



GUIDE TO COMMENTING ON THE

Draft DVRPC FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania, and the Interstate Management Program for the Draft FY2023 STIP for the DVRPC Pennsylvania Subregion



Adapted from "Tips for Submitting Effective Comments," accessed from Regulations.gov on May 24th, 2022.

DVRPC wants to hear from you about its Draft FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania. DVRPC believes that public participation is a fair way to ascertain the interests of a wide variety of residents across the region, and public involvement is inherent to sound decision-making. PennDOT, SEPTA, PART, and the five counties (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia), the City of Chester, and other project sponsors are very interested in receiving comments from you about Draft TIP projects and/or the overall program.

A comment can express simple support or dissent for a project. However, 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. The following questions and suggestions are intended to provide guidance about how to submit comments that will help sponsors deliver the best possible transportation projects.

Advice for crafting effective comments:

- Read the description and understand the project you are commenting on. (For example, what type of project is it? If it is a project focused on an operational improvement, such as signal re-timing, adding a significant capital expense such as another travel lane would likely be outside the scope of the improvement. However, safety components can be included in many different types of projects.)
- Be concise, but support your claims. (For example, have you observed the impacts of a new development on traffic patterns? Is there a study that supports your comment?)
- If you disagree with a project, suggest an alternative (which potentially also includes no project at all) and include an explanation and/or analysis of how your alternative might meet the same objective or be more effective.
- Base your justification on sound reasoning, documented evidence, and/or how your community will be impacted. Try to address trade-offs and opposing views.
- Identify credentials and experience that may distinguish your comment from others. For example, 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.
- **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 want to fund the best projects for the region within financial

constraints; when crafting a comment, it is important to explain the reasoning behind your position.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Are the region's needs being met? How about the state's needs?
- Given financial constraints, are we spending money on the right types of projects? Are we investing the right amounts in maintenance and reconstruction versus capacity-adding projects; or non-traditional projects, such as pedestrian, bicycle, and smart technology, versus traditional highway and transit projects?
- Is this region getting its fair share of resources compared to other regions in the state or across the nation?
- Are there certain elements mentioned in the Draft TIP or Draft Interstate Management Program that could be further clarified?

During the public comment period, DVRPC will review each public comment submitted via the online commenting feature of the Draft TIP web map, email, fax, and US mail. DVRPC staff will forward written comments received to the sponsor and request a response from the appropriate agency. Written comments received during the public comment period and responses to those comments will be provided in the final printed TIP document as part of the public record.

- Comments and responses will be presented to stakeholders and the DVRPC Board prior to adopting the final recommended program of priority transportation projects for the region's Pennsylvania counties. DVRPC staff plans to do this at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2022.
- **Comments will be accepted for the Draft FY2023 TIP for PA and Interstate Management Program for the Draft FY2023 STIP for the DVRPC Pennsylvania Subregion from 5:00 PM on May 27, 2022 until 5:00 PM on June 28, 2022 local time.**