

1970s | Population 5,128,226

1990s | Population 5,182,705

2010s | Population 5,626,186

DVRPC 60th Anniversary timeline

1956 President Dwight Eisenhower signs the **Federal-Aid Highway Act**, providing the impetus for regional transportation planning.

1962 Federal Aid Highway Act identifies the need for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

1967 The NJ Senate approves companion legislation to Pennsylvania, formalizing **DVRPC as a bi-state compact**. The United States Department of Transportation begins operation.

1969 DVRPC's first long-range plan (**The 1985 Delaware Valley Plan**) is adopted, and includes land use, transportation, open space, parks and recreation, water supply and sewage disposal elements.

1970 DVRPC begins regional research, including travel forecast models, population and employment forecasts, a housing element, and open space standards for communities.

1974 DVRPC adopts a **Regional Housing Allocation Plan** to the Year 2000. The Commodore Barry Bridge opens and the Chester-Bridgeport Ferry runs for the last time.

1976 The Betsy Ross Bridge opens. The U.S. Bicentennial comes to Philadelphia.

1979 NJ Transit is formed.

in the beginning...

1959 The Penn Jersey Transportation Study is established to begin regional transportation planning for the Delaware Valley region.

1963 SEPTA is created by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

JUNE 30, 1965 DVRPC is created by an act of the Pennsylvania Legislature, signed by Governor Raymond Shafer, to replace the Penn Jersey Transportation Study.

1971 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is created.

1972 The Coastal Zone Management Act is passed to encourage coastal states to develop coastal zone management plans.

1975 DVRPC begins work on an **area-wide watershed management plan** to provide surface and groundwater protection, under Section 208 of the **Clean Water Act**. DVRPC provides **carpool matching/vanpool formation** services in response to gasoline shortages; the program continues today as **Share-A-Ride**.

1976 The U.S. Bicentennial comes to Philadelphia.

1979 NJ Transit is formed.

1960s | Population 4,609,289

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1976 The U.S. Bicentennial comes to Philadelphia.

1979 NJ Transit is formed.

1982 DVRPC adopts the **Year 2000 Transportation Plan**, maximizing the use of existing facilities and public transit, and promoting environmental protection.

1983 DVRPC's study of **mobility alternatives** for commuter rail service assists the SEPTA takeover of the Reading and Pennsylvania regional rail lines. DVRPC's **transit model/analysis** assesses the new **Center City Commuter Tunnel, Market East Station, and the Airport High Speed Line**.

1984 Market East Station (now Jefferson Station) and **Center City Commuter Connection** open, linking the major rail stations of Philadelphia's downtown.

1985 The **SEPTA Airport Line** begins service. The last section of **I-95** is completed in Pennsylvania, and **Route 422** opens in Montgomery and Chester counties.

1980s | Population 5,024,422

1988 DVRPC adopts the **Year 2010 Regional Development Strategy**, including a Regional Mobility Policy Analysis and a proposed series of Centers to focus regional development. DVRPC begins using **Computer Aided Mapping**, now known as GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

1989 NJ 55 opens to traffic. Train service is restored to **Atlantic City**.

1990 DVRPC undertakes **affordable housing studies** and **TMA** activities. DVRPC's **Goods Movement Task Force** is formed to better understand the priorities of freight shippers and carriers. The **Americans with Disabilities Act** is enacted. The **Clean Air Act Amendments** of 1990 require that all transportation plans, programs, and projects attain air quality standards.

1991 DVRPC's **Commuter Benefit Program** is launched, offering a \$15/month tax free subsidy for public transit use, continuing into 2020 as **RideECO**. The **Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)** was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush, giving significant additional powers to MPOs. The 20-mile section of I-476 known as "**The Blue Route**" opens in Delaware and Montgomery counties, and the last section of the **Vine Street Expressway** opens in Philadelphia.

1994 President Bill Clinton signs **Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice**.

1995 DVRPC adopts **DIRECTION 2020**. DVRPC formed the first **Traffic Incident Management Task Force** in the region. The first **E-Z Pass** toll collection went into operation on DRPA bridges.

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2000s | Population 5,387,407

2001 DVRPC adopts the **Horizons 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan**. The **September 11th** attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania lead to increased planning for safety and security of the transportation system.

2002 DVRPC launches the **Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI)**, providing planning grants to local governments to help implement the regional plan. To date, over \$14 million and 240 grants have leveraged over \$350 million in new investment.

2003 DVRPC partners with PennDOT and NJDOT to create the **Smart Transportation Guidebook**, a national award-winning effort.

2004 NJ Transit's **River LINE** begins service, connecting the cities of Trenton and Camden in New Jersey.

2005 DVRPC's **Regional Safety Task Force** begins meeting to address transportation safety. DVRPC adopts the **Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan**.

2008 DVRPC partners with PennDOT and NJDOT to create the **Smart Transportation Guidebook**, a national award-winning effort.

2009 DVRPC adopts the first **Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**, and develops a **Regional Integrated Multimodal Information Sharing (RIMIS)** system. DVRPC adopts **Connections 2035: The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future**.

2010 DVRPC develops plans for "**The Circuit**," a 750-mile connected system of trails throughout the region, funded with a \$10 million grant from the William Penn Foundation. DVRPC releases the **Greater Philadelphia Food System Study**, the first of several efforts to address food and equity issues in the region. DVRPC launches the **Mercer County Bikeability Map**, the first local effort to crowdsource planning feedback using a web map interface.

2012 DVRPC develops an **operations model for the I-76 Schuylkill Expressway**, creating the most comprehensive operations model in the country. President Obama signs into law a new two-year transportation reauthorization bill, **Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act ("MAP-21")**. **Superstorm Sandy** brings significant damage to the region, leading to increased planning for resiliency and adaptation to climate change. **US 202 Section 700** opens in Bucks County.

2014 DVRPC installs the **first permanent bicycle counting station in the region** and launches **CyclePhilly**, a smartphone-based bicycle route choice survey/data gathering platform.

2017 DVRPC adopts the **Connections 2045 Long-Range Plan**.

2019 Nation's first **driverless taxi** service without a backup driver in the vehicle offered in Phoenix, AZ.

2020 **COVID-19** pandemic emerges, causing fatalities and disruption across the region and world. Due to shut-downs, many people lose their jobs while others shift to working from home rather than an office. Remote work rates will remain high even after workplaces reopen. The **murder of George Floyd** by a police officer in Minneapolis sparks national Black Lives Matter protests.

2022 **ChatGPT** is released publicly, broadening the accessibility and application of generative AI for text-based tasks, sparking widespread discussion about AI's potential impacts on work and education.

2023 Construction begins on the **I-95 CAP** (Central Access Philadelphia) and Park at Penn's Landing.

2025 **PATCO's Franklin Square Station** reopens to the public. **Schuylkill River Trail Christian St. to Grays Ferry Crescent** extension opens with a dramatic 650-foot long cable-stay bridge. With no new state transit funding, **SEPTA's FY26 budget cuts service by 45% and increases fares by more than 20%**.

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