



June 21, 2011

**Board of Directors
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520**

To the DVRPC Board of Directors:

At the February Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) meeting, the chairperson announced that both membership and voting rights to the Action Task Force (ATF) subcommittee were to be by appointment.

At the June 15 RCC meeting, the Action Task Force was asked to approve a measure in support of the self certification of the DVRPC's compliance with federal regulations for the transportation planning process, which includes active public participation.

Included with this measure was an amendment stating that the voting procedure used to pass this measure is not in compliance with the operating procedures of the RCC as stated on DVRPC's website. The motion carried unanimously by the designated voters of the Action Task Force.

It was only since this conflict was identified that DVRPC elected to modify its website so that policy matched practice - four months after the policy was imposed on the RCC, and days after the ATF self-certification vote was taken.

The stated reasons for altering active participation were that of geographic diversity. However, the entire process of enacting these changes, including the appointment of voters remains cloaked behind closed door meetings without any evidence that this new process is unbiased and objective. The end result of these procedural changes is the restriction of active public input for the DVRPC's most prominent role: the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The right to speak is not the same as the right to vote.

Sincerely,

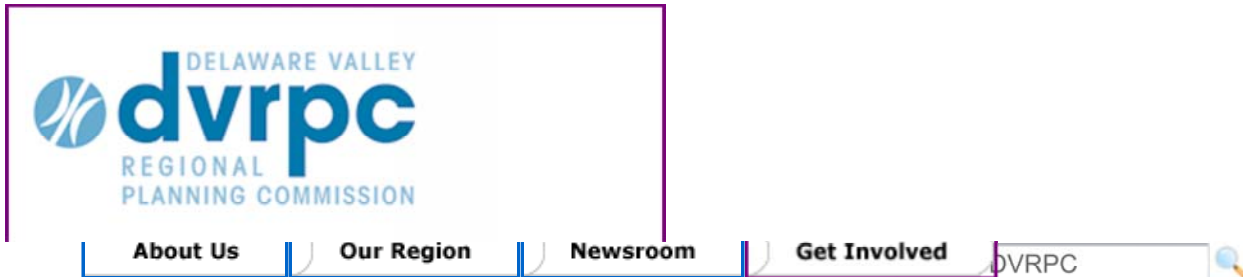
Jon Frey

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[Sitemap](#) | [A-Z Index](#) | [Translations](#) | [RSS Newsfeed](#) | [Twitter](#)



[Home](#) > [Get Involved](#) > [Regional Citizens Committee](#)

Resources

- [Products and Services](#)
- [Long-Range Plan](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Operations and ITS](#)
- [Land Use](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Community Resources](#)
- [Other Links](#)

Regional Citizens Committee

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Major Decisions on Transportation, the Environment, Land Use, and Your Lifestyle Are Being Made for the Delaware Valley...

Shouldn't You or Your Organization Have Some Input?

The Delaware Valley **Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)** needs your help in making informed decisions and building consensus about new directions for the future.

The **DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee (RCC)** is the primary forum for Delaware Valley residents and interested stakeholders to actively participate in the **regional** planning and decision-making process. The RCC was established to provide an open avenue of communication from the public to **DVRPC**. It gives us the chance to hear the public's

voice, ideas, and concerns on major decisions that affect the way that Delaware Valley residents live, work, and travel.

Currently comprised of over 100 members, the RCC meets monthly to review issues and make recommendations to the **DVRPC** Board, as well as hear presentations on a variety of topics in the fields of transportation and transit, land use and housing, and the environment. Meetings are held at 12 Noon on the second or third Tuesday of each month in DVRPC's Conference Center in The ACP Building, 190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA.

DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee

Mission

The mission of DVRPC's **Regional Citizens Committee** (RCC) is to provide **citizens** with access to, and participation in, the **regional** planning and decision-making process.

The RCC shall:

- Promote two-way communication in order to enhance public awareness and citizen involvement in DVRPC's **regional** planning activities;
- Inform and educate the RCC's own membership and a representative cross-section of the general public concerning **regional** planning issues and intergovernmental relations;
- Help **DVRPC** staff reach out to the general citizenry through public meetings and workshops to ensure involvement in **DVRPC** programs;
- Monitor the ongoing activities and planning programs of **DVRPC**, including the maintenance of the **DVRPC** Long-Range Plan;
- Keep the **DVRPC** staff and Board apprised of current and emerging citizen

concerns in areas related to the Commission's duties and responsibilities;

- Investigate and propose new initiatives and programs;
- Make recommendations to the **DVRPC** staff and Board on the planning process, on the coordination of governmental functions, and on public policy within the purview of the Commission;
- Have voting members serve on **DVRPC** committees within the RCC's areas of concern, when appropriate; and
- Work cooperatively with the **DVRPC** Board and Executive Director to implement federal public participation requirements.

Membership

The RCC shall consist of representatives from a number of sectors, interests, and organizations in the Delaware Valley, including but not limited to:

- education
- housing
- environment
- government
- professional groups
- health and human services
- media
- private enterprise
- public enterprise
- public utilities
- special interests
- religious
- transportation
- groups representing minority, low-income, elderly, and disabled persons

Here is a [list of current RCC members](#) [12k .pdf].

Voting Procedures

The RCC shall have two levels of membership: CORRESPONDING MEMBERS are those who do not attend meetings regularly but wish to remain on the mailing list;

VOTING MEMBERS are those who have attended three (3) previous consecutive RCC meetings or at least four (4) meetings in the past twelve (12) months. **Committee** membership is open to anyone wishing to join. To maintain balance, no more than one representative of any organization or company will be permitted to cast votes. However, those members serving on the RCC prior to 1990 will be grandfathered and may continue to vote, regardless of the organizational quota.

Parliamentary Procedure

The RCC shall use Robert's Rules of Order when the committee's by-laws do not address an issue. The Chair shall have the discretion to appoint a parliamentarian advisor.

Organization and Representation at the DVRPC Board

The RCC shall annually select a chair, who shall appoint two vice-chairs. If desired by the RCC, ad hoc subcommittees may be established to pursue special tasks or topics. The RCC Chair shall appoint representatives to DVRPC's other committees (as deemed appropriate by the respective **committee**) to ensure integration of information and recommendations.

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