making connections
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.

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, the federal government, and regional transportation providers. We also partner with a wide variety of nonprofit 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.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Last year, 2015, marked DVRPC’s 50th Anniversary – a time to look back and celebrate how far the Commission and the region have come. In 2016, DVRPC once again looked forward, updating its Long-Range Plan – Connections – with intensive scenario planning undertaken by a group of content experts. Broad outreach asked the general public to acknowledge challenges we might face ahead and identify their hopes and visions for the future; and stakeholder workshops helped identify the strategies we need to take now in order to create the future we desire.

Connections is an appropriate title for a Long-Range Plan as it recognizes the connections between transportation improvements and economic activity, the environment, land use, social equity, and mobility. DVRPC’s work addresses these overlapping themes, and this Annual Report highlights examples of how we are making connections between people, planning, and places.

We believe that the future belongs to regions that can define a clear identity, understand their unique challenges and opportunities, be creative to address those problems, build on their strengths, and work together across political boundaries toward a shared prosperity. Greater Philadelphia is well-positioned to do just that, and DVRPC is working to make ambitious long-range plans a short-term reality.

We encourage you to connect with us – either in person at a meeting or workshop, online at our redesigned website (www.dvRPC.org), or on social media by following @DVRPC. We look forward to making connections with you in 2017.
GET INVOLVED.
ATTEND A MEETING OR WORKSHOP.
LEARN MORE AT WWW.DVRPC.ORG.
CONNECT WITH US ONLINE @DVRPC.
DVRPC puts forth a bold but achievable long-range plan that guides the region in creating a vibrant and thriving future. *Connections 2045* directs planning, investment, and growth over several decades in the nine-county region. It presents a blueprint for future growth and includes the region’s federally-funded transportation investment priorities. In FY16, planners and content experts identified Future Forces and created “what if” scenarios. A series of public workshops helped craft an aspirational vision, and identified potential strategies to reach that vision. To learn more, visit [www.dvrpc.org/Connections2045](http://www.dvrpc.org/Connections2045).

DVRPC works to achieve its long-term goals through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which prioritizes short-term capital improvements. In FY16, DVRPC approved the FY 2017-2020 PA TIP, containing almost 450 multimodal projects worth nearly $5.3 billion. To view TIP projects, visit [www.dvrpc.org/TIP](http://www.dvrpc.org/TIP).

DVRPC manages three unique programs that help make the region a better place to live and work, by enabling people to make better location choices, helping people get to where they need to go, and improving air quality.

The Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia program promotes the benefits of living in our region’s small towns and urban neighborhoods, and provides those communities with the resources to market themselves to potential residents and businesses. Last year, Quakertown was welcomed into the program. To explore the Classic Towns, visit [www.classictowns.org](http://www.classictowns.org).

DVRPC’s Mobility Alternatives Program helps employees save time and money on their commute, while improving the region’s air quality. For those who must drive to work, DVRPC promotes carpooling, vanpooling, and other options through the Share-A-Ride and Emergency Ride Home programs. The RideECO commuter benefit celebrated its 25th year in the marketplace, enabling both employers and their employees to realize significant tax savings when commuting to work via transit or vanpools. To learn more, visit [www.dvrpc.org/MAP](http://www.dvrpc.org/MAP) and [www.RideECO.org](http://www.RideECO.org).

DVRPC educates the public on air quality and provides daily forecasts through the Air Quality Partnership (AQP). Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, so last year AQP collaborated with researchers at the University of Pennsylvania to educate daycare providers about the Air Quality Index. Visit [www.airqualitypartnership.org](http://www.airqualitypartnership.org) for daily air quality forecasts and educational resources.
DVRPC makes an impact on the local level while keeping a regional perspective. Transportation modeling, travel monitoring and traffic counts, and project implementation are a few examples.

DVRPC forecasts future travel on specific roadways using a well-tested travel modeling process to help design the transportation facilities of the future. The heart of this process is our Travel Improvement Model (TIM), a package of computer programs that simulate regional travel behavior. In FY16, DVRPC worked on forecasts for many roadways, including I-95, US 30, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Roosevelt Boulevard, and county roads in Burlington County. Transit forecasts included the Norristown High Speed Line, the Paoli-Thorndale line, Broad Street line, a potential Philadelphia Zoo station, and possible rail service along Christopher Columbus Boulevard. To learn more visit www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/Modeling.

The travel model is only as good as the data that informs it. DVRPC’s traffic counting program collects timely data to determine the region’s current travel behavior. The Commission collects traffic volume counts at over 5,000 locations each year and is one of the only programs that includes permanent bicycle and pedestrian counts. To view up-to-date counts, see www.dvrpc.org/Traffic.

DVRPC provides project management assistance to PennDOT and our New Jersey counties for certain federally funded transportation projects. Staff ensures a smooth workflow throughout the project development process, including assistance in defining the project’s scope of services, advertising requests for proposals, coordinating consultant selection, administering the consultant contract, and gaining final approval from the Federal Highway Administration. To learn more, visit www.dvrpc.org/ProjectImplementation.
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.

**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.

**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.

**Healthy Communities Task Force**
Meets on a regular basis to discuss the intersection of public health and planning, and identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Transportation Operations Task Force**
Provides a forum for the seven Incident Management Task Forces. Topics of discussion include RIMIS and regional ITS architecture.

**Public Participation Task Force**
Provides the public with access to, and participation in, the regional planning and decision-making process; and provides feedback to improve public outreach.
Innovation fuels our region’s economy, creates high-quality jobs, and maximizes government efficiency. For innovation to flourish, Greater Philadelphia must embrace new technologies and share information intelligently, freely, and openly.

This year DVRPC launched a new platform expanding public access to geospatial data. With the click of a button, the GIS Data Portal helps users search, visualize, and download datasets about demographics, planning, transportation, and more. GIS allows us to perform advanced analyses to uncover previously unrecognized relationships and patterns. These discoveries shed light on important trends that shape Greater Philadelphia and generate creative, innovative solutions to our region’s challenges.
making connections
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NEW YEAR’S DAY 01
DVRPC CLOSED 02
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 10
DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE 13
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (DVRPC CLOSED) 16
DVRPC BOARD MEETING 26

FULL MOON: 12
Our open spaces and trails are productive assets that improve our quality of life and make the region more attractive in which to live. These places contribute to our local economies and increase property values. Trails and green spaces act as infrastructure and enable many of us to live healthy lifestyles, possibly helping to reduce healthcare costs. These spaces allow us to experience and preserve many of the region’s natural, cultural, and historic resources.

DVRPC’s Regional Trails Program provides planning assistance and financial support to trail developers, local governments, and nonprofits to complete the Circuit – Greater Philadelphia’s 750-mile network of multiuse trails. With financial support from the William Penn Foundation, in FY16 the program provided $2,002,000 to design and engineer seven projects and construct two projects, including the complete reconstruction of Philadelphia’s popular Martin Luther King Drive trail.
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Understanding and providing for the needs of vulnerable populations are priorities in DVRPC’s planning work. We believe everyone should have options and opportunities to live connected, healthier, and more vibrant lives.

The Equity Through Access (ETA) project engages local governments, human service agencies, nonprofits, and transportation providers to identify unmet mobility needs and service gaps, recommend new or different kinds of transportation solutions, and enable more people to find “ladders of opportunity,” increasing social and economic mobility. The ETA Map Toolkit, a new online tool, visualizes areas where public transit connections should be made or improved, bridging access gaps in the future. The Toolkit presents different datasets, including distributions of vulnerable populations, locations of essential services, and areas where transit service is low. The toolkit is intended to help local governments and small service providers better understand the populations they are serving, plan routes and services, and apply for grant funding.
INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP 08
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 12
TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE 13
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 14
REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE 16
ST. PATRICK’S DAY 17
1ST DAY OF SPRING 20
DVRPC BOARD MEETING 23

FULL MOON: 27

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Safety matters to everyone, so DVRPC pursues an active, wide-ranging approach to improve it. It’s incorporated in many of DVRPC’s efforts, from helping local governments identify and advance safety projects, to the use of new technology to optimize the transportation network and improve incident management.

DVRPC serves as the region’s clearinghouse for incident management activities. The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program addresses regional safety issues by managing seven task forces and providing software programs to improve incident management responses and foster interagency coordination. Last year, workshops and meetings focused on TIM best practices, safety culture, Vision Zero, and more.
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APRIL FOOLS’ DAY  01
1ST DAY OF PASSOVER (SUNDOWN)  10
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  11
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE  12
EASTER  16
DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE  21
DVRPC BOARD MEETING  27

FULL MOON: 26
In order to meet the demands of our growing population and economy, we continue to maintain and preserve our transportation facilities, make existing facilities more efficient, and consider creative solutions for congestion and safety.

The I-76 Integrated Corridor Management project provides operational improvements on the Schuylkill Expressway and supporting arterials to dynamically manage recurrent congestion and help reduce incidents. For example, various active traffic management techniques, such as warning signs and variable speed limits could alert drivers that queues are present, in order to slow approaching traffic and prevent secondary incidents. Dynamic lane assignments, shoulder, and junction control improvements could provide for part-time shoulder use in response to congestion or incidents. Installation of devices to continuously monitor the roadway will help increase the effectiveness of ongoing efforts such as Safety Service Patrols and the Philadelphia and I-76/I-476 Crossroads Incident Management task forces. Multimodal operational improvements such as enhanced coordination with parallel transit services, and technologies to communicate transit options to motorists in real time, can help relieve congestion by reducing the number of vehicles on the road.
CINCO DE MAYO 05
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 09
MOTHERS’ DAY 14
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE 23
DVRPC BOARD MEETING 25
1ST DAY OF RAMADAN (SUNDOWN) 26
MEMORIAL DAY (DVRPC CLOSED) 29

FULL MOON: 25
Each year Greater Philadelphia becomes more diverse. **Diversity makes the region stronger as newcomers bring valuable skills and fresh perspectives.** While immigrants have long contributed to our region’s economy, they will play even greater roles in the future as the native-born population ages and leaves the workforce.

Starting in 2012, DVRPC began an examination of immigration in our region and shared the results through Data Snapshots that present community-level demographic data and insights from interviews with local immigrant business owners. DVRPC also hosted two events in conjunction with these research efforts: a Regional Community and Economic Development Forum (RCEDF) discussion of Employment-Based Immigration and the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, and a Strategies for Older Suburbs (SOS) Roundtable about how immigrants are helping revitalize Main Street retail districts.
# June 2023 Calendar

- **Full Moon**: 23rd

**In Information Resources Exchange Group (IREF)**: 07

- **Transportation Operations Task Force**: 12
- **Regional Technical Committee**: 13
- **Flag Day (DVRPC Closed)**: 14
- **Regional Aviation Committee**: 15
- **Fathers’ Day**: 18
- **1st Day of Summer**: 21

**DVRPC Board Meeting**: 22

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Climate change will bring more severe storms to our region, increasing flooding and storm damage. **In order to thrive in coming years, Greater Philadelphia must become more resilient to extreme weather and larger and more frequent flooding events.**

Responding to this threat, DVRPC partnered with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning to help our region’s most at-risk communities prepare for the challenges ahead. The Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative offers free coastal vulnerability assessments to municipalities, helping them develop strategies to mitigate flooding and to protect assets like schools, hospitals, and utilities from the combined threats of sea level rise, storm surge, and extreme precipitation. This year DVRPC met with planners, municipal managers, emergency personnel, engineers, and others in six New Jersey communities along the tidal Delaware River to share information about previous flood events and to analyze future flooding scenarios out to the year 2100.
INDEPENDENCE DAY (DVRPC CLOSED) 04
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 11
DELAWARE VALLEY GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE 12
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE 12
DVRPC BOARD MEETING 27
Greater Philadelphia’s public transit system has powered regional growth for over a century. **For our region to stay economically competitive, our legacy infrastructure must be adapted to contemporary standards of performance and inclusivity.** Our aim is for the region’s transit system to be fully accessible so that every individual regardless of age or physical ability can easily travel to work, school, or other destinations.

Over the past year DVRPC has assisted SEPTA with developing plans to modernize its decades-old trolley service with wheelchair-accessible vehicles and stops. Recently, a microsimulation analysis for SEPTA Route 34 drew on SEPTA data and industry peer experience to develop sketch projections of likely wheelchair boarding rates for modern, accessible trolleys. DVRPC is also developing design guidance to modernize trolley stops in Philadelphia and Delaware counties; this guidance will be used by designers as each trolley corridor prepares to accommodate new accessible vehicles.
Greater Philadelphia has a rich agricultural community, a diverse distribution and transportation network, and nationally recognized nonprofit and for-profit food system stakeholders; however the region has high incidences of food insecurity – when a person or a community does not have reliable access to affordable nutritious food.

DVRPC’s food system planning project, a part of the Commission’s Healthy Communities Program, assists stakeholders in recognizing regional advantages and overcoming challenges in order to create a more sustainable and resilient food system for all.

A FY16 study, Cultivating Camden, analyzed Camden’s current food economy and made a number of recommendations to improve food access and increase economic opportunities for Camden City residents through food-related economic development. With continued support from Campbell’s Healthy Communities Initiative, DVRPC held a number of technical assistance workshops in 2016 that focused on implementing the study’s recommendations, with a focus on job opportunities for Camden residents.

To learn more, see www.dvrpc.org/food.
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- **LABOR DAY (DVRPC CLOSED)** 04
- **REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE** 12
- **INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP** 13
- **TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE** 18
- **ROSH HASHANAH (SUNDOWN)** 20
- **REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE** 21
- **1ST DAY OF AUTUMN** 22
- **DVRPC BOARD MEETING** 28
- **YOM KIPPUR (SUNDOWN)** 29

**FULL MOON: 20**
In the future, the world will face a number of external forces, such as climate change, new technologies, and shifting population and job locations, that will create major challenges and opportunities. These Future Forces are broad social, technological, economic, environmental, and political trends that can create sudden and rapid change.

As the first step in updating the region’s long-range plan, DVRPC convened the Greater Philadelphia Futures Group — experts in economics, land use, the environment, public health, transportation, and technology to identify key regional Future Forces. Those forces are: Enduring Urbanism, Free Agent Economy, Severe Climate, Transportation on Demand, and the U.S. Energy Boom. DVRPC then analyzed how each force could affect the region over the next 30 years as “what if” scenarios.
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**Columbus Day (DVRPC Closed)** 09
**Regional Technical Committee** 10
**Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force** 11
**Public Participation Task Force** 11
**DVRPC Board Meeting** 26
**Halloween** 31

**Full Moon:** 19
The DVRPC region is home to 31 marine ports along the Delaware River. **Ports play a critical role in our regional economic health, serving as the gateway for materials into and out of the nation and the region.** However, this economic benefit brings additional impacts on the transportation infrastructure, the environment, and neighboring communities.

Currently, port operations largely rely on diesel-powered equipment to move cargo. Diesel engines are not only reliable and efficient, they can last a long time. Older diesel engines can be a major source of air pollutants. Demographic data shows that the communities surrounding port facilities in our region are more economically disadvantaged than the region as a whole, and the residents of these neighborhoods are more susceptible to the poor health outcomes associated with chronic exposure to air pollution.

Last year DVRPC examined the impacts on communities near ports in a report entitled, **Impacts of Diesel Emissions from Port Facilities on Local Communities.** The study recommends increasing fleet turnover and retrofits, promoting emissions reduction strategies, and identifying funding sources available to goods movement partners.
Although community revitalization happens at the local level, DVRPC has an important role in promoting smart growth strategies and offering various incentives. **One of the most effective ways DVRPC can promote smart growth is by providing funding to support the revitalization of our region’s older communities and neighborhoods.**

In FY16, DVRPC awarded $1.8 million to 26 communities in Greater Philadelphia through the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) program. TCDI grants support planning for local development and redevelopment efforts. Since the program’s inception in 2002, the TCDI program has awarded $16 million in planning funds to over 230 different communities in our region – leveraging over $350 million in additional federal, state, local, and private funds.
december

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DVRPC BOARD MEETING  06
TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE  11
1ST DAY OF HANUKKAH (SUNDOWN)  12
INFORMATION RESOURCES EXCHANGE GROUP  13
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE  14
1ST DAY OF WINTER; REGIONAL AVIATION COMMITTEE  21
CHRISTMAS DAY (DVRPC CLOSED)  25
KWANZAA BEGINS  26
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FULL MOON: 18
TRANSPORTATION: HIGHWAY, TRANSIT, BICYCLE, & PEDESTRIAN

City Branch Transit Feasibility Study
Evaluating Opportunities for Transit Signal Priority in Southern New Jersey
Analysis of Modernization Scenarios for SEPTA Route 34
Enhanced Bus Service on West Chester Pike
Alternatives Development for Roosevelt Boulevard Transit Enhancements
Downtown Trenton Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
Darby Transportation Center: Access & Development Opportunities Study
Overview of the 2015 Congestion Management Process
2015-2016 CMP Supplemental Projects Status Memorandum
Central Jersey Transportation Forum Planned Projects Status Report
Access Management
2015 Transportation Safety Action Plan: Improving Transportation Safety in the Delaware Valley
Local & County Roads Safety Newsletter
2012-2013 Household Travel Survey for the Delaware Valley Region
Renewing Race Street: A Mobility Analysis
Newton Lake Trail Feasibility Study
Identifying Opportunities for Park and Ride Capacity in South Jersey
US 30 ITS Master Plan - Chester County
2040 Regional Airport System Plan

EXPLORE DVRPC PRODUCTS & PUBLICATIONS: WWW.DVRPC.ORG/PRODUCTS
FY16 PUBLICATIONS

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Transportation Conformity Demonstration: FY2015 PA TIP; FY2016 NJ TIP & Connections 2040 Long Range Plan
Impact of Diesel Emissions from Port Facilities on Local Communities in the DVRPC Region
Municipal Energy Management:
Best Practices from DVRPC’s Direct Technical Assistance Program

LAND USE, ECONOMY, & COMMUNITY

Rating the Region: Metropolitan Indicators Report
Data Snapshot Series 2: Regional Economics, No. 3:
Life Science and Health Care
Investing in People and Places:
Greater Philadelphia’s CEDS 2015 Annual Review and Update
Rightsizing Police and Fire Facilities
Commodity Profile Series #1: Crude Oil in the Delaware Valley
gc2040: People, Place, Prosperity – Community Vision for Gloucester County
Cultivating Camden: The City’s Food Economy Strategy
Greater Philadelphia Future Forces
Municipal Implementation Tool #028: Safe, Clean, and Green
2016 Municipal Resource Guide
Data Bulletin #098: Residential Building Permits, 2010-2015
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Director, Council on Affordable Housing
Joyce Paul
Chief of Staff, Office of the Commissioner
James Requa
Project Specialist, Council on Affordable Housing

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR’S APPOINTEE
John Spinello
Director, Office of the Governor Authorities Unit
Christopher Howard
Assistant Counsel, Office of the Governor Authorities Unit

BURLINGTON COUNTY
Bruce Garganio
Deputy Director, Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Carol Ann Thomas
Principal Transportation Planner, Burlington County Land Development Section

CAMDEN COUNTY
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Planning Director, Camden County

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Eric E. Jackson
Mayor
Jeffrey Wilkerson
Principal Planner

CO-COUNSEL FOR DVRPC
NEW JERSEY
Thomas J. Coleman, Esq.
Attorney at Law, Raymond Coleman Heinold, LLP

PENNSYLVANIA
Andrew Bockis
Attorney at Law, Saul Ewing, LLP

PARTICIPATORY NON-VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES
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Regional Administrator
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Community Planner
Timothy Lidiak
Community Planner
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Regional Administrator
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Michael Moltzen
Mobile Source Team Leader
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Director
Alan Miller
Redevelopment Coordinator, Brownfields Program Manager
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Aliyah Furman
Southeast Regional Director
## FY 2016 | Revenue by Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Highway Planning</th>
<th>Public Transit</th>
<th>Airport Planning</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Other Programs</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USDOT - PENNDOT</td>
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<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>$9,769,928</td>
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<td>USDOT - FAA</td>
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<td>10,402</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>4,335,100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,531,930</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,395,621</strong></td>
<td><strong>$104,024</strong></td>
<td><strong>$148,986</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,061,266</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,241,827</strong></td>
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## FY 2016 | Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Highway Planning</th>
<th>Public Transit</th>
<th>Airport Planning</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Other Programs</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries, Wages, Benefits</td>
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<td>Subcontracts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,531,930</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,395,621</strong></td>
<td><strong>$104,024</strong></td>
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</tr>
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DVRPC is funded by a variety of funding sources including federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, as well as by DVRPC’s state and local member governments. The authors, however, are solely responsible for the findings and conclusions herein, which may not represent the official views or policies of the funding agencies.

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