

Bridging the Gap between Underserved Communities & Transportation Improvements

APA-PA, October 2024









# Session Agenda



- About DVRPC
- Program overview, objectives, and outcomes
- Panel discussion





## **Panelists**





DVRPC Office of Communications and Engagement

Shoshana Akins



DVRPC Office of Capital Programs

Alyson Dressman, AICP



DVRPC Office of Mobility
Analysis & Design

Kendra Nelson, AICP



Connect the Dots Community & Stakeholder Engagement

**Stephanie Fuentes** 





## **About Connect the Dots**





Women Business Enterprise (WBE) + DBE

Based in Philadelphia, Connect the Dots is an outreach and engagement firm focused on connecting diverse voices to decision-making. Engagement Approach

#### Engagement

Approach ....

We build innovative, meaningful engagement methods to elevate community and stakeholder voices in participatory processes.

Through our creative and iterative approach, we ensure participatory processes are inclusive, accessible, and representative.

#### Capabilities

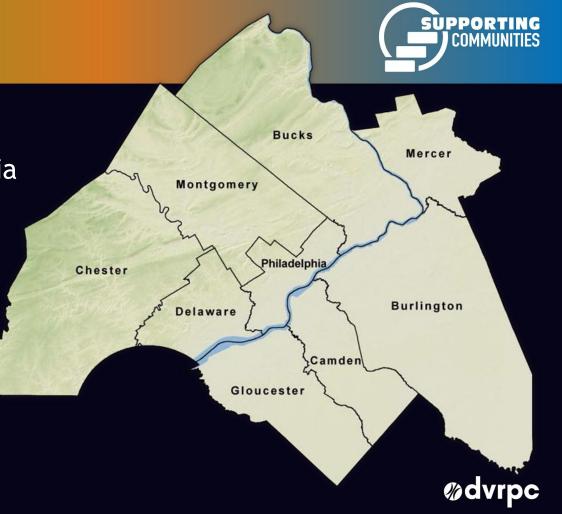
- ✓ Outreach & Engagement Strategy
- ✓ Outreach & Engagement Implementation
- ✓ Training and Capacity Building



## **About DVRPC**

Federally-designated MPO for the Greater Philadelphia region:

- Two States
- Nine Counties
- One Large City
- Three Smaller Cities
- 352 Municipalities
- Thousands of Neighborhoods



#### **About DVRPC**



- Mix of Government Agency,
   Planning Consultant, and
   Foundation
- Transportation, land use, open space, healthy communities, water quality, climate change, resiliency, equity, housing and economic development
- Important products: Long Range Plan: Connections 2050 and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP)

# CONDUCT REGIONAL GOAL SETTING AND PLANNING

Convening Educating Planning

## PROVIDE INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Compiling data
Mapping
Creating publications

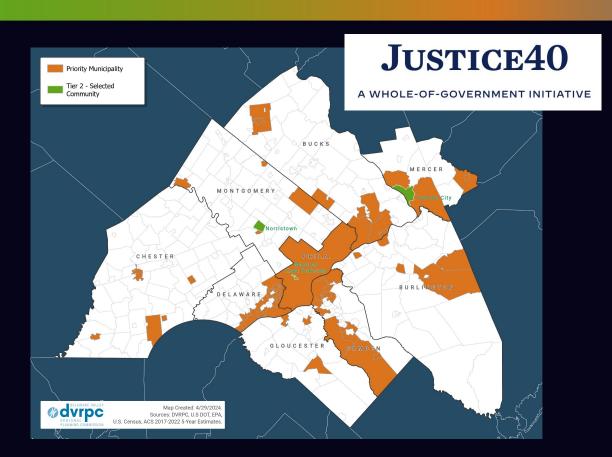
# SUPPORT PARTNERS IN ACHIEVING REGIONAL GOALS

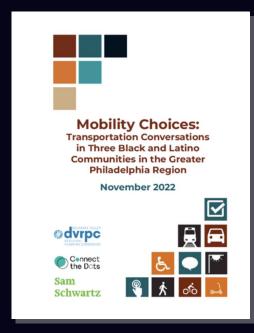
Assistance
Pass-through funding
Project management



# **Program Background**









# **Program Purpose**



The purpose of DVRPC's Supporting Communities program is to better connect the transportation infrastructure needs of marginalized communities with available funding and resources for planning and implementation.





## **Program Structure**





Tier 1: Listen to underserved communities to identify potential projects + prioritization needs



Tier 2: Help develop solutions for local priority problems identified during Tier 1 outreach



Tier 3: Work to fund and deliver projects developed through Tier 1 and 2







DVRPC and CTD conducted key interviews and community focus groups to find out about residents' travel experiences and needs.





Collaborated with community partners to conduct 4-7 virtual/phone stakeholder interviews, 2 in-person focus groups with public participants, and site visits in <u>each</u> town. Language support was provided in Spanish, Ukrainian and Russian.



Summaries of the engagement were presented to Township and Municipal leadership to continue building partnerships and alignment for future potential projects.





# Tier 1 Findings





- 1. There is a lack of reliable, frequent, and accessible public transportation that serves areas where people want to go, including microtransit options.
- 2. Bike and pedestrian infrastructure is non-existent or too inconsistent for community members to rely solely on bicycles for navigation in these communities.
- 3. Safety concerns—lack of bike infrastructure, lack of pedestrian infrastructure, and dangerous vehicular speeds and behaviors—are common across all of these communities due to auto-oriented development.
- 4. Rideshare apps are expensive and unreliable. People rely on carpooling or more/less expensive alternatives, or use informal, unlicensed services if given no other options.





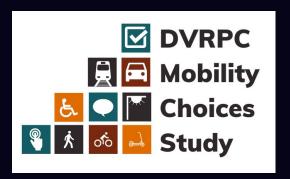






DVRPC held brainstorming sessions with local stakeholders to develop solutions for priority problems identified in Mobility Choices:

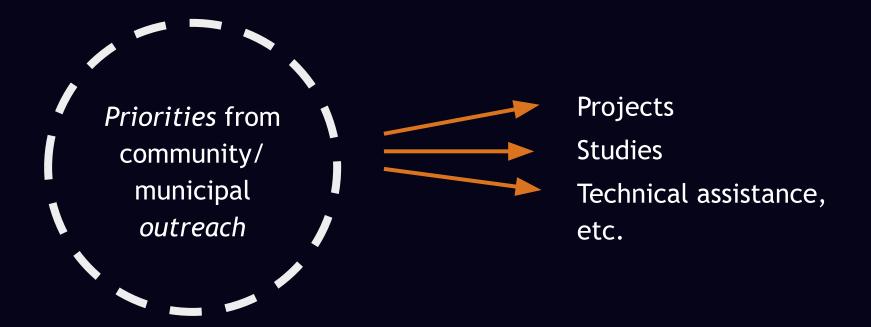
- Trenton
- Norristown
- Mantua/East Parkside



DVRPC, 2022













#### North Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

**Concern:** There are very few bus shelters in North Trenton. NJT will provide bus shelters at no cost, but Trenton needs someone to maintain them.

**Solution for FY24**: Work with NJT, Trenton, NJ Treasury, and local nonprofits to find a maintenance solution.









#### Norristown, Montgomery County, PA

**Concerns:** People are concerned about traffic safety, especially for kids.

**Solution for FY24**: DVRPC working with Norristown to:

- Apply for SS4A Safety Study Grant
- Create quick build project at a dangerous intersection frequented by students











#### Mantua/ East Parkside, Philadelphia, PA

**Concerns:** High number of crashes major corridors, particularly Girard Avenue

**Solution for FY24**: An FY 26 UPWP project that looks at safety, transit access, and cycling on the corridor.







Identify project delivery **opportunities** and **barriers** to implementation and provide project advancement assistance.

- 1. Research past/current planning work, Tier 2 outcomes
- 2. Work with muni to assess opportunities
- 3. Carry out assistance over FY and beyond











#### Pemberton Township, Burlington County, NJ

*Priorities*: Implementation of 2023 bike/ped action plan

FY24 Outcomes: County coordination, bike/ped improvement prioritization

Continuing Assistance: Pursuing FY25 TASA funding



Example of one proposal from the Browns Mills Bike/Ped Action Plan, DVRPC 2023











#### Darby Borough, Delaware County, PA

Priorities: Signal upgrades, intersection safety, parking

FY24 Outcomes: Parking guidance, PennDOT coordination, capacity building

Continuing Assistance: GLG grant application, Tier 2 project development assistance







#### Lindenwold Borough, Camden County, NJ



*Priorities:* Safety and pedestrian infrastructure, 2023 RSA

FY24 Outcomes: Capacity building,

info/resources

Continuing Assistance: Capacity building,

HSIP pipeline







# Panel Q & A









# Audience questions







# Thank You!

Shoshana Akins, <a href="mailto:sakins@dvrpc.org">sakins@dvrpc.org</a>

Alyson Dressman, AICP, adressman@dvrpc.org

Kendra Nelson, AICP, knelson@dvrpc.org

Stephanie Fuentes, <a href="mailto:stephanie@connectthedots.us">stephanie@connectthedots.us</a>



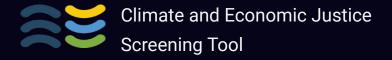




## **Identifying Candidate Communities**



- Council on Environmental Quality's Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) - index of indicators of burden
- US DOT's Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (ETCE)
- DVRPC's Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD)

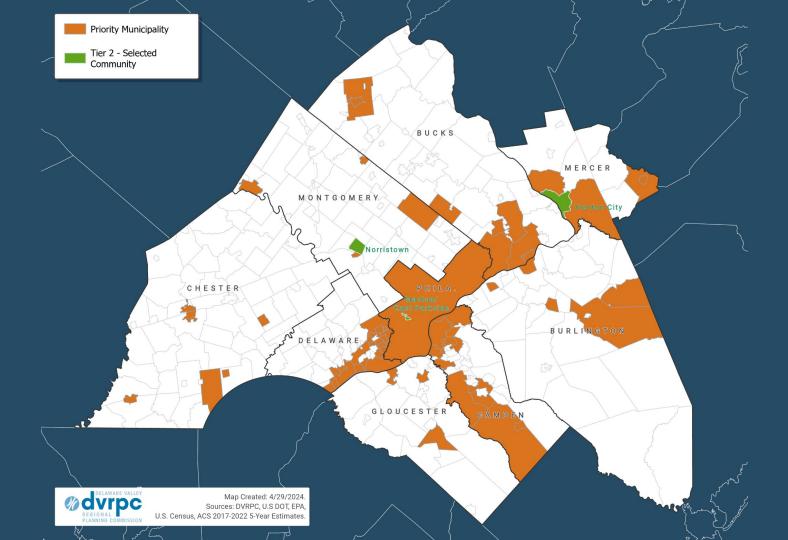




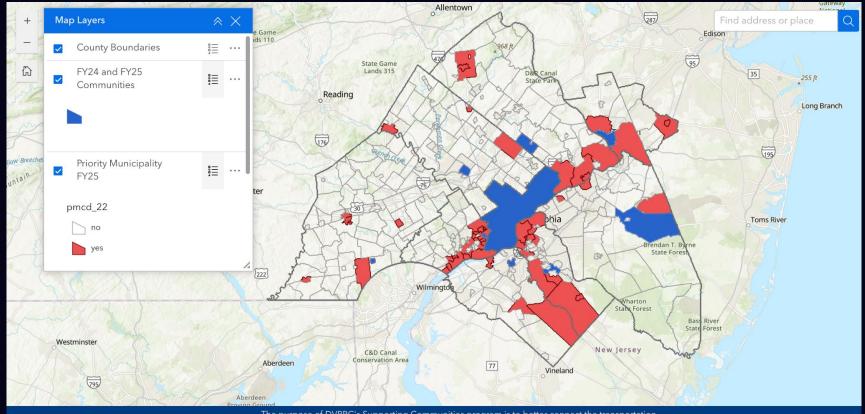




		Fed Equity							Above	Above	Above	
		Dataset		ETCE			IPD	IPD Flag	County RM	County LI	County EM	Priority
Municipality 😾	County =	Flagged? =	ETCE =	Categories =	CEJST =	CEJST Catego	Flagged? =	Reason =	Avg =	Avg =	Avg	Municipality? \Xi
Burlington City	<b>Burlington County</b>	both	У	hltcmpp, evncmp	у	n_clt, n_hsg, n_	yes	em + rm + li	$\checkmark$	~	~	yes
New Hanover Township	<b>Burlington County</b>	cejst_only	n	trncmpp	У	n_wkfc	yes	em	$\checkmark$	<b>✓</b>	$\checkmark$	yes
Riverside Township	<b>Burlington County</b>	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_clt, n_hsg, n_	yes	em + rm + li	~	<b>✓</b>	$\checkmark$	yes
Bellmawr Borough	Camden County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_hsg, n_wkfc, f	yes	em	$\checkmark$	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	yes
Camden City	Camden County	both	у	trncmpp, hltcmp	У	n_clt, n_eny, n_t	yes	em + rm + li	<b>✓</b>	~	~	yes
Chesilhurst Borough	Camden County	cejst_only	n	trncmpp	у	n_clt, n_pln, fpl2	yes	em + rm	~		<b>✓</b>	yes
Collingswood Borough	Camden County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_hsg, n_pln, fp	l yes	li	$\checkmark$	~		yes
Gloucester Township	Camden County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_pln, n_wtr, fpl	yes	li	$\checkmark$	~		yes
Gloucester City	Camden County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_trn, n_pln, fpl2	2 yes	em + li		~	~	yes
Haddon Township	Camden County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_hsg, n_pln, fp	l yes	li	$\checkmark$	<b>✓</b>		yes
Pennsauken Township	Camden County	both	у	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_hsg, n_pln, n_	yes	em + rm + li	~	~	~	yes
Pine Hill Borough	Camden County	cejst_only	n		у	n_wkfc	yes	em + rm + li	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	yes
Winslow Township	Camden County	cejst_only	n	trncmpp, evncmp	у	n_wkfc	yes	li + rm	~	~		yes
Woodlynne Borough	Camden County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_hsg, n_pln, n_	yes	em + rm + li	~	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	yes
Glassboro Borough	Gloucester County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_eny, n_hsg, n	yes	li	~	~	~	yes
Monroe Township	Gloucester County	etce_only	у	trncmpp	n		yes	em	$\checkmark$	~	~	yes
Paulsboro Borough	Gloucester County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp	у	n_hsg, n_pln, n_	yes	li + rm	$\checkmark$	~	$\checkmark$	yes
East Windsor Township	Mercer County	cejst_only	n	trncmpp, evncmp	у	n_wkfc	yes	em + rm	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	yes
Ewing Township	Mercer County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp, sclcm	У	n_wkfc	yes	em + rm + li	$\checkmark$	~		yes
Hamilton Township	Mercer County	cejst_only	n	trncmpp, evncmp	у	n_clt, n_hsg, n_	yes	em + rm + li	~	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	yes
Hightstown Borough	Mercer County	cejst_only	n	evncmpp	у	n_wkfc	yes	em			$\checkmark$	yes
Bensalem Township	Bucks County	both	у	hltcmpp, evncmp	у	n_wkfc	yes	em + rm + li	$\checkmark$	~	$\checkmark$	yes
Bristol Borough	Bucks County	both	у	hltcmpp, evncmp	y	n_clt, n_pln, fpl2	yes	em + li	~	~	~	yes
Bristol Township	Bucks County	both	у	hltcmpp, evncmp	у	n_trn, n_pln, n_l		em + rm + li	~	~	~	yes



#### @dvrpc



**Candidate Communities** 

More Info

The purpose of DVRPC's Supporting Communities program is to better connect the transportation infrastructure needs of disadvantaged communities with available funding for planning and implementation. This map displays communities prioritized for the FY25 year of the program, determined through an analysis of federal equity data and DVRPC's Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD). Please visit the program website for more information on Supporting Communities.





## Community Selection for FY2024





Bucks County: Quakertown Boro. and Warminster Twp.

Chester County: Coatesville City and Kennett Square Boro.

Gloucester County: Glassboro Twp. and Woodbury City



Mercer County: North Trenton

Montgomery County: Norristown

Philadelphia: East Parkside/Mantua

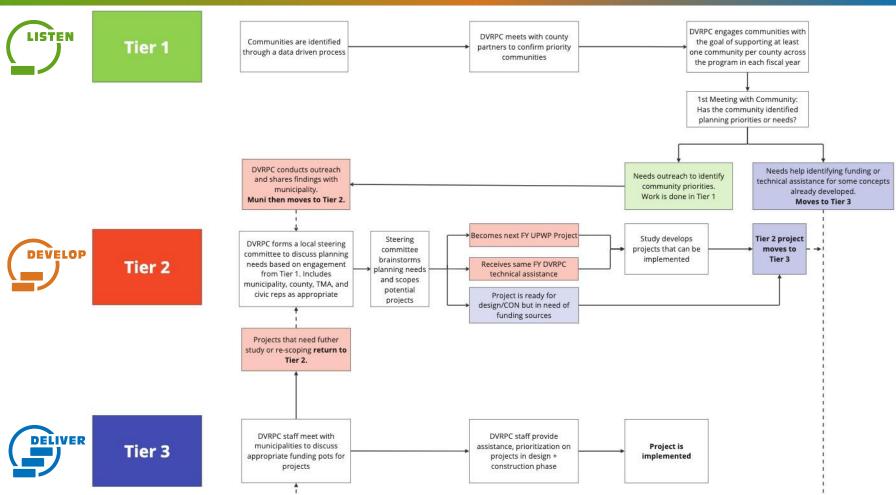


Burlington County: Burlington City, Pemberton Twp.

Camden County: Clementon Twp., Lindenwold Boro.

Delaware County: Marcus Hook Boro., Yeadon Boro., Darby Boro.





Miro