



NEWS

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**DVRPC Board and Chairwoman Val Arkoosh Approve New Fiscal Year 2017-2028
Transportation Improvement Program for the Delaware Valley**

***Montgomery County to Benefit with \$1.2 Billion Dollars' Worth of Road, Bridge, and Trail
Improvements***

Norristown, PA (July 28, 2016) – The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Board today approved the new Fiscal Year 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (FY2017 TIP) for the five counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The new TIP programs approximately \$12.15 billion in federal and state transportation funds to the region over the course of 12 years (FY2017 to FY 2028). Of this total, roughly \$4.85 billion will be used to pay for highway, bridge, and trail improvements, while \$7.3 billion will pay for transit capital improvements at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART).

Montgomery County is a major recipient of transportation funding under the new TIP, which allocates approximately \$1.2 billion over the 12 year period for road, bridge, and trail projects within its communities. Almost \$400 million will be spent in the first four years. Major projects programmed for construction in these first four years include constructing the Lafayette Street Extension Project Phase 3 in Norristown (\$37 million); completing the replacement of the US 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River in Valley Forge (\$60 million); realigning the US 422 Stowe interchange in West Pottsgrove (\$41 million); finishing the widening of US 202 Markley Street in Norristown (\$26 million); reconstructing Ridge Pike in Plymouth Township (\$26 million); improving Edge Hill Road and Tyson Avenue in Abington (\$17 million); replacing three bridges along Sumneytown Pike (PA 63) in Marlborough (\$12 million); and extending the Chester Valley Trail through Upper Merion and Bridgeport (\$10 million).

The new FY 2017 TIP also funds the design and right-of-way acquisition for dozens of other projects in Montgomery County during these first four years, including the PA 309 Connector Phase 2 in Hatfield and Franconia Townships; the Second Collegeville Bridge in Lower Providence and Collegeville; the Belmont Avenue / Rock Hill Road widening in Lower Merion, and the Keim Street Bridge in Pottstown.

“Montgomery County is in many ways the crossroads of our region,” said County Commissioner Vice-Chair Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, who is also the chair of DVRPC. “Working with our partners at DVRPC and PennDOT, our new Fiscal Year 2017 Transportation Improvement Program is committing the resources to move many of our longtime projects to completion.”

The TIP is the region’s capital budget for federal and state transportation funds. Required by both federal and state legislation, all regions must prepare and adopt a TIP in order to receive federal and state transportation money. The TIP is a budgeting tool that allocates funding for all phases of capital projects along interstate highways, state and local roads, and transit systems. It is updated every two years and must be fiscally constrained.

All of the Montgomery County projects included in the new FY2017 TIP are contained in a number of local and regional comprehensive plans, including Montgomery County’s *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision* and DVRPC’s *Connections 2040*.

For additional information, please visit www.dvrpc.org/TIP or contact Matthew Edmond, Montgomery County Planning Commission Chief of Transportation Planning, at 610-278-3742 or via email at medmond@montcopa.org.