

Federal Funds Delivered for River Crossing Project



From left to right: Ron Wagenmann, Dave Shaffer, Joseph Hein, Chief Francis Carroll, Sen. Santorum, W. Douglas Hager, Joe Dunbar, Jack Smyth Jr., Ralph Volpe, and Mike Siegel.

The proposed River Crossing improvement project along US 422 recently received federal funds to help the project become a reality.

On August 5th at a press conference at the Valley Forge National Historical Park United States Senator Rick Santorum delivered \$20 million in federal funds he secured in the FY 2006 Transportation Reauthorization bill. In his announcement of the funds, Sen. Santorum said, "This funding will improve safety as well as alleviate congestion at the Schuylkill River crossing of 422, while diverting commuter traffic on State Route 23 away from the Valley Forge National Historical Park to ensure visitors will be able to enjoy their visit to its fullest potential." Commuters and officials along US 422 welcomed the funds as it shows the senator's commitment to finding a solution to some of the worst congestion in southeastern Pennsylvania.

On a daily basis between 55,000 and 75,000 vehicles travel through the proposed improvement area causing miles of backups on an already crowded highway. The \$20 million secured by Sen. Santorum is the first major earmark received by the proposed \$150 million project.

The federal funds will be used to remedy the congestion problems addressed in the two projects developed by its planners. The project includes a modernization of the PA 23 and US 422 interchange with a relocation of North Gulph Rd. away from the Valley Forge National Historical Park. Also, improvements will be made to the PA 363 and US 422 interchange with the addition of new ramps to and from US 422 west and a widening of US 422 from US 202 through the 363 interchange. The funds secured by Sen. Santorum will help to modernize interchanges that date back to the 1960's.

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Third and Final Land Use and Transportation Seminar Hosted by GVF Transportation in 2005



Al Fazzini, Chariman of the Schuylkill Valley Transportation Coalition introduces Jerry Sweeney, CEO of Brandywine Realty Trust.

On September 15th, GVF Transportation held its third Land Use and Transportation Planning Seminar at the Plymouth Township Community Center. This forum focused on two transportation projects, two developers and a Transit Oriented Development Project in Lower Merion Township.

The seminar kicked off with a presentation by Jerry Sweeney, CEO of Brandywine Realty Trust. Jerry focused on what suburban tenants look for in office space. There are four major points that suburban tenants focus on:

- More open space
- Less traffic
- Use of existing infrastructure
- Stable ratables

He also pointed out how Philadelphia is becoming a strong competitor with the suburbs. Four major points that he addressed were:

- Suburban municipalities are instituting wage taxes - this is narrowing the gap between the cost of working in Philadelphia vs. suburbs
- Suburban development is getting more difficult
- NE Corridor accessibility (Multimodal access)
- Housing costs in Philadelphia are very affordable by national and regional standards

The seminar then moved forward with a presentation from Bill Ruhling of URS and Troy Illig of Parsons Brinkerhoff. Troy is the project manager of US 202 section 650 which extends from Morris Rd. in Blue Bell to PA Route 309. He gave an overview of the upcoming construction and then turned it over to Bill. Bill is the project manager for US 202 section 610 which extends from Johnson Highway in Norristown to Morris Rd. For the most up to date information on the project log onto www.us202.com

The next presentation was on the I-76 Transportation Systems Management Project (TSM). The presenter was Holly Rybinski of Edwards and Kelcey. This project extends for 15 miles on I-76 in Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. Some of the highlights include:

- Cooperation between PennDOT and Montgomery County Emergency Operation Centers
- I-76/I-476 Ramp Signs
- Fiber Connection between PennDOT and Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center
- Improvements on Route 23 and City Ave. to include:
 - 16 Interconnected Signals
 - 3 Dynamic Message Signs
 - 7 Closed Circuit Cameras

The project is a unique partnership between PennDOT, Montgomery County, Philadelphia, Local Municipalities, DVRPC, SEPTA, Law Enforcement Professionals and GVF Transportation. For updated information on this project log onto www.i76tsm.com

Our next presentation was given by Doug Cleland, Township Manager for Lower Merion. His presentation focused on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) or Must Use Special Transit (MUST) for Ardmore, PA. There are five main goals for the program:

1. Revitalize Lancaster Avenue to help the business district become commercially competitive
2. Improve transit facilities
3. Seek private investment (target = 60% to 80%) to implement the plan
4. Satisfy existing and future parking demand
5. Improve the pedestrian and vehicular traffic infrastructure to serve long-term needs of the district

The final presentation was given by Brian O'Neill of O'Neill Properties Group. Brian stressed how O'Neill has a different outlook on former industrial, abandoned and misused land. O'Neill's philosophy is that they are:

- A "Recycler & Revitalizer" of Communities
- Transformers of abandoned properties into vital live, work and play communities
- Visionaries. Where other developers have overlooked or mishandled a property, O'Neill Properties Group envisions a great economic future

This philosophy has been recognized around the country as they were just featured on the front cover of the New York Times.

Once again thank you to all of our speakers, the Plymouth Township Community Center and our co-sponsor the Montgomery County Chambers of Commerce.

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Dale Mahle, Jason Bobst, Jack Layne, and Chief Carroll

GVF Transportation Receives Regional Planning Award

On November 18th, the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce presented GVF Transportation, Lower Providence Township and the Pennsylvania State Police with their 2005 Regional Planning Award. The award, presented at the chamber's Annual Economic Development Luncheon, recognized the hard work and dedication displayed by each organization in creating and implementing the US 422 Incident Management plan.

The plan will provide incident responders along the Route 422 corridor from the Route 202/I-76 interchange to the Berks County line with uniform operational guidelines for safe operations at the scene of an incident. The plan will allow for the smooth and continuous flow of traffic when there is an incident on US 422.

Jack Layne of the Borough of Pottstown presented the award to Chief Francis Carroll from Lower Providence and Jason Bobst from GVF Transportation.

While the plan has been adopted by the municipalities along US 422, the goal is to implement the plan county-wide and create a safe working environment for incident responders in Montgomery County. **AIM**

GVF Transportation Welcomes Our Newest Partners...

▶ **F. Tavani and Associates, Inc.:** FTA is a full service Traffic Engineering and Planning corporation and has extensive experience in the Delaware Valley and throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. FTA is celebrating its one year opening and has moved its offices to Chester County. For more information on FTA log onto www.ftavaniassociates.com

▶ **Shire Pharmaceuticals Group plc:** Founded in 1986, Shire Pharmaceuticals Group plc is a global specialty pharmaceutical company with revenues for the full year 2004 of \$1,363.2 million and an operating income of \$446.4 million. The growth rates for revenues were 13% for 2004 over the prior year. Shire has recently opened facilities in the Chesterbrook Corporate Center in Tredyffrin Township. For more information on Shire log onto www.shire.com

Greater Valley Forge Transportation partners with employers, developers, political jurisdictions, chambers of commerce, state highway departments, planning commissions, and other transportation-related agencies to represent the transportation needs of these groups.

If you are interested in partnering or would like information about Greater Valley Forge Transportation, please contact our King of Prussia office at 610-354-8899 or e-mail info@gvftma.com **AIM**

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At the press conference, Sen. Santorum also provided the Valley Forge National Historical Park with \$2.326 million in Interior Appropriation funds for the renovation of George Washington's Headquarters. "I am pleased to deliver this funding to Montgomery County today for projects and construction that enhances accessibility in and around the Valley Forge National Historical Park, one of our most treasured historical landmarks," said Sen. Santorum.

GVF Transportation wishes to thank Sen. Santorum for his dedication and leadership in securing these funds for these projects that are vital to southeastern Pennsylvania. **AIM**



Mile Marker 192 on the Southbound side of US 422.

Milepost Markers Installed on US 422

Anyone who drives the area highways has seen milepost markers, those little green signs with white numbers, but have you noticed them on US 422? Over the summer months, PennDOT crews installed the signs from the Berks county line and proceed eastbound on US 422 placing the one every tenth of a mile.

While these signs provide commuters with a host of uses from tracking your location on the highway, to providing directions and even checking the accuracy of your odometer, another important purpose is to help with incidents on a highway. Milepost markers provide authorities with ability to locate the exact location of an emergency and provide a quick response to the incident. Since the installation of the milepost markers, incident responders and dispatchers have noted more rapid responses to incidents on US 422.

The addition of milepost markers on US 422 is one part of a larger plan to help make a safer road for those who use it daily for their commute.

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TMA Participates in Two Community Day Fairs

On September 10th representatives of GVF Transportation were present at the Community Day Fairs of two townships that partner with the TMA. Festivities in Upper Merion included live music and dance performances along with a great turnout of township residents. That same day in East Norriton the community came together for a day that included a DJ, motorcycle show, and hay rides.

At both venues the TMA staffed booths to provide transportation information for the community. One child from each fair went home with a new bike raffled off by GVF Transportation.

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The raffle winner in East Norriton stands next to his prize.



TMA staff member Josh Tamarin announces the raffle at Upper Merion.

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