

# DVVRPC NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

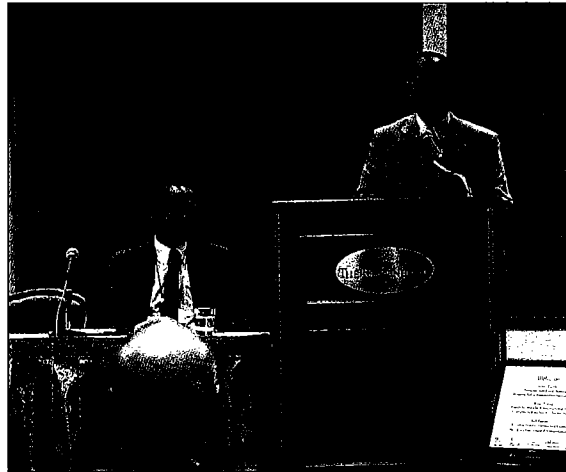
## NATIONAL FREIGHT SUMMIT ATTRACTS LEADERS AND EXPERTS

### DVRPC SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON LINKING FREIGHT AND LAND USE

The freight industry, as well as planners throughout the country, are all confronted by one critical challenge: managing rapidly increasing freight volumes as communities simultaneously grow and change. Dealing with this important topic brought more than 90 shipper and carrier representatives, policy officials, and planners to Philadelphia in mid-September 2005 for a three-day summit entitled, **From Design to Delivery: Planning America's Freight Movement**.

The summit was conducted by DVRPC and the National Association of Regional Councils. Funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the conference was the first of its kind to examine the movement of freight, urban form, and design solutions that sustain economic growth while building great communities.

"Competition between the ports and commercial developers at waterfront locations epitomizes this struggle," said **Dr. Donald Shanis**, Assistant Executive Director, Transportation Planning at DVRPC as he opened the event. "This issue requires an informed,



TOP\_ DVRPC Board Chairman, **Thomas Gurick** (right), and NARC President, **Randall Morris**, welcomed conference attendees to the Delaware Valley.

BOTTOM\_ **John Hummer** of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority was joined by MPO colleagues from other regions such as New York City, Wilmington (DE), Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Orlando, Detroit, Sacramento, Portland, Dallas, and Toledo.

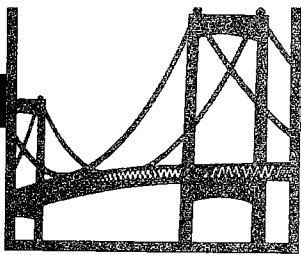
sustained dialogue and the active involvement of all key players."

Crafting win-win situations that mutually accommodate freight growth and community goals was a recurring conference theme. **Anne Strauss-Wieder** outlined a ready-to-use toolkit of **Freight As A Good Neighbor** strategies. Other highlighted examples were North Jersey's brownfield redevelopment initiative, Orlando's freight plan, the Chicago CREATE project, and programs offered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Delaware Valley freight community was represented as were DVRPC's member governments and the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force. Speakers included **Craig Lewis** of Norfolk Southern, **Charles McSwain** of CSX, **Sharon Daboin** and  
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**Larry King** of PennDOT, and **Rick Gimello** and **Talvin Davis** of New Jersey DOT. **Larry Kane**, esteemed television news anchor and author, served as moderator for the entire Summit and facilitated the discussions and audience participation.

Summit sponsors included the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, Lansdale Warehouse, Dependable Distribution, Gannett Fleming, and Klein and Hoffman. Delaware Avenue Distribution Center, CSX, and the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority hosted tours of local freight facilities.

Numerous presentations, and ultimately a conference summary, will be posted on the freight page of the DVRPC website at [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org). Information is also available by contacting **Ted Dahlburg**, Manager of Freight Planning, DVRPC (215-238-2844) ☎

### **FREIGHT SNAP-SHOT**

*The handling of labor-intensive military cargoes at Philadelphia area ports experienced an amazing 1500% gain last year.*

*The United States trades with nearly 200 countries worldwide. International trade accounts for one-third of the GDP.*

*In 2020, the volume of freight moved on the US transportation system is expected to increase to 2.5 billion tons, worth about \$30 trillion.*

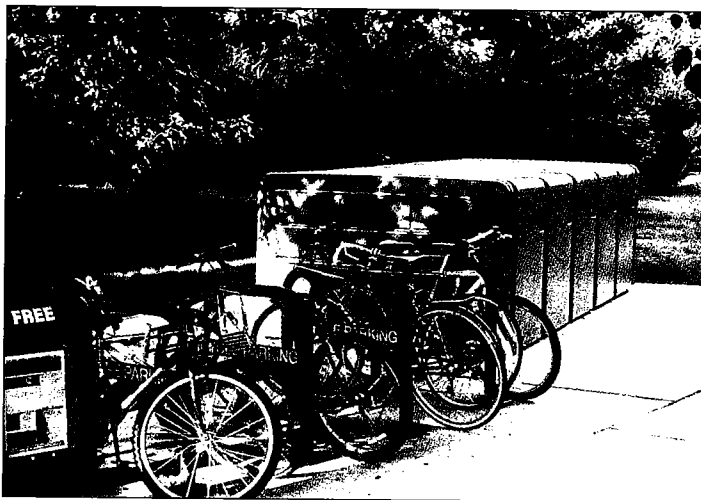
## **DVRPC HEARS WHAT BICYCLISTS HAVE TO SAY**

**W**hether you're an avid bicyclist or enjoy recreational rides on the weekends, DVRPC realizes the importance of bicycle facilities in our region. With your needs and safety in mind, DVRPC surveyed bicyclists in the region to find out more about individual bicycling habits.

The first of its kind and size in the nation, the survey was conducted in September and October 2005 at several locations throughout the Delaware Valley. Surveyors found out information about bicyclists' trip lengths, destinations, type of facilities, and their safety knowledge.

from that first phase for a phenomenal response rate of 29 percent.

The survey greatly surpassed its needed quota of 220 interviews. However, it fell short of the distribution target of 4,800 questionnaires. 1,800 completed questionnaires are still needed to get a reliable sample of the region's bicyclists. Therefore, DVRPC staff has embarked on a second phase, distributing questionnaires by hanging them on parked bicycles in Center City, University City, and other locations (notably train stations, main streets, and university campuses) where parked bicycles are likely to be found. Bags are also being given to participants in organized bike rides throughout the region.



**LEFT** One of several bike parking locations throughout the Delaware Valley where surveyors distributed questionnaires and literature to local bicyclists.

Questions were asked during a short roadside interview and through a mail-back questionnaire, which was available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Chinese.

During the first phase of the survey, volunteers distributed questionnaires to passing bicyclists at 35 locations during a 12-hour time period. In that phase, 2,605 questionnaires were distributed, and 377 interviews with bicyclists were conducted. As of mid-November, 744 questionnaires have been returned

The purpose of the survey is to help DVRPC better plan for the needs of our region's bicyclists, and ultimately to improve the air quality and increase mobility options in the region. Bicycles are an important mode of transportation because they require no fossil fuels, produce no emissions, and because they account for a significant share of trips in low income, college and university communities. ☎

