

## GVF Transportation Celebrates Milestone

### 15th Annual Meeting



*2005 Award Recipients pictured from left to right: Ralph Volpe, Upper Merion Township; Robert Ihlein, Borough of Pottstown; Vito Genua, Gannett Fleming; Eric Frary, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.; Greg Brown, PennDOT; Capt. Tedescung L. Bandy, PA State Police; Yassmin Gramian, Edwards & Kelcey; Joseph Janasik, Tredyffrin Township; and Al Fazzini, Plymouth Township.*

On June 8, 2005 private and public sector partners of GVFTMA gathered at GlaxoSmithKline in King of Prussia for the organization's 15th Annual Meeting. The turnout was overwhelming as partners honored the 2005 Award Recipients and listened to this year's keynote speaker, George E. Schoener, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

After introductions and election of the board, the meeting commenced with the presentation of awards.

The Private Sector Award for 2005 went to **Brian O'Neill**, Chairman of O'Neill Properties Group, the award was graciously accepted by Mike Trio. Four Public Sector Awards



*George E. Schoener and Steve Lester.*

were bestowed this year to recipients: **Al Fazzini**, Plymouth Township; **Vito Genua**, Gannett Fleming; **Ralph Volpe**, Upper Merion Township; and **Greg Brown** who recently retired from PennDOT.

The Special Leadership Award was appropriate at this year's meeting as the efforts of **Captain Tedescung L. Bandy** of the

*Continues on page 2.*

# GVF Transportation Celebrates Milestone Continued



*Yassmin Gramian accepts her award from presenter John Coscia.*

*George E. Schoener, 2005 Keynote Speaker*



*Steve Lester presents Eric Frary with a citation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

Pennsylvania State Police were acknowledged. Two awards were presented for Engineering/Design Service, Eric Frary of Michael Baker Jr., Inc. and **Yassmin Gramian** of Edwards & Kelcey were both recognized for achievements in this category.

The Special Service Award for 2005 went to **Robert Ihlein**, Borough of Pottstown, for his support of the TMA. The final award went to **Joseph Janasik**, Tredyffrin Township. Joseph was one of the founding partners of GVF Transportation and this year will be retiring from public service, for all his years of hard work he received the TMA Founders' Award.

All of this year's honorees also received citations from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued by Senators Stewart Greenleaf, John Rafferty, Bob Thompson and Connie Williams. Congratulations to all 2005 Award Winners.

After the awards ceremony, the keynote speaker was invited to take the stage. George E. Schoener traveled from Washington DC for the meeting and was eager to address transportation issues relevant to this area along with the entire state and nation. Specifically, he focused on the reauthorization of TEA-21: TEA-LU.



*Greg Brown receives his Public Sector Award from Andy Warren.*

Americans are suffering from soaring gasoline prices and this trend shows little sign of improvement in the near future, but the taxes you pay each time you fill up at the pump is what essentially funds this program. "We want to see that most of the money from the gas tax goes back to you guys," Schoener said of the controversial situation.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting, GVFTMA would also like to extend its' gratitude to the 15th Annual Meeting co-sponsors; GlaxoSmithKline, Urban Engineers, and URS Corporation.

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# Partner in the Spotlight

## East Norriton Township



*Pictured in front of bus shelter on US 202, from left to right: John Calnan, SEPTA; Mark Barabas, CEO of Mercy Suburban Hospital; Donald J. Gracia, East Norriton Supervisor; Dan Murphy, Clear Channel; Don Delamater, East Norriton Township; Francis E. Denner, East Norriton Supervisor; Lewis K. McQuirns, East Norriton Supervisor.*

East Norriton Township located in Central Montgomery County has been a member of GVF Transportation for over six years. The township is served by several SEPTA bus routes and has always been a proponent of public transportation. East Norriton partnered with the TMA and Clear Channel Outdoor Advertising three years ago to institute a bus shelter program. They realized that by installing bus shelters throughout the township it not only increased the visibility of public transit but gave their residents a safe place to wait for the bus. The township currently has bus shelters for SEPTA riders on Germantown Pike, U.S. 202 and Johnson Highway.

In addition to their support of Public Transit, East Norriton has been on the forefront of proper highway planning. The township has some of the most highly congested roadways in Montgomery County and South Eastern Pennsylvania. To combat this GVF Transportation has worked with the township on the Germantown Pike corridor study and the planning for the U.S. 202 section 600 reconstruction project.

One of the latest partnerships GVF Transportation has forged with East Norriton is their participation in the Schuylkill

Valley Transportation Coalition. This is a coalition of municipalities, Montgomery County, DVRPC, PennDOT, local engineering firms, and SEPTA. Rather than attempting to take on our congestion problems alone the attendees are working together as a cohesive group. East Norriton Township Manager Helmuth Baerwald has been one of the group's largest contributors. Helmuth is currently working with the group to create a study for Township Line Rd. While this road is currently congested the future construction anticipated along the roadway will only impact congestion greater. Helmuth has been a driving force with Whitpain Township to study the road in order to see what improvements can be done through their municipalities and beyond.

East Norriton Township has always been a great supporter of GVF Transportation. The board of Supervisors has had the vision to attend our Annual Meetings and yearly Transportation Conferences. GVF Transportation looks forward to our continued relationship with East Norriton Township. Their dedication to transportation planning continues to make East Norriton a great place to live, work and commute.

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# What is Steer It Clear?

Recently the State of Pennsylvania enacted a new law aimed at minor fender benders and the impact they have on our roadways. The new law, Act 237 of 2004, establishes new rules for handling accident scenes. **Steer It Clear** intends to reduce the congestion caused by traffic accidents and improve the safety of motorists, crash victims and emergency personnel who respond to these incidents. In addition, it helps to identify the responsibilities of drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents on our roadways. "This is an important bill for our area,"

suffered and the vehicles involved are drivable enough to be removed safely from the roadway. The new law directs that a driver with a valid license may move the vehicle at the request of the driver involved in the incident. Also, a police officer may immediately remove or direct the removal of a wrecked vehicle if the driver cannot remove the vehicle or refuses to comply with the law. Those drivers who fail to comply and remove their vehicle from the roadway may face a \$50 fine plus associated costs and surcharges.



said State Representative Kate Harper, "Minor fender benders have the potential to become major traffic accidents if not cleared from the highway right away. We need to get the word out to motorists that they need to move their cars off the roadway after minor accidents. This is for their own safety and the safety of others traveling on the road."

The new Steer It Clear law requires drivers who are involved in a traffic accident to remove their vehicles from traffic lanes as long as no serious injuries were

A key component to the new Steer It Clear law is that drivers who comply with the law will not be considered liable or at fault for the accident because they moved their vehicle from the roadway.

For additional information on the new Steer It Clear law please contact GVF Transportation or your local elected official. **AIM**

# A Second Land Use and Transportation Seminar Hosted by GVF Transportation

On July 8th, GVF Transportation held the second of three Land Use and Transportation Planning Seminars, this one being hosted by Upper Dublin Township. The idea behind the seminar was to bring together people and businesses to provide them with information on projects and strategies affecting the PA-309 Corridor.

The seminar kicked off with a presentation from Brian Keaveney of Pennoni Associates. He presented a recently devised study of the Pennsylvania turnpike northeast extension (I-476)/PA 309 corridor in regards to unified traffic management and signal coordination. The study will look at all of the assets that are currently in use along with those that are planned. Amassing this information will enable a more coordinated regional plan to manage diverted traffic from I-476/PA-309 on local roads.

Phil Cheney of Urban Engineers continued the seminar with his presentation on the PA 309 construction project. He gave a recap on why the project was needed and gave a detailed description of the needs of each of the sections of the project. He then covered the current status of the project, which is on schedule. Finally, he laid out the future of the project and told the audience that construction will be completed in the early part of 2009. Visit [www.309online.com](http://www.309online.com) for the latest updates on the 309 project.

The Township Manager of Upper Dublin, Paul Leonard, informed the crowd of the Steer It Clear Initiative, the new legislation that was recently passed in Pennsylvania which states that minor traffic accidents should be moved from travel lanes as quickly as possible. He emphatically stated that moving your car to clear the lane will not play a part in determining fault from an insurance stand point. He also spoke about another traffic safety law which has already been adopted by other states where if a driver, during a flood, ignores posted signs and drives into water, said driver will be responsible for the cost of the rescue.

After a short break, Jeff Featherstone, the director of the Center for Sustainable Communities at Temple's Ambler campus described the mission of the CSC. It was established in July 2000 to develop and promote new approaches to protect and preserve quality of life through sustainable development, balancing the relationship between environmental integrity, economic prosperity, and social equity.

Among the CSC's findings is that many details in current topography maps are wrong. The CSC is



*Ward Fitzgerald of Liberty Property Trust describes how Fort Washington is at the crossroads of many busy roadways.*



*Jeff Featherstone, director of Temple Ambler's Center for Sustainable Communities discusses the center's viability to the area.*

working to improve the maps by gathering up to date information that reflects the area's ever changing landscape. For more information please visit [www.csc.temple.edu](http://www.csc.temple.edu)

The final speaker of the seminar was Liberty Property Trust's Ward Fitzgerald. He first spoke about the importance of the Fort Washington area to the community as a whole since it is a central point in eastern Montgomery County. He then talked about how the Fort Washington Business Park could be improved by the implementation of better road planning. He lastly spoke on Liberty's plans for the park and how they are

*Second Land Use, continues on page 6.*

*Second Land Use, continued from page 5.*

building environmentally friendly “Green” buildings, which are not only built for their ability to save on energy costs, but also provide a more serene setting for the employees inside the building. More information on Liberty Property Trust can be found on their website, [www.libertyproperty.com](http://www.libertyproperty.com).

To end the meeting, GVF Transportation Executive Director, Peter Quinn, announced the formation of the Southeastern Montgomery County Transportation Coalition. The TMA

wants to provide all of the municipalities within its service area with an equal level of attention, while focusing on helping them solve their transportation problems. This new coalition will hold its first meeting in September of this year.

The seminar ran without a hitch and the TMA has gotten many positive remarks from the 60 attendees.

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## Walt Green Retires from Turnpike Commission, Don Steele takes Reins



*Walt Green*

Walt Green, of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and GVF Transportation board member has left public service to join his wife at the beach in Delaware. Walt worked for the turnpike for 12 years. His vision for creating partnerships with PennDOT, local municipalities and TMA's has helped the

turnpike to be known as an agency that is flexible and willing to listen. Walt's leadership on the 309 Coalition, the Fort Washington Slip Ramp installation and the TMA Board of Directors created many success stories.

The Fort Washington Slip Ramp was the first and certainly not the last slip ramp in the region. EZ Pass was instituted

on Walt's watch as well as the ramp leaving Lockheed Martin's property in King of Prussia, onto the Valley Forge Interchange. Walt was also a key player in allowing the Goddard Blvd Bridge to be built over the PA Turnpike. This bridge created new linkage to the King of Prussia Mall, Lockheed Martin, and dozens of local businesses.

Walt's vision, creativity, and passion always made him a pleasure to work with. We thank Walt for his many years of dedicated service and look forward to working with his successor Don Steele.



*Don Steele*

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