

Community CONNECTION

SPRING 2009

First car 'booted' for toll violations

In January, the DRBA became the first transportation agency in Delaware to immobilize a vehicle for habitual toll violations. The vehicle was immobilized using a "Denver Boot," according to DRBA officials.

At the toll plaza of the Delaware Memorial Bridge on January 27, a member of the DRBA police department stopped a vehicle that had violated the toll 132 times in the previous year. The owner of the vehicle, Stephanie Dunn of New Castle, was advised that her 2003 Honda Civic would be released once she paid the outstanding tolls, fees and penalties associated with her account. Altogether Ms. Dunn's bill totalled more than \$3,600.

A recent amendment to the Delaware Code allows for enhanced civil enforcement authority if a vehicle owner has outstanding unpaid tolls, fees and penalties that exceed \$1,000. Once stopped, the vehicle can be immobilized to prevent its operation by using a device like the "Denver Boot."

Ms. Dunn was also charged with three traffic violations which included expired tags as her vehicle registration had expired in August 2007.



BOOTED — The first vehicle immobilized by the DRBA for habitual toll violation is pictured above with the "boot" attached.

DRBA Commission approves capital improvement plan, funding

Budgets \$186 million for bridge, ferry through 2013



NEW CASTLE, DE — A five-year capital improvement program of approximately \$186 million aimed at maintaining and improving the agency's facilities has been approved by the Delaware River and Bay Authority Commission.

According to James N. Hogan, DRBA Chairman capital investments are

northbound (I-95 to Landers Lane): rehabilitation of I-295 northbound and the collector distributor road to US Route 13 south, several unneeded bridges will be eliminated and others will be rehabilitated. The DRBA is working with DelDOT to minimize impact to the public.

· Steelwork Full Overcoat Rehabilitation System, 2nd Structure: a full repaint-



CONSTRUCTION — Work on a I-295 overpass is part of the Phase III project.

essential. "The Delaware Memorial Bridge is a vital link in the I-95 corridor while the Cape May-Lewes Ferry is integral to the local tourism economy." He noted that both facilities are located in harsh environments which means they both require constant maintenance and rehabilitation.

"The Authority has a fiduciary responsibility to keep them in good condition and the implementation of this 5-year plan will assure that the public continues to enjoy safe and efficient transportation services," the Chairman noted.

The 2009 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the DMB is about \$32.5 million and includes the following projects:

· Phase III — Delaware Approach Widening, Repaving & Modifications — I-295

ing will help carry the 2nd structure to its scheduled full rehabilitation in 2024.

· Miscellaneous Steelwork/Elevator Replacement/Security Improvements: replace bearing and stringer bearer assemblies, access platforms and tower elevators and make security enhancements.

· Rehabilitation of Approach Roads — Cape May: re-construction of pavement, adding an additional lane, converting a jug handle to a T-intersection at US9/NJ109, and upgrading safety features.

Additionally, the DRBA has identified major projects on the horizon that will require significant funding and which will require raising additional revenues at the Delaware Memorial Bridge beginning in 2010.

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& BAY AUTHORITY**

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DRBA welcomes new commissioners
Selects new deputy executive director

WELCOME — *At right, DRBA Executive Director James T. Johnson, Jr., P.E., administers the oath of office to a new Delaware Commissioner, Richard W. Downes of Smyrna.*



NEW CASTLE, DE — New leadership, new commission members and appointment of a new member of the executive staff highlighted Commission meetings in the first months of 2009.

James N. Hogan of Franklinville, NJ, was sworn-in as Chairman of the DRBA Commission and assumed the duties of leadership at the February board meeting. Joining Chairman Hogan in the leadership positions was a new Commissioner, Scott A. Green of Rehoboth Beach, who was selected as vice chairman and was sworn-in at the April board meeting. Vice Chairman Green's term extends to 2012. The leadership posts rotate between the states every two years.

Three other Commissioners from Delaware have joined the board since January. They are Gary F. Traynor of Dover whose term extends to 2013; Richard W. Downes of Smyrna whose term extends

to 2011; and Terri C. Murphy whose term extends to 2009.

In addition, the DRBA Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment of Frank W. Minor of Logan Township, NJ, as Deputy Executive Director of the DRBA.

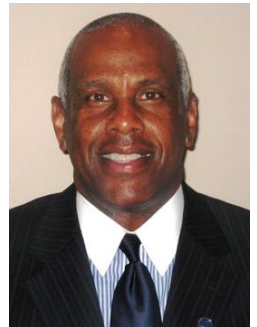
Mr. Minor succeeds Donald H. Rinear who retired.

"Frank's credentials and his experience are the perfect match for the this position and we welcome him aboard as part of the leadership team," stated Chairman Hogan who cited Mr. Minor's responsibilities as the mayor of his town and where he spearheaded the municipality's successful economic development initiatives.

Mr. Minor will focus on economic development initiatives, internal and external communication strategies, governance issues, relationship with state and local officials, marketing, and community giving strategies.



Commissioner Murphy



Deputy Executive Director Minor



Vice Chairman Green



Commissioner Traynor

New fares adopted by ferry service



CAPE MAY, NJ — Effective April 1, a new fare schedule for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry went into effect to help counteract the system's operating deficit, which was approximately \$9 million in 2008. The 2009 fare increases, which average 6 percent, are projected to generate gross income of nearly \$15 million.

Like so many transportation entities in 2008, the CMLF was adversely affected by economic conditions. Vehicle traffic declined about 7.5 percent over the previous year, and the ferry system had about \$1.1 million in additional, unbudgeted fuel costs. As a result, the DRBA Board authorized a fuel surcharge for when the price for marine diesel fuel rises above the 8-year trend in price.

The agency continues to focus on reducing ferry operating expenses without sacrificing customer service. For instance, the Ferry has consolidated several operations at Cape May. Other cost-savings activities include reducing the total number of crossings in the summer schedule while leaving room for additional departures as customer demand dictates. The CMLF also modified its popular Family Fun Cruise departing from Lewes, moving it from Thursday departures to Sundays. The Cape May Family Fun Cruise continues to depart on Wednesday evenings.

Rock-the-Boat cruises and Cape May Zoo and Atlantic City tours will continue this summer and staff is planning exciting new programs like Stay-and-Sail and eco-tours.

Commission approves '09 operating budget



The DRBA's 2009 operating budget freezes all wages at 2008 levels, eliminates 14 previously funded positions and holds spending at a 1.8 percent increase over its 2008 budget.

"Because of the recession and high fuel prices, fewer vehicles used the bridge or traveled aboard the ferry system in 2008, which negatively impacted our overall revenues by approximately \$7 million," explained DRBA's Chief Financial

Officer, Victor A. Ferzetti.

The budget allows \$70 million for the DMB, the CMLF, food services, Three Forts Ferry Crossing, police and administration and nearly \$6 million to operate the DRBA's five airports.

The DRBA also reduced its budget through negotiations with vendors and trimmed its community contributions program.

All operating revenues are generated by the bridge, ferry and airport facilities.

DRBA seeks more vendor diversity



A new program recently approved by the DRBA Board focuses on encouraging and opening opportunities to work with the DRBA to a diverse supplier base while ensuring that the Authority receives the highest quality products and services at the most economical costs.

"The Authority has established a comprehensive Supplier Diversity Program to advocate, coordinate, and promulgate a level playing field for every qualified firm that seeks to do business with us," Chairman Hogan remarked. The program ensures that all suppliers with the demonstrated desire and capability to pursue business with the Authority have the opportunity to do so. The Commissioners are committed to achieving this objective, he noted.

The Supplier Diversity Manager (formerly the agency's DBE Manager) has primary responsibility for managing this new program.

Key elements of the enhanced program include:

- Renaming the DBE program to more accurately reflect the Authority's intentions
- Implementing an employee training program on the importance of diversity in procurement
- Encouraging employees to seek out and utilize disadvantaged, minority and women-owned firms
- Using procurement software to enhance small businesses' capabilities through notification of opportunities
- Establishing a public information center on the DRBA website to track achievement of participation
- Reducing current contract proposal guarantees
- Revising the retention policy for proposal guarantees
- Enhancing outreach to a diverse community to raise awareness of procurement opportunities as they become available.

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Employees team up for Heart Walk



A team of 10 DRBA employees have raised more than \$2,500 for the American Heart Association's Start! Walk spring fundraiser held May 16 on the Ocean City, NJ, boardwalk.

The misty weather didn't deter the DRBA walkers — nine from Cape May and one from headquarters — from making the heart healthy 5K effort.

Cub Scouts tour New Castle Airport



A Cub Scout den, part of Troop 902 from Bear, DE, toured New Castle County Airport in January to learn about fire safety, air traffic control functions and airport operations and safety. In addition to DRBA employees, Delaware Air National Guard Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit members and FAA control tower personnel took part in the tour.

Art show featured at Lewes Terminal



LEWES, DE — During President's Day weekend, the Lewes Historical Society presented its 6th annual art show and sale, held this year for the first time at the Lewes Ferry Terminal.

In welcoming the event, the Terminal hosted a cocktail party prior to the show to provide guests an opportunity to meet the 40 regional artists.

The Terminal on Lewes Beach provided a venue perfect for regional art with its breathtaking views of Delaware Bay and local lighthouses. The show was open to the public.