



**VISTA 2025 Goal 5:**

***Support critical infrastructure in targeted corridors of opportunity***

**Goal 5 Team Meeting**

**December 9, 2015**

**Meeting Notes**

**Team Members Attending:** Diane Disney, Mike Fili, Charles Fleischman, Matt Hammond, Rob Henry, Jim Horn, Michelle Kichline, Al Koenig, Steve Krug, Greg Newell, Bob Norris, Al Sauer, Bob Schoenberger, Frances Sheehan, Paul Spiegel, Jim Turner, Jeff Valocchi, Chris Williams

**Also Attending:** Mike Grigalonis, Mary Frances McGarrity, Tim Phelps, David Sciocchetti

**Michelle Kichline**

- Welcomed everyone
- Indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to review progress in the past year and to discuss activities in the coming year
- Noted that Co-Chair Michael Hankin had a conflict and would not be able to attend
- Stated that there would be an annual meeting schedule established for 2016
- Invited all members to introduce themselves

### **Michelle Kichline**

- Requested comments or feedback on meeting notes from Goal 5 team meeting held on August 5, 2015
- No comments received

### **David Sciocchetti**

- Provided examples of implementation progress on other VISTA 2025 goals
- For Goal 2 - Noted that a successful Workforce Summit had been held that focused on the critical workforce issues facing Chester County
- For Goal 1 – Described an Urban Centers Forum attended by representatives of all Chester County urban communities
- For Goal 4 – Reported that the first entrepreneurial ecosystem map in the Philadelphia region was created to assist entrepreneurs in identifying available resources

### **Michelle Kichline**

- Indicated that team members welcomed at other goal team meetings

### **David Sciocchetti:**

- Indicated that the primary focus of the meeting was on reviewing the status of VISTA 2025 year one strategies
- Directed attention to Goal 5 **Strategy 5.1.1**
- Indicated recommendation was to move initial survey to Year 2 (2016)
- Noted that Take the Pulse survey would occur in January 2016
- Pointed out that survey would be focused on business transportation issues and problems – not general transportation
- Commented that survey information would be used to augment the County Transportation Inventory Program

### **Mike Grigalonis**

- Described the purpose and status of the “Take the Pulse” survey

### **Mary Frances McGarrity**

- Described Boot Road/Route 202 rush hour traffic problems as example of business identified transportation issue
- Described cooperation between businesses, 2 townships, PennDOT and CCEDC
- Collective efforts resulted in adaptive traffic signals, dedicated turn signal, re-striping and re-routing of buses to address problems

### **Michelle Kichline**

- Noted that the County process was underway to identify priority transportation projects in Chester County for inclusion on the DVRPC/PennDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) list
- Stated comments and suggestions are welcome
- Pointed out that local concerns are important
- Noted West Chester interest in passenger train service – interest in getting it on the TIP
- Local study helpful but more technical work required

### **Matt Hammond**

- Described Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Twelve Year Transportation Improvement Program process
- Noted that project in 1<sup>st</sup> 4 Years are real - 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 years in planning & design - 3<sup>rd</sup> 4 years – wish list – no real \$

### **Steve Krug**

- Noted that the TIP is updated on a two year cycle

### **Tim Phelps**

- Noted that before Act 89 there was a much lower funding level

**Matt Hammond**

- Indicated that Act 89 allows for more projects
- Cautioned that I-95 could limit future funds available for Chester County projects

**Jeff Valocchi**

- Questioned how projects in the 2<sup>nd</sup> four years can be advanced

**Matt Hammond**

- Indicated that using local funds to advance planning, engineering and design can accelerate projects on the TIP

**Charles Fleischman**

- Stated that local municipalities need to be on board

**Matt Hammond**

- Responded that significant coordination with local governments is part of the process
- Added that lack of funding has meant that the list has not changed much in recent years

**Tim Phelps**

- Pointed out that the County works on its list of priority projects in preparation for the bi-annual DVRPC TIP process

**Paul Spiegel**

- Asked about the federal portion of highway projects

**Matt Hammond**

- Responded that it was typically between 70-80%

**Rob Henry**

- Noted that Congress had just passed a five year, 300 billion transportation bill that will make funding more predictable

## **Al Koenig**

- Noted that the Chester County airport was receiving inquiries for hangar space
- Funds to construct hangars are limited

## **David Sciocchetti:**

- Directed attention to Goal 5 **Strategy 5.4.1**
- Noted that work had begun on multi modal study
- Indicated recommendation was to continue in Year 2

## **Bob Grabus**

- WCCC Future Focus study identified the Airport Road interchange as a critical project
- Noted that a Task force was created and was considering the funding process that was used for the Route 29 interchange
- Explained the Randy Waltemeyer suggested that it may be valuable to focus on the Route 30 bypass as a whole
- Resulted in a \$75,000 Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant to study the corridor
- Study will be completed in June, 2016 and will help advance the project on the TIP

## **Bob Grabus**

- Pointed that out that municipalities in the Route 30 bypass corridor should carefully examine proposed changes to land use/development at the bypass interchanges – could impact the cost and/or design of new ramps.

## **David Sciocchetti**

- Directed attention to **Strategy 5.9.1**
- Noted that an ad hoc transportation committee had been established by the Chester County Planning Commission to assist with identifying priority transportation projects in the County
- Indicated that the recommendation was to continue this strategy in year 2

## **Matt Hammond**

- Commented that this process helped identify and focus on needed future improvements

## **David Sciocchetti:**

- Directed attention to Goal 5 **Strategy 5.11.1**
- Noted that limited activity had occurred
- Indicated recommendation was to move to Year 2

## **Al Sauer**

- Briefly described East Penn Railroad
- Pointed out that there was not much rail freight capacity in Chester County
- Noted that there had been a major shift to passenger and other uses
- Described the East Penn Rail Road plan to upgrade and replace existing track
- Described many projects as shovel ready

## **David Sciocchetti**

- Described new rail access to Flowers Foods/Tastykake
- Decreased truck traffic delivering supplies to Tastykake

## **Paul Spiegel**

- Need to match existing rail with service needs
- Rail served 120 acre parcel in East Nottingham

## **Tim Phelps**

- Pointed out that connections to Norfolk Southern and CSX are also important

## **Al Sauer**

- Noted that the main lines don't want to be tied up – they want to push freight out to short haulers

## **David Sciocchetti**

- Recognized time constraints on discussion of Year 2 strategies

- Invited team member comments on Year 2 strategies by e-mail

**Charles Fleischman**

- Questioned whether Year 1 strategies would have priority in Year 2

**David Sciocchetti**

- Advised that Year 1 and Year 2 strategies would be blended

**Michelle Kichline**

- Reminded team members that the TIP was a priority

**Frances Sheehan**

- Called attention to Year 2 strategy 5.10 on workforce housing
- Noted a risk of countywide gentrification – excluding portion of workforce
- Suggested that a group should be assembled to address this issue in Year 2

**David Sciocchetti**

- Noted that this may be an issue to be addressed by the Chester County Planning Commission

**Tim Phelps**

- Suggested that Transit Oriented Development (TOD) may be one way to address this concern

**Matt Hammond**

- Stated that the Chester County Planning Commission was in the early stages of work on a new comprehensive plan for the County to be the successor to Landscapes 2
- Suggested that the new plan and VISTA 2025 would be well integrated

**Michelle Kichline**

- Stated that the County's new Planning Director, Brian O'Leary would be at the next meeting to discuss the process for the new plan

**Charles Fleischman**

- Pointed out that Landscapes 2 recommends “smart growth” and references the Keystone Principles as a guide for land use

**Michelle Kichline**

- Reminded team members that comments on Year 2 strategies are welcome
- Closed the meeting at 10:40 AM