

# Chapter 5: Public Involvement

DVRPC firmly believes that meaningful public participation results in better planning outcomes. Public participation is a process, not a single event. DVRPC provides multiple opportunities for a wide variety of stakeholders, including community members, public officials, and the private sector, to provide comments on and stay informed about transportation planning and programming decisions. By incorporating stakeholders' local insights, residents' lived experiences, and subject matter expertise, plans are more implementable and beneficial.

## Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the Draft DVRPC FFY2026 TIP for New Jersey opens on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM (local time) and extends through Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 5:00 PM (local time). This comment period also serves as an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the Draft Statewide TIP (STIP) for NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT. DVRPC invites interested members of the public to attend either or both the in-person meeting or hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting. These meetings are held on different dates, providing two opportunities to learn about the Draft TIP and Draft STIP and to submit a written comment on these draft documents. These will be held on the following dates and times:

### IN PERSON

**Tuesday August 5, 2025, from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM**

**Register at <https://forms.gle/yXTHQmMjf9csCA8y9>**

**Location: Gloucester County Library - Mullica Hill Branch  
389 Wolfert Station Rd  
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062**

### HYBRID MEETING

**Thursday, August 7, 2025, from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM**

**Registration for in-person and online attendees:**

**[https://dvrpc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_79k-Zd45SZW6AfAkVEDGiw](https://dvrpc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_79k-Zd45SZW6AfAkVEDGiw)**

**In-person location: DVRPC Main Conference Room  
190 N Independence Mall W  
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Directions: [www.dvrpc.org/directions/](http://www.dvrpc.org/directions/) is**

**Dinner will be served for in-person attendees at both meetings. Interpretation can be provided if requested.  
Please direct all questions to [public\\_affairs@dvrpc.org](mailto:public_affairs@dvrpc.org) or 215.592.1800.**

While not required, those interested in joining the meeting are encouraged to RSVP using the links provided above, or by contacting 215-238-2929 or [public\\_affairs@dvrpc.org](mailto:public_affairs@dvrpc.org). For the online meeting, registration information will be available on DVRPC's events calendar at <https://www.dvrpc.org/calendar/2025/8>. While participants need to register beforehand, they are approved automatically and can register and join the meeting up until the meeting ends. Additionally, people who want to participate but do not have internet access or smart phones can call in. Anyone who needs accommodations, such as closed captioning or interpretation for either meeting, can contact DVRPC's Office of Communications & Engagement at [public\\_affairs@dvrpc.org](mailto:public_affairs@dvrpc.org) or 215-238-2929.

The meetings will be conducted jointly with NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, and the DRPA/PATCO. NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT and the DRPA/PATCO do not hold a separate public comment period or meeting for the Draft STIP and rely on DVRPC and other MPOs to serve as the vehicle for this federal requirement. Public comments on both the Draft TIP and STIP documents will be addressed to the MPO; the MPO will then coordinate responses with the agency(ies) in the best position to respond to such comments (MPO, NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, DRPA/PATCO, county, municipality, or independent authorities).

DVRPC's website ([www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org)) is one of the organization's primary tools for public outreach, especially during the TIP update cycle when it serves as a central repository for TIP-related information and communication. The entire Draft TIP and Draft STIP documents are available on the DVRPC website, including the date and location of the in-person and online public meetings and other general information. Individuals can also download or access current TIP materials at any time. The Draft STIP is also available at <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/capital.stip2635>. The quickest and most direct way to submit comments is online by using DVRPC's web-based Draft TIP public comment application located at [www.dvrpc.org/TIP/Draft](http://www.dvrpc.org/TIP/Draft). Users can click on the "Submit a Comment on the Draft TIP and/or STIP" button to make general and project-specific comments. DVRPC staff will then gather responses from appropriate agencies. Responses will be provided only to comments that are submitted in writing during the public comment period by 5:00 PM (local time) on August 20, 2025. In addition, the public can submit comments via email ([tip@dvrpc.org](mailto:tip@dvrpc.org)) during the public comment period, or mail written comments to:

**TIP COMMENTS**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**  
**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**190 N. INDEPENDENCE MALL WEST, 8TH FLOOR**  
**PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106-1520**

Comments received via mail must be postmarked by August 20, 2025. If you need assistance in providing a written comment, please contact the DVRPC Office of Communications and Engagement at 215-238-2929 or [public\\_affairs@dvrpc.org](mailto:public_affairs@dvrpc.org). In addition, DVRPC frequently employs social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)) during the public comment period to garner the public's interest and attention. For example, DVRPC will highlight different projects and facts via social media posts. For those without internet access, draft documents are available at the DVRPC office in the American College of Physicians Building in downtown Philadelphia, or the public can request the DVRPC Office of Communications and Engagement to mail the draft documents to them by calling 215-592-1800. Hardcopies of the Draft TIP documents are also available at certain public libraries across the region that are listed in Table 26.

## Public Comment Guidance

To facilitate the public comment process, DVRPC offers some extended guidance. Listed below are some questions that DVRPC asks the public to consider during the review of the Draft TIP and Draft STIP documents.

- Are we meeting the needs of the region?
- Are the Draft TIP and STIP meeting the intent of the IIJA/BIL? For example, do the Draft TIP and STIP focus on projects that address safety and asset conditions? Do they help the region rebuild and reinvest in our railways and public transit infrastructure?

- Is this region getting its fair share of resources compared to other regions in the state or nation?
- Is the current transportation project development process, including environmental reviews and public input, effective?
- Given financial constraints, is this region investing money in the right types of projects?
- Are the Draft TIP and STIP documents easy to use? How can DVRPC, NJDOT, and NJ TRANSIT further improve these documents?

Comments are not limited to these broader issues of concern. DVRPC, as always, welcomes opinions on specific projects contained in the TIP, the TIP development process, or any other topic of concern. However, we remind those intending to recommend new projects for the TIP that to earn a place on the TIP, projects must first progress through the screening and planning processes described earlier. As a result, requests for new projects are generally referred to the appropriate agency for further investigation through their respective “pre-TIP” study efforts. These study efforts may lead to the project winning a place on the TIP in some future year. Additionally, a constructive, information-rich comment that is clearly communicated and supported with facts and local knowledge is more likely to have an impact on decision making. Below are a few tips for crafting effective public comments:

### **Tips for Crafting Effective Public Comments**

- Read the description of the project thoroughly to better understand what it is and what it includes. Is the project a study, operational improvement, or construction project? Does it enhance a parking lot/bus stop, create a multi-use trail, or include a safety feature? For example, an operational improvement project, such as signal re-timing, may not be able to add another travel lane within its scope, but safety measures like improved signage could be added to many kinds of projects.
- Be concise. Support your claims with sound reasoning, documented evidence, and/or specifics on how your community will be impacted. For example, have you observed the impacts of a new development on traffic patterns? Is there a study that supports your concerns?
- Try to address trade-offs and opposing views.
- If you disagree with a project, suggest an alternative and include an explanation and/or analysis of how your alternative might meet the same objective or be more effective. A potential alternative is to not proceed with the project.
- Identify any credentials and experience that may distinguish your comment from others. If you are a resident of a community or have relevant personal or professional experience, please state so.
- There is no minimum or maximum length for a comment to be effective.
- Let us know if the Draft TIP and STIP documents are easy to use. Feel free to suggest how DVRPC, NJDOT, and NJ TRANSIT can further improve their documents.

The public comment process is not a vote. One comment that is well-supported with facts and local knowledge can be more influential than a hundred comments. DVRPC and its planning partners are looking for input to help them ensure that the best projects for the region, within financial constraints, are the ones moving forward.

**Table 26: Libraries Displaying the Draft TIP**

| <b>BURLINGTON COUNTY</b>   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Burlington County Library<br>5 Pioneer Boulevard<br>Westampton, NJ 08060                                     | Moorestown Library<br>111 West Second Street<br>Moorestown, NJ 08057  | Burlington County Library–<br>Bordentown Branch<br>18 East Union Street<br>Bordentown, NJ 08505   |
| <b>CAMDEN COUNTY</b>   |   |   |
| Camden County Library –<br>M. Allan Vogelsson Regional<br>Branch<br>203 Laurel Road<br>Voorhees, NJ 08043    | Camden County Library–<br>Gloucester Twp.-Blackwood Rotary<br>Branch<br>15 South Blackhorse Pike<br>Blackwood, NJ 08012 | Camden County Library–<br>Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez<br>Downtown Branch - on the<br>Rutgers Campus<br>300 North 5th Street<br>Camden, NJ 08102 |
| Haddonfield Public Library<br>60 Haddon Avenue<br>Haddonfield, NJ 08033                                      | Cherry Hill Free Public Library<br>1100 Kings Highway North<br>Cherry Hill, NJ 08034                                    | Camden County Library–<br>Riletta L. Cream Ferry<br>Avenue Branch<br>852 Ferry Ave.<br>Camden, NJ 08104                                 |
| <b>GLOUCESTER COUNTY</b>   |   |   |
| Monroe Township Public<br>Library<br>713 Marsha Avenue<br>Williamstown, NJ 08094                             | Gloucester County Library<br>System – Mullica Hill<br>389 Wolfert Station Road<br>Mullica Hill, NJ 08062                | Woodbury Public Library<br>33 Delaware Street<br>Woodbury, NJ 08096   |
| Margaret E. Heggan Free Public<br>Library<br>606 Delsea Dr<br>Sewell, NJ 08080                               | Margaret Dombrosky Swedesboro<br>Public Library<br>1442 Kings Hwy<br>Swedesboro, NJ 08085                               | Glassboro Public Library<br>101 Rowan Blvd<br>Glassboro, NJ 08028   |
| Greenwich Public Library<br>411 Swedesboro Rd<br>Gibbstown, NJ 08027   | Logan Township Library<br>498 Beckett Rd<br>Swedesboro, NJ 08085  | Newfield Public Library<br>115 Catawba Ave<br>Newfield, NJ 08344  |
| <b>MERCER COUNTY</b>   |   |   |
| Mercer County Library–<br>Lawrence Branch<br>2751 Brunswick Pike, U.S.<br>Route 1<br>Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 | Trenton Free Public Library<br>120 Academy Street<br>Trenton, NJ 08638  |   |

**Table 26:** Libraries Displaying the Draft TIP

| PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Free Library of Philadelphia<br>1901 Vine Street<br>Philadelphia, PA 19103 | Library for the Blind &<br>Physically Handicapped of<br>Philadelphia<br>919 Walnut Street<br>Philadelphia, PA 19107 |  |

Source: DVRPC, 2025

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