. We also see positive signs in our region's energy sector, which is charged for expansion in the coming years.

Last year, DVRPC provided an update of the region's official Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The update sets goals (similar to those in the *Connections 2040* Long-Range Plan) such as focusing growth in centers, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and investing in public infrastructure. The CEDS, *Investing in People and Places*, brings together the public and private sectors to create a roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies.

Greater Philadelphia has long been known as a leader in the life sciences and healthcare. In FY15, a Data Snapshot assessed the relative importance of the life science cluster to the regional economy. The report found that the life science cluster, which includes life science-related manufacturing, wholesale and retail distribution, research and development, and services, is one of the region's strongest but has been outpaced by growth in other regions.

Greater Philadelphia's population is becoming more diverse. Immigration has helped many communities in the region replenish population losses.

Greater Philadelphia's foreign-born population has grown and changed rapidly since 1990. A series of DVRPC's Data Snapshots examined the foreign-born population in Greater Philadelphia using American Community Survey 5-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Last year, DVRPC published a snapshot on immigrant business owners in Cheltenham, Cherry Hill, and Millbourne. In addition, DVRPC hosted a Regional Community and Economic Development Forum on the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program and a Strategies for Older Suburbs roundtable on how immigrant businesses can bring new vitality to downtown retail districts. For more details, visit www.dvrpc.org/immigration.

A national trend that has gained momentum in recent years is the pop-up economy. A new Municipal Implementation Tool on the Pop-Up Economy explained this trend and discussed the benefits of pop-up shops and events, the concept of placemaking, and challenges and tips.

september moon phases

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TO CONFIRM MEETING DATES, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER GROUPS NOT FINALIZED AS OF THIS PRINTING, VISIT WWW.DVRPC.ORG OR CALL 215.592.1800

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REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)

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INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP MEETING (10 AM)

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REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)

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BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (10 AM)
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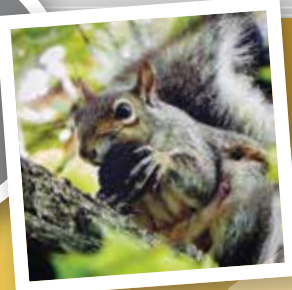
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"Besides the kindness of the people in and around our region, I love the great biodiversity in our surrounding counties; it is truly a paradise for nature and adventure seekers."



QUOTE & PHOTOS: andres vivanco



protected resources

NEW JERSEY

As stewards of our region's natural resources, DVRPC strives not only to protect the environment but to promote the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives and works in Greater Philadelphia.

DVRPC helps counties and municipalities prepare for a greener future by promoting the preservation, wise use, and enhancement of environmental assets. With a \$290k grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, DVRPC worked with the City of Chester to implement the Chester City Climate Adaptation Plan. Environmental planners partnered with the City and consultants to design and engineer a green stormwater infrastructure project in Chester's Memorial Park, in order to enhance the park and improve its stormwater management.

As part of the New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative, DVRPC began working with 11 towns along the Delaware River in FY15 to assess their vulnerability to coastal storms and flooding. This project will engage town leaders and professionals in an intensive study of how they can better prepare for, and adapt to, future storms through land use policy, ordinances, capital improvements, and natural resource management. The project is informed by the latest available climate change science, data, and tools. On the Pennsylvania side of the region, DVRPC advised PennDOT on the development of a project to assess the vulnerability of the state's transportation assets to the impacts of climate change.

In FY15, DVRPC developed a Natural Resources Inventory for the City of Trenton. The inventory compiled information on Trenton's soils, surface water, land use, natural vegetation, animal species, contaminated sites, and air quality to provide the City with a one-stop source for their future environmental planning needs. Planners began work on a similar project in Lawrence Township, Mercer County.

DVRPC also continued to build the Circuit by providing technical assistance and by issuing over \$1.3 million in grants. Ten projects received funding to build, design, and plan multi-use trail projects in southeastern Pennsylvania, including the Newtown Branch Trail in Bucks County and the Chester Valley Trail in West Whiteland. Projects like these advance completion of the Circuit, the region's 750-mile network of trails that connect towns, schools, parks, and local bicycle and pedestrian networks. Completing this unique system will make the Delaware Valley easier than ever before to traverse by bike or on foot, helping residents save gas, get fit, and enjoy the outdoors closer to home.

october moon phases

09: ● | 16: ● | 22: ● | 30: ○

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COLUMBUS DAY
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REGIONAL TECHNICAL
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DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS
MOVEMENT TASK FORCE
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BOARD AND EXECUTIVE
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HALLOWEEN

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"My favorite thing about our region is Philly! It is so easy to hop on the PATCO speed line and head over to the city for an awesome dinner with a great view (sunset at R2L), a relaxing summer afternoon in front of the fountains at Dilworth Park, a totally delicious maple bacon donut from Beiler's at Reading Terminal, or just to check out the fantastic history and architecture Philadelphia has to offer."

QUOTE & PHOTO: *angela rando*



an energy-efficient region

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

In an ongoing effort to increase the resiliency of Greater Philadelphia, DVRPC works with municipalities to help them become more energy-efficient in their operations, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and adopt sustainable practices that can lower costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

DVRPC's Circuit Rider for Energy Efficiency in Local Government Operations program provided direct technical assistance to nine Pennsylvania municipalities, working with them to evaluate current energy use, analyze opportunities for energy savings, and share energy management best practices. The Commission also worked with local governments to reduce the "soft costs" of solar photovoltaic installations through the Solar Ready II program. DVRPC developed a Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework for Solar PV, which highlighted best practices for developing an ordinance for solar PV that is consistent with local land use goals. Nineteen municipalities attended a training session on best practices for reducing costs of solar PV, particularly permitting and zoning for solar energy systems.

LED streetlights present an excellent opportunity for municipalities to reduce energy use and operating costs while improving public safety. Through the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program (RSLPP), DVRPC has recruited 45 municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania to assemble the resources needed to

design, procure, and finance the transition to LED street lighting tailored to each municipality's specific needs.

DVRPC leads the Pennsylvania Partnership to Promote Natural Gas Vehicles, which provides education and assistance to overcome barriers to using this cleaner fuel in school buses and refuse vehicles. Last summer, DVRPC provided six trainings on alternative fuel vehicles for first responders. In April, the Commission hosted a workshop for 17 community college and high school automotive technology instructors, where they learned about natural gas, propane, and electric drive vehicles.

Last year, DVRPC issued a guidebook on Natural Gas for Refuse Fleets in Pennsylvania in order to help municipalities and private companies understand how compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles can be used in their refuse services to save money. The guidebook was released at a workshop in June for fleet managers for municipal and independent waste haulers.

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REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (10 AM)

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

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ELECTION DAY

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VETERAN'S DAY (DVRPC OFFICES CLOSED)

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THANKSGIVING DAY (DVRPC OFFICES CLOSED)

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(DVRPC OFFICES CLOSED)

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november moon phases

07: ● | 14: ● | 21: ● | 29: ○

TO CONFIRM MEETING DATES, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER GROUPS NOT FINALIZED AS OF THIS PRINTING, VISIT WWW.DVRPC.ORG OR CALL 215.592.1800

"Historic Bristol Borough was founded in 1681, making it one of the oldest towns in PA. Being born and raised here, I love this old town on the Delaware River. It has so much history, with our wonderful Riverside Theatre and the newly opened Center for the Arts!"

dave mcglynn





data at your fingertips

MAP CREDIT: DVRPC

Planning for our region's future depends on the collection, analysis, and mobilization of data.

Last year DVRPC launched multiple partnerships and programs seeking to gather more information about critical issues facing the Delaware Valley. Additionally, the Commission's interactive web applications and public datasets place all these facts and figures at your fingertips.

As information becomes available, planners analyze data from the U.S. Census Bureau and make it accessible to the public through data bulletins, analytical reports, and the DVRPC website. In FY15, data bulletins were completed for population estimates and residential building permits. To view a wealth of demographic information, from population and employment estimates to crash data, see DVRPC's Data Navigator: www.dvrpc.org/asp/DataNavigator.

Over the year, DVRPC has improved and updated its library of data. Last spring, the Commission collaborated with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to produce fresh aerial imagery of the nine-county region. These images can be used to generate up-to-date maps or to accompany existing spatial data using a Geographic Information System. Also, partnering with Temple University and Quantum Spatial, Inc., DVRPC helped acquire new Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data that yielded an accurate and detailed elevation dataset for the Delaware Valley.

DVRPC has joined other MPOs throughout Pennsylvania to collect local road and bridge asset data as part of PennDOT's effort to meet FHWA requirements to include all local roads and bridges in their database. This data will be made available to the public and will allow for more effective transportation planning. Additionally, the Office of Travel Monitoring installed 12 new bicycle and pedestrian counters this year, providing round-the-clock information about usage of our region's trails. To view up-to-date vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian counts, see www.dvrpc.org/traffic.

The Commission also expanded public and stakeholder access to the data it collects. DVRPC used the innovative bicycle-trip-tracking application CyclePhilly to publish an interactive map of over 10,000 individual bicycle trips in Philadelphia. In June, alongside SEPTA and the City of Philadelphia, DVRPC shared data with participants in Apps for Philly Transportation 2015, a weekend of "civic hacking" hosted by Code for Philly that produced several exciting project prototypes. The event brought together planners, coders, and community groups seeking to improve the region through collaboration, technology, and data-sharing.

december moon phases

07: ● | 13: ● | 20: ● | 29: ○

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INFORMATON RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP MEETING (10 AM)

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FIRST DAY OF HANUKKAH (BEGINS AT SUNSET)

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CHRISTMAS DAY

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NEW YEAR'S EVE

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"I just adore that within a couple miles of my Phoenixville home, with its urban feel, are so many options for hiking and spending time outdoors. Valley Forge Park is the perfect place to spend an afternoon lounging, but also hitting the trails for some heavy duty hiking."

QUOTE: david boelker

PHOTO: erin burke



engaged citizens

PHOTO CREDIT:
M. EDLOW FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA®
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Public participation and outreach to residents are intrinsic to all of DVRPC's plans and initiatives. Now more than ever, there are more opportunities to get involved.

The goal of DVRPC's public outreach is to promote dialogue between stakeholders and the Commission, and to enhance public awareness of transportation and planning issues. The main vehicle for stakeholder collaboration is the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF). The group reviews timely issues, assists the Commission in implementing public outreach and helps DVRPC reach more organizations, communities, and individuals across the region. PPTF members worked closely with the Future Forces group to identify key forces of change that will affect the region over the next 30 years.

DVRPC supports and fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which states that discrimination by race, color, or national origin is prohibited by all publicly-funded or federally assisted plans, policies, or projects. Further, DVRPC respects the guiding principles of Environmental Justice (EJ) – the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in a given geographic area in the development and implementation of publicly-funded plans, policies,

or projects. Particular attention is paid to communities that may be disproportionately affected by such plans, policies, or projects.

DVRPC regularly updates its *Planner's Methodology* to provide guidance to staff in meeting Title VI and EJ mandates and structuring an outreach plan tailored for each project. In 2015, DVRPC released *Planning Matters*, a publication outlining the Commission's activities for residents, including the structure of the Commission, the project and planning processes, DVRPC's long-range plan, and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and how to get involved.

We encourage you to visit our website at www.dvrpc.org to learn about upcoming events, provide comments on DVRPC Board action items, stay up-to-date on recent studies and initiatives, and to sign up to receive our news and announcements. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram @DVRPC. To receive the new *Planning Matters* publication, contact us at 215-592-1800 or public_affairs@dvrpc.org.



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 215.592.1800 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

committee structure

DVRPC's committees advise the Board on specific regional issues while ensuring that interested parties, including member governments and concerned citizens, have an opportunity to participate in the planning process. Meeting dates are on our website at www.dvrpc.org. Anyone who wishes may attend any of the following committee meetings:

REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: advises the Board on issues concerning the long-range and short-range transportation plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and other programs and policies.

REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE: conducts aviation system planning activities by providing technical and policy guidance to the Federal Aviation Administration, the states, and the DVRPC planning program.

GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE: works to maximize goods movement capability by sharing information and technology with public and private freight interests. Also promotes the region's intermodal capabilities and implements a regional goods movement strategy.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM: provides a forum for discussion of current issues in land use, housing, economic development, and transportation in the Delaware Valley region.

INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP: provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among regional data managers. Topics of discussion include IT architecture, GIS/orthophotography, web technologies, and census data.

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE: provides a forum for the seven Incident Management Task Forces to share ideas. Topics of discussion may include RIMIS and regional ITS architecture.

REGIONAL SAFETY TASK FORCE: offers guidance to DVRPC projects including the Regional Safety Action Plan and provides a forum for multi-disciplinary professionals to share information.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE: provides the public with access to, and participation in, the regional planning and decision-making process. This committee acts as an advisory group to DVRPC's Board on tools and techniques to improve public outreach.

dvrpc | fy 2015 revenue by source

	HIGHWAY PLANNING	PUBLIC TRANSIT	AIRPORT PLANNING	GENERAL FUND	OTHER PROGRAMS	TOTALS
USDOT – PENNDOT	\$4,617,740	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,380,000	\$8,997,740
USDOT – NJDOT	2,275,303	798,971	0	0	3,826,475	6,900,749
USDOT – FAA	0	0	131,226	0	0	131,226
LOCAL	1,125,000	569,650	14,581	194,482	1,185,765	3,116,478
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	3,445,513	3,445,513
TOTALS	\$8,018,043	\$3,395,621	\$145,806	\$194,482	\$10,837,753	\$22,591,705

dvrpc | fy 2015 expenditures

	HIGHWAY PLANNING	PUBLIC TRANSIT	AIRPORT PLANNING	GENERAL FUND	OTHER PROGRAMS	TOTALS
SALARIES, WAGES, BENEFITS	\$4,610,966	\$1,411,445	\$89,814	\$3,289	\$3,199,521	\$9,315,035
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	922,193	494,006	3,441	189,717	487,831	2,097,186
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	18,932	3,786	0	0	15,145	37,863
SUBCONTRACTS	391,018	851,234	\$0	0	5,531,952	6,774,204
INDIRECT COSTS	2,074,934	635,150	52,551	1,476	1,603,304	4,367,417
PROGRAM OVERRUNS/ CARRYOVER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	\$8,018,043	\$3,395,621	\$145,806	\$194,482	\$10,837,753	\$22,591,705