



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

(302) 760-2713 FAX: (302) 739-6340

<http://www.doverkentmpo.org>

## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2008 WORKSHOP

### Public Advisory Committee & Alternates attending:

Horace Cook, Chair

Arley Cooper, Jr.

Dwight Meyer

William Saunders

Dr. Daniel Houghtaling

Richard Ornauer

James Webster

### Members not attending:

James Brown, Vice-Chair

Peter Schaeffer

Diana Welch

Prameela Kaza

Chandra Aleong

### Non-members attending:

Miranda Marques, Dept. of Labor

Dennis Christie, AARP

Dr. Carlton Cannon, Jr.

Joshua Waltz, MPO Staff

Lucretia B. Young, AARP

Frank Carroll, AARP

Juanita Wieczoreck, MPO Staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

Ted Ressler, AARP

Jim Devon, AARP

### 1. Introduction of Members & Guests

Mr. Saunders introduced Dr. Carlton Cannon, a potential PAC member alternate.

### 2. **PRESENTATION: Transportation, Mobility and Housing for the 55 and Older Community – Frank Carroll, AARP**

Mr. Carroll and his associates distributed material about AARP. Mr. Carroll gave a presentation reviewing AARP's history, noting that AARP turns fifty this year and an event is planned for the first week of September. There are AARP offices in all fifty states and there are three branches of the organization:

- 1) Membership Association, non-profit 501C (4)
- 2) Foundation, no-profit 501C (3)
- 3) Services Inc., a for-profit organization; 95% of the profits go back into the main organization

Mr. Carroll reviewed AARP services and programs that are offered, with emphasis on mobility issues of citizens over 50 years old. He also indicated that AARP wants to be involved in planning and, specifically, with MPOs.

### 3. **ACTION ITEM: Proposed Project List for the Draft Regional Transportation Plan Update – J. Wieczoreck**

There was considerable discussion concerning the projects in the list. There were questions concerning the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process as it affected the time line of projects. Dr. Houghtaling asked who monitored the NEPA process; Ms. Wieczoreck informed the committee that it was monitored at the federal level. Dr. Houghtaling asked if DNREC was involved; Ms. Wieczoreck responded that DNREC was a permitting agency. There was also discussion concerning general cost estimates. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that this was difficult since costs change so fast. She informed the committee that DeIDOT works with the consultants to develop cost estimates.

Ms. Wieczoreck informed the PAC that Council did not wish to release the draft Regional Transportation



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Plan in sections; Council will approve the Plan for release to the public when it is complete.

Mr. Ornauer asked if there was any relationship between the draft Regional Transportation Plan and DeIDOT's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Wieczoreck said that she didn't know, and that she would ask Ms. Geier at DeIDOT and the consultant for a presentation if the PAC wished. The committee agreed that they would like a presentation comparing the draft RTP and DeIDOT's comprehensive plan.

There was some discussion concerning the status of DE300 and Route 13; Dupont Manor drainage project (completed, removed from the list); Kent County Parks and Recreation project @ Generals Green; and the Harrington Truck Bypass, to be finished this year.

**MOTION** By Mr. Ornauer to recommend to Council to move forward with the proposed project list as amended by staff.

There was additional discussion before a second was made to the motion.

Mr. Webster asked about a project that had no time frame for completion. Ms. Wieczoreck stated that the only projects with projected completion years are those included in the 2009-2012 TIP.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Gumrot. Motion carried.

#### **4 DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program – J. Waltz**

DeIDOT was invited but did not attend. Mr. Waltz reviewed the lists that were distributed to the PAC; One list noted increases, one decreases, and one listed the projects from 2009-2012 and then 2009 and 2010. Discussion ensued concerning phase changes and fiscal year changes for projects. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that this could change again after the legislative session. It was also noted that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will not agree to currently proposed alignments for the West Dover Connector due to historic farm issues.

#### **5. ACTION ITEM: 2007 Information Book – J. Waltz**

**MOTION** By Mr. Ornauer to recommend Council approve the Data Book for publication. Seconded by Mr. Gumrot. Motion carried.

#### **6. Project Updates – 6.1 North Dover Study**

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that the consultant is meeting with individual business owners to discuss their concerns and needs. There will be a public workshop in August to review the consultant's recommendations.

#### **6.2 DE 8 Concept Plan and Operations Study Final Report**

It was announced that copies of the final report were available.



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7. **Staff Report – J. Wieczorek**
  - 7.1 **UPWP Progress & Financial Reports**
  - 7.2 **Correspondence & Publications/Reports**

Ms. Wieczorek reported that there was interest in developing a regional bicycle plan. The State Plan is broad and does not include details for municipalities. She then asked for a volunteer to represent the MPO on the Pedestrian Task Force, replacing former PAC member Nicholas DiPasquale. She informed the committee that it did not have to be a PAC member. Dr. Cannon volunteered.

Mr. Gumrot felt that pedestrian and bike safety and regulations should be a larger component in the driver safety manual. Mr. Saunders expressed concerns about scooters and how they are used. It was reported that Mr. Robert Rejger was an advocate for driver's manual changes. His phone numbers are listed in the Dover Post. The committee felt that the MPO representative to the Pedestrian Task Force should bring these issues to the table for discussion.

It was also suggested that there be a presentation on bicycles at the December PAC meeting.

Ms. Wieczorek reported that the Kent County Comprehensive Plan was not approved by Levy Court. The Plan would be reverting to the 2002 Land Use and Growth Zone maps. Density would be reduced to 3 units per acre; she noted that a minimum of seven is necessary to support transit.

Ms. Wieczorek reported that a UPWP amendment would be forthcoming to move the North Dover Study into FY2009. She also reported that she met with the DE State Housing Authority to develop a pilot program to provide bicycles to residents without automobiles and/or drivers' licenses. DSHA declined to participate; Ms. Wieczorek will contact the Dover Housing Authority next.

Ms. Wieczorek informed the committee that the new PAC liaison has been hired and will begin in July. She also reported that August 16<sup>th</sup> would be Mr. Waltz's last day; he will be returning to Colorado.

## 8. **Next meeting – August 26, 2007 – Smyrna or Clayton**

Mr. Ornauer suggested that the PAC meet at the Smyrna VFW for the next meeting and offered a contact name and number.

Ms. Wieczorek offered to write a letter to Mayor Carey recommending Dr. Cannon's appointment and the committee agreed that it would be helpful.

MOTION By Mr. Ornauer to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.