

CHAPTER 1:

General Overview

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is pleased to present the Draft DVRPC Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania (FY23–FY26). DVRPC and its Pennsylvania member governments have worked diligently to prepare a program of projects that responds to the needs of the region and complies with federal and state policies. The TIP is the regionally agreed-upon list of priority transportation projects, and shows at least four federal fiscal years (FY) of programming as required by federal law. This document, referred to as the Draft FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania, includes the cost, phase, and schedule information for transportation projects in each of the federal fiscal years 2023–2026 for Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

The Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania contains 391 projects (including the Interstate Management Program), totaling over \$7.5 billion for the phases to be advanced during the next four years, an average of close to \$1.8 billion per year. Programmed funds include \$2.2 billion for projects primarily addressing the non-Interstate Highway System and over \$1.3 billion for projects addressing the Interstate Management Program, resulting in an overall four-year total for the Highway Program of over more than \$3.5 billion. Additionally, there is a Transit Program for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Public Transit (PennDOT BPT) that totals over \$3.9 billion. Chapter 2 presents financial summaries of these programs.

The TIP and Federal Requirements

The TIP is a requirement of federal transportation legislation, which is currently the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), or Public Law 117-58, and is also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.” The IIJA or BIL was signed into law on November 15, 2021 and is set to expire on September 30, 2026. It will provide funding for investment in infrastructure over federal fiscal years 2022-2026. Prior to the IIJA/BIL, the TIP was a requirement of legislation under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, or Public Law 114-94. The IIJA/BIL built on the initiatives established in previous legislation: the FAST Act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21); the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21); and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Transportation investment has been prescribed in a balanced approach through a guaranteed commitment to highways and bridges, public transit, safety, intermodal projects, advanced technologies, and operational improvements, such as Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO).

What This Document Includes

The complete Draft TIP document has been divided into multiple sections. Included is a general overview of the Draft TIP and the TIP development process, which can help familiarize you with what the TIP is and is not, how it was developed, and what can be expected for projects in the TIP. The document also contains various summaries of the Pennsylvania programs; a description of the TIP public involvement process, including issues relating to environmental justice and Title VI; an explanation of the mapping application and project listings; and codes and abbreviations included in the document. This reference information is followed by the Competitive Programs section, Major Project Status Report and, finally, the project listings.

At the end of the document, there are five appendices: (a) Acknowledgment of Board Resolutions; (b) State DOT Financial, and Guidance and Procedural Guidance used in developing the program; (c) Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures to Amend and Modify the TIP; (d) DVRPC TIP-LRP Project Benefit Evaluation Criteria, (e) Acknowledgment of the Executive Summary of the Draft Documentation of the Conformity Finding, (f) Environmental Justice Appendix, (g) Title VI Policy Statement and Complaint Procedures, and (h) Summary of Public Involvement Process, Original Public Comments, Responses to Public Comments, List of Recommended Changes, Public Comment Outreach Documentation, the Highlights of the Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania, Public Notice, a copy of a letter sent to the Tribal Nations notifying the Nations of DVRPC's Core Planning Activities, and Proof of Publication.

Accessing the TIP via Various Technologies

The Internet

The TIP is found on the DVRPC website. You can easily search for the Draft FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania, as well as the current FY2021 TIP, and previous TIPs. The website includes an interactive method for displaying maps and project listings, as well as a way to submit comments during the public comment period. Using Google Maps as a base, projects can be located using either street grid or aerial views. To access the DVRPC TIP website, go to www.dvrpc.org/TIP.

QR Code



DVRPC has provided the ability to use the QR Code (Quick Response Code) symbol to access the TIP website using a smartphone. Smartphone users with a QR Reader Application can open the application, point the camera at the QR Code symbol, and the smartphone will open the DVRPC TIP webpage. The DVRPC TIP QR Code symbol is shown here.

Scan the QR code with a smartphone for up-to-date information on DVRPC's TIP, or visit www.dvrpc.org/TIP.

DVRPC Office and Public Libraries

Hardcopies of the Draft TIP are available at various public libraries listed within Table 1 of this document and at the DVRPC offices, in the reception area, located on the 8th floor of 190 North Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106. A web link to the digital version of the TIP is available at www.dvrpc.org/TIP.

What is the TIP?

The TIP is the agreed-upon list of priority transportation projects in Greater Philadelphia. The TIP lists all projects that intend to use federal funds, along with non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant. The TIP represents the transportation improvement priorities of the region and is required by federal law, currently the IIJA/BIL. The list is multimodal; in addition to highway and public transit projects, it includes bicycle, pedestrian, and freight-related projects as well.

Table 1: Libraries Displaying the Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania

Philadelphia City Institute Library 1905 Locust Street Philadelphia, PA 19103	Independence Branch Library 18 South 7th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106	Ramonita G. De Rodriguez Branch Library 600 W. Girard Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19123
Joseph E. Coleman Regional Library 68 W. Cheltenham Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19144	Lucien E. Blackwell Regional Library 125 S. 52nd Street Philadelphia, PA 19139	Northeast Regional Library 2228 Cottman Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19149
Free Library of Philadelphia 1901 Vine Street Philadelphia, PA 19103	McPherson Square Branch Library 601 E. Indiana Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19134	Doylestown District Center Library 150 S. Pine Street Doylestown, PA 18901
Levittown Regional Library 7311 New Falls Road Levittown, PA 19055	Indian Valley Public Library 100 E. Church Avenue Telford, PA 18969	Newtown Public Library 201 Bishop Hollow Road Newtown Square, PA 19073
Chester County Library 450 Exton Square Parkway Exton, PA 19341	Coatesville Area Public Library 501 E. Lincoln Highway Coatesville, PA 19320	Cheltenham Township Library 215 S. Keswick Avenue Glenside, PA 19038
J. Lewis Crozer Library 620 Engle Street Chester, PA 19013	La Mott Free Library 7420 Sycamore Avenue La Mott, PA 19027	Ardmore Library 108 Ardmore Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003
Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped 1500 Spring Garden Street, Suite 230 Philadelphia, PA 19130		

Source: DVRPC, 2022

The TIP shows estimated costs and schedules by project phase. The TIP not only lists the specific projects but also documents the anticipated schedule and cost for each project phase (Preliminary Engineering, Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction). Inclusion of a project phase in the TIP means that it is seriously expected to be implemented during the TIP time period.

The TIP covers a four-year period by regulation, follows the federal FY schedule, and is updated every other year. Federal regulation requires that the TIP cover a minimum of four federal FYs of programming. DVRPC TIP documents for both Pennsylvania and New Jersey demonstrate a longer planning and

programming horizon (12 years for Pennsylvania; 10 years for New Jersey) in order to better understand expected resources and to provide the region with a more realistic timeframe for advancement of TIP projects, as well as more realistic project costs. The funding presented in both TIP documents after the first four years is considered “Later Fiscal Year” (LFY) funding and per regulation is not technically available or able to be committed or authorized. The TIP operates on a federal FY schedule that begins on October 1 of a given year and ends on September 30 of the following year. The Pennsylvania and New Jersey TIPs are updated every other year, in alternate years.

The TIP may be changed after it is adopted. Under the provisions of federal law and regulation, the approved TIP can be modified or amended in various ways in order to add new projects, delete projects, advance projects into the first year, and accommodate cost and phase-of-work changes or major scope changes to a project. The criteria and procedures for changing the TIP are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) included as Appendix C in this document.

The TIP is financially constrained. The list of projects in the TIP must be financially constrained to the amount of funds that are expected to be available. In order to add projects to the TIP, others must be deferred, or additional funding to the region must be identified. As a result, the TIP is not a wish list; competition between projects for a spot on the TIP clearly exists. The financial guidance used to develop each of the programs is included as Appendix B in this document.

The TIP is authorization to seek funding. A project’s presence in the TIP represents a critical step in the authorization of funding for a project. It does not, however, represent a commitment of funds, an obligation to fund, or a grant of funds.

The TIP is not a final schedule of project implementation. The timeframe shown in the TIP is the best estimate at the time of TIP development, which ranges from nine to twelve months prior to the beginning of the first FY of the TIP period. Projects sometimes cannot maintain that schedule and are reprogrammed to later years.

The TIP does not guarantee project implementation. Unforeseen problems may arise, such as engineering obstacles, environmental permit conflicts, changes in priorities, and additional financial constraints. These problems can slow a project and cause it to be postponed or even dropped from further consideration. These challenges can also increase the project’s overall cost.

Regional Consensus

The production of the TIP is the culmination of the region’s transportation planning process and represents a consensus among state and regional officials as to what near-term improvements to pursue. Consensus is crucial because the federal and state governments want assurance that all interested parties have participated in developing the priorities prior to committing significant sums of money. A project’s inclusion in the TIP signifies regional agreement on the priority of the project and establishes its eligibility for federal funding.

How Does the TIP Relate to the Long-Range Plan?

Regionally significant projects must be drawn from the region’s Long-Range Plan, and all projects in the TIP must help implement the goals of the Plan. The Long-Range Plan, required by federal law, is the document that helps direct transportation and land use decisions over a minimum 20-year horizon. The plan presents an extensive list of policies and strategies, as well as the actions required to carry them out.

While all projects included in the TIP must be consistent with the Long-Range Plan, projects that add capacity for single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs) must meet further federal requirements in an air quality non-attainment region, such as the Delaware Valley. These projects must result from the region's Congestion Management Process (CMP), which attempts to meet increasing travel demand through non-capacity-adding strategies, where practical. All projects included in the TIP have met this requirement.

The TIP represents the translation of recommendations from DVRPC's latest Long-Range Plan into a short-term program of improvements. For further information about the policies and strategies of the currently adopted Long-Range Plan, *Connections 2050*, visit www.dvrpc.org/Plan.

How Does the TIP Relate to the Clean Air Act?

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require that all transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to the purpose of state implementation plans to attain national air quality standards. A TIP is said to conform if it is drawn from a conforming plan, as determined by an emissions analysis. Long-Range Plan projects in the Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania are a subset of the regionally significant projects contained in the Long-Range Plan.

The TIP and the Plan are tested for conformity and meet all requirements, including the critical test that volatile organic compounds (VOCs), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions are less than any applicable budgets or baseline established for all analysis years. An acknowledgment of the Executive Summary of the Draft Documentation of the Conformity Finding is included as Appendix H in this document. A complete description of the conformity procedures can be found on DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org/AirQuality/Conformity.

How Is the TIP Funded?

The major funding source for the projects in the TIP is the IIJA/BIL, which is administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). In addition, funds are made available by the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to match federal funding in varying ratios and to provide 100 percent financing for selected projects. Local counties, municipalities, and private developers or toll authorities, as well as transit operators, may also participate in providing matching funds for federal aid. New funding sources and innovative funding techniques are constantly being sought.

Who Are the Players?

Various agencies directly participate in the TIP development process. They include member governments, operating agencies, and state and federal agencies comprising the "Pennsylvania Subcommittee of the Regional Technical Committee [RTC]" which is commonly referred to as the "Pennsylvania TIP Subcommittee." Municipalities within the region participate through their respective county governments. Countless other groups, the business community, and the general public become involved through the DVRPC public participation process, in addition to their involvement at the municipal and county level. The multiplicity of jurisdictions and agencies in the region necessitates a high degree of coordination during the TIP development process by DVRPC.

What Is the Timeline to Develop the TIP?

The TIP development (or update) begins approximately ten months prior to adoption, and involves intensive staff work and negotiations by the DVRPC PA TIP Subcommittee. The subcommittee consists of representatives from PennDOT, SEPTA, PART, Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)/Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO), DVRPC staff, FHWA, and representatives of DVRPC city and county member

governments. For the Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP, the process commenced during the late summer of 2021 with a review of current conditions of the transportation network, including an equity analysis of asset conditions (see Chapter 3). The review of costs and schedules of current FY2021 TIP projects commenced in the fall of 2021, as well as a review of new project candidates to be considered for addition to the TIP, should there be financial capacity. By April 2022, the result was a constrained, preliminary draft program (“preliminary Draft TIP”) based on reasonable, anticipated revenue projections for the next 12 years (FY23–FY34), TIP-LRP Project Benefit Evaluation Criteria results for potential new projects, performance-based planning and programming metrics, Environmental Justice and Equity analyses of all candidate projects for the Draft TIP, and feedback from the PA TIP Subcommittee. At the end of April 2022, the Subcommittee arrived at a final list of projects for the Draft TIP (“final Draft TIP”) that could be evaluated for impacts on air quality conformity (see page 101 for further explanation of the conformity process). DVRPC has opened a 30+-day public comment period, in which the draft document is shared with the public for feedback. The DVRPC Board is the final decision-making body of the MPO, and DVRPC staff will request the DVRPC Board to adopt the Draft TIP (with the List of Recommended Changes) in July 2022. After the DVRPC Board adoption, DVRPC staff will submit the document to PennDOT for approval and inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which will then be submitted to federal partners (e.g., FHWA, FTA) for review and approval. The federal partners will formally approve the PennDOT FY2023 STIP, and the new DVRPC TIP and the PennDOT STIP will become effective on October 1, 2022 and will replace the DVRPC FY2021 TIP and PennDOT FY2021 STIP.

How Does a Project Get on the TIP?

Many TIP projects originate from asset management systems to help meet federal performance measure targets. Some are identified through state or regional competitive programs, and on rare occasions, projects may come from discretionary additional funds to the region. Securing a spot on the TIP is not a simple task. Sometimes years of pre-implementation research and public input precede a project’s inclusion on the TIP. Although there are several ways in which a project can get on the TIP, the most typical course is described here. First, a particular transportation need is identified. In many cases, municipal planners and engineers generate lists of potential improvements based on their needs, analyses, and citizen complaints and inquiries. Since only DVRPC member agencies may formally submit candidate TIP projects as part of the major TIP “Update,” the local proposals are, in turn, reviewed at the county or major city level, often in consultation with locally based state engineers. If the county agrees that a particular idea has merit, it may decide to act as the project sponsor and work toward refining the initial idea and developing clear project specifications. Project proposals are also generated at the county and state level in much the same way.

Once each county and operating agency has developed its own lists of projects and priorities, they are brought to DVRPC, where the RTC reviews them. The RTC seeks to ensure that the highest priorities of the region are being addressed within the limits of available resources and to ensure consistency among projects and with the region’s goals. The RTC makes recommendations to the DVRPC Board and is composed of state, county, and city planners; transit operators; citizen representatives from the Public Participation Task Force; and transportation-related interest groups.

Finally, the DVRPC Board provides the forum through which the elected officials of the region’s counties and major cities and representatives of the states and operating agencies determine the TIP projects. After considering the recommendations of the RTC and the comments received from the public, the Board determines the final list of projects to be included in the TIP and adopts it as its selection of projects to be advanced.

What Happens to a Project Once It Is on the TIP?

Once a project is on the TIP, a considerable amount of work remains to be done to bring it to completion. The designated lead agency is responsible for ensuring that its project moves forward. The lead agency, in most cases, is the state department of transportation (DOT) or transit operator and, in some cases, a county or city.

Highway projects typically proceed in phases (Preliminary Engineering, Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, Construction). Each phase is included in the TIP, showing funding and anticipated schedule. Transit projects are programmed in the TIP according to the annual grant application cycle under which the funds will be sought. Ideally, a project will advance according to its programmed schedule. In reality, however, projects are often delayed due to unforeseen obstacles, such as environmental issues, engineering obstacles, and community concerns. Tracking each project's progress is important in order to identify and resolve delays as soon as possible and to reallocate resources as necessary.

Once federal funds have been made available (termed federally "authorized" or "obligated") for a project's final construction phase, it will no longer appear in future TIP documents (even though the project may not yet be constructed or completed).

Why Is Municipal and Interest Group Involvement Important?

DVRPC believes that a collaborative process between all levels of government and the public and business communities will ensure that the best transportation program is produced. This type of process is one in which state, county, and local governments and transportation providers become partners in the planning and programming process, and interest groups and community leaders have a voice. For this reason, planning efforts for the region's capital improvements exhibit a "bottom-up" approach within the context of a regional plan that gives a top-down perspective.

What Ways Can the Public Participate?

Public participation occurs during all stages of a project's development. Letters of concern to municipal and county officials and transit agency managers are one of the most effective starting points. As local investigations begin, public input may be provided at formal meetings or informal sessions with local and county planning boards and staff. Citizens are also asked to participate in special task forces to review transportation improvement concepts at the corridor, county, and regional level. Finally, once a project is on the TIP and it enters the preliminary engineering phase, the detailed environmental review process affords yet another opportunity for the public to offer input.

DVRPC provides various opportunities for the public to review its planning and programming activities. Representatives from the private sector, social service entities, advocacy organizations, partnering agencies, and citizens are encouraged to comment on DVRPC's policies and plans. To this end, an online commenting feature is available for Board action items, or any other general questions or concerns. The Commission's website provides a wide array of information and interactive mapping. Materials are available as hardcopies at DVRPC's office, as well as at various libraries throughout the region. Project-specific open houses and listening sessions are held to inform the public and gather input.

Specifically, the public and other interest groups will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft DVRPC TIP for Pennsylvania before it is officially adopted by the DVRPC Board. At a minimum, DVRPC will conduct a 30+-day public comment period and hold one virtual public meeting within that period to allow the public an opportunity to present comments about the process and projects to state, county, transit, and DVRPC staff. Copies of the Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP are available online at www.dvrpc.org/TIP/Draft.

After the TIP is adopted and approved, monthly maintenance of the TIP, known as “TIP Actions” (Amendments and/or Modifications), may occur. Despite careful planning, funding and scheduling may need to change during the course of the federal fiscal year. The modification process is in place to assist this effort to provide necessary funding for projects that are in the TIP. The MOU in Appendix C of the TIP specifies different types of amendments and modifications that would require DVRPC, PennDOT, SEPTA and/or federal approvals. All TIP documents (Adopted/Current, and Prior-Year TIPs, including a Summary of Amendments and Modifications to the Current TIP) are viewable on DVRPC’s website at www.dvrpc.org/TIP. Past and upcoming TIP Actions for Board approval are available at www.dvrpc.org/Committees/BOARD