

A Profile in Regional Aviation Systems Planning: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

October 2011

About DVRPC

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is a nine-county regional planning organization covering the Philadelphia urbanized area and is home to more than 5.6 million people. In addition to its environmental, economic and community development and smart growth planning activities, DVRPC acts as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in the Delaware Valley and the greater Philadelphia region.

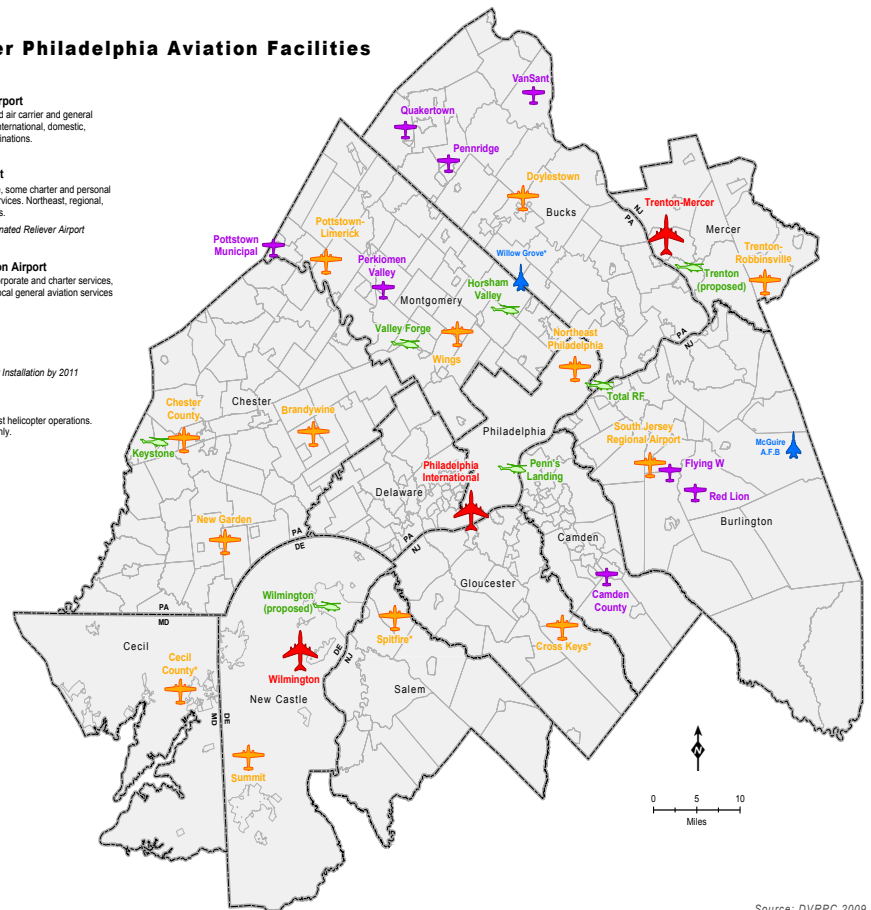
History of RASP

DVRPC conducts regional aviation planning on behalf of 12 counties from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The 2030 Regional Airport System Plan (RASP) was adopted in 2006 and is the current RASP for the DVRPC. However, the 2035 RASP was completed in 2010 and awaits adoption by the DVRPC Board during 2011. The latest dated data below reflect the finding from this draft plan.

DVRPC adopted their first Regional Airport System Plan (RASP) in 1982 and defined aviation facility needs to the Year 2000. DVRPC amended the Plan in 1988 due to demand brought on by deregulation, market forces and the sale of privately owned airports. With the evolution of regional aviation facilities supply and demand, and the change in capacity, programmatic and community involvement of the aviation market, DVRPC updated its RASP in 1995 and 2001, 2006 and 2010 with a new horizon of 2035.

2035 Greater Philadelphia Aviation Facilities

-  **Commercial Airport**
Providing scheduled air carrier and general aviation services. International, domestic, and commuter destinations.
-  **Reliever Airport**
Providing corporate, some charter and personal general aviation services. Northeast, regional, and local operations.
* Regionally Designated Reliever Airport
-  **General Aviation Airport**
Providing limited corporate and charter services, with emphasis on local general aviation services and destinations.
-  **Military Airport**
Limited civilian use.
* Joint Interagency Installation by 2011
-  **Heliport**
Local and east coast helicopter operations. Visual flight rules only.



Source: DVRPC 2009

Goals

- Identify aviation facilities critical to regional economic development and mobility.
- Monitor aviation demand.
- Identify aviation policy and programmatic issues and opportunities.
- Build regional consensus regarding development and operational goals.
- Inform the public and media regarding aviation issues and define regional objectives.
- Plan and Manage facility improvements implementation.



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Objectives

- Provide adequate regional commercial aviation operation capacity with increased safety and minimum delay to serve population and employment concentrations in the region and within one-hour travel time.
- Provide adequate business and general aviation aircraft operating and storage capacity within one-half hour travel time of population and employment centers.
- Preserve essential existing aviation facilities and improve select facilities regarding runway length, width, guidance systems, and apron/hangar capacity to satisfy suburban market area demand and provide sufficient non-commercial reliever capacity to ensure maximum commercial utilization of PHL.
- Expand airports to support development that integrates environmental preservation and neighborhood concerns regarding safety, noise and pollution.
- Provide recommendations for the regional system to fully satisfy commercial and business mobility needs.
- Provide exclusive center city based helicopter service for commuters, medical service, and police functions at the regions major urban centers.
- Transfer ownership of public use airports from private to public owners. Where private owners remain in control, provide public capital subsidies or match of private investment.
- Provide and improve facilities that efficiently facilitate intermodal access and transfers.
- Pursue capital subsidies from Federal and State sources that represent the regions “fair-share” of statewide annual allocations based on population, employment, based aircraft operations or other appropriate criteria.

Regional Benefits of RASP

RASPs planning and products inform the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the states regarding facilities funding priorities. RASP planning identifies needed programmatic modifications. The RASP contains 24 airports (three commercial, ten reliever and 11 general aviation) and identifies three operating public use heliports and two military airbases one of which, Willow Grove Naval Air Station, is currently under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission program and may not be preserved as a civilian airport despite RASP recommendation for its preservation as a regional corporate jet airport. The DVRPC region is expected to increase its population by 12.2% and employment by 13% with rural areas experiencing greater increases than urban areas. The draft 2035 RASP forecasts a 264,602 (18.5%) increase in total operations and a 228 (9.9%) increase in total based aircraft from the region’s 2009 capacity. DVRPC expects a 54.5% increase in commercial aircraft activity during the 2009-2035 period at PHL, Trenton-Mercer and New Castle combined, as well as a 10.3% increase in non-commercial operations at general aviation and reliever airports.

Integration into overall LRTP

DVRPC has integrated the RASP into their next long-range transportation plan. Currently the RASP is not integrated into the Transportation Improvement Plan.

Partners/Stakeholders

DVRPC regional aviation systems planning activities are carried out in cooperation with the FAA, State Department of transportations, counties and municipal governments, Statewide aviation associations, and airport owners and operators.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

About the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is dedicated to uniting the region’s elected officials, planning professionals and the public with a common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment and enhancing the economy. We serve a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer in New Jersey. DVRPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region - leading the way to a better future. For additional information, please visit www.dvrpc.org.



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About the National Association of Regional Councils

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. NARC’s member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. For additional information, please visit www.NARC.org.

The National Association of Regional Councils

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