



Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

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

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

DOVER/KENT MPO COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

Dover/Kent MPO Council Members and /or Representatives thereof attending:

Carleton E. Carey, Sr., Mayor, City of Dover, Chairman

Kenneth Fuchs, Vice-Mayor, Mayor Maly, Town of Camden, for Kent County Municipalities

Brad Eaby, for Brooks Banta, President, Kent County Levy Court

Kennard Potts for Stephen Kingsberry, Director, Delaware Transit Corporation

Elizabeth Olsen, Deputy Director, Safety & Homeland Security, for Gov. Markell, State of DE

Ralph Reeb Planning Director, for Carolann Wicks, Secretary, DelDOT

Members not attending:

Letitia A. Thompson, Regional Administrator, Region III, Federal Transit Admin. (FTA)

Hassan Raza, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA)

Non-members attending:

Ann Marie Townshend, City of Dover Planning, MPO TAC

Ashton McGloughlin, UDEL student

Juanita Wieczoreck, MPO Staff

James Galvin, MPO Staff

Kate Layton, MPO Staff

Ben Johnson, MPO Staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

1. Introduction of Members & Guests

2. Public Comments

3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Eaby. Motion carried.

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes/ July 7, 2010

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEM: Annual Elections

At this time, Ms. Wieczoreck took over as Chair and accepted nominations from the floor for the annual elections.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to nominate Mayor Carey as Chair. Seconded by Mr. Eaby. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Potts to close nominations. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Fuchs. Motion carried



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Mayor Carey was elected Chair by acclamation.

MOTION By Vice-Mayor Fuchs to nominate Mr. Eaby as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Reeb. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Potts to close nominations. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Fuchs. Motion carried.

Mr. Eaby was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

Mayor Carey resumed as Chair and the meeting continued.

6. ACTION ITEM: Proposed Amendment FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program – Downstate Rail Study – J. Galvin

Mr. Galvin reviewed the amendment. Ms. Wieczorek reported that the TAC had concerns concerning the cost of the project, but recommended approval. The TAC felt that this study represented a project that would once again send people through Kent County without the County deriving any benefit. Ms. Layton reported that the PAC also had concerns about the cost and benefits to Kent County. The PAC requested more information and refrained from making a recommendation to the MPO Council. Ms. Layton also reported that 22 public comments were submitted, all in favor of the study, specifically in favor of rail service.

Mr. Potts stated that he is the project manager for this study. He noted that Delaware received a grant from the Federal Rail Administration for this study of a high-speed inter-city passenger rail project. He said that the project was a response to legislators and stakeholders. Ocean City was added as a destination based on information from a demand forecast. DART and DTC have also received favorable comments on the project. There was discussion concerning the phases of the project and infrastructure details. There was also discussion concerning where Delaware's portion of \$405,000 was going to come from, and why Maryland was not contributing more. Mr. Potts said that DTC hoped to fund the project with fuel expense surplus. Although Ocean City is a destination on the line, the railway is only in Maryland for 5 miles or so, and 90 in Delaware.

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to approve the amendment to the FY2010-2013 TIP to include the Downstate Rail Study. Seconded by Mr. Reeb.

Vice-Mayor Fuchs wondered how popular this project really was; he compared it to the "Polar Express" and did not see it as practical. Mr. Reeb said that it was a matter planning for the future, making decisions as to where the infrastructure and train stations would be so that the State would be fiscally responsible.

Motion carried with Mr. Potts abstaining.

7. ACTION ITEM: Proposed Amendment FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program - Changes resulting from the FY 2011 Bond Bill – J. Galvin (enclosure)

Staff reviewed the changes suggested by Mr. Galvin, and that were sent to DelDOT Finance for review. Council discussed what projects required amendments and which were administrative modifications. The Bombay Hook project was being transferred to Fish and Wildlife. There was some discussion concerning the addition of bridges, but DelDOT representatives felt that bridges as a category were approved and no individual



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amendments were needed. There was also discussion concerning Clarence Street being removed from the CTP with no notice or explanation. DelDOT staff explained that Clarence Street is not scheduled to use federal funds in this fiscal year. It will be shown as earmarked, or obligated, in another fiscal year. There was further discussion regarding the lack of information from DelDOT and the TAC and PAC declining to take action at their meetings. The TAC held a special meeting on September 1, when more information was available. The TAC then recommended approval of the amendments.

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to amend the following three TIP projects to align with the Capital Transportation Program (CTP) and the Bond Bill:

Wyoming Mill Road
Transit Center
Transit Vehicle Expansion project

Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

MOTION By Vice-Mayor Fuchs to request that DelDOT make pedestrian improvements at Roosevelt Avenue and US13 either through Pavement and Rehab, Transportation Enhancement or Any other available funding sources possible during the current FY2011. Seconded by Mr. Potts.

Mayor Carey asked if these improvements would include the countdown crossing technology; Mr. Reeb said that it was now required by ADA guidelines.

Motion carried with one abstention.

8. ACTION ITEM: DelDOT Letter Suggesting Federal Fund Programming – DelDOT

Ms. Wiczoreck reported that the TAC had asked for more information before recommending concurrence with this letter. In particular, they asked for information regarding DelTRAC projects. TAC members were also dissatisfied with the use of CMAQ funds for paratransit service. They felt that the paratransit buses run at less than capacity and do not improve air quality. Mr. Potts reported that paratransit service is a federal requirement within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of fixed route service, which does have a positive impact on air quality. TAC members also reviewed Transportation Enhancement project funding.

The PAC had similar concerns to the TAC, and declined to take action on this item, deferring to the TAC's decision. After the September 1, 2010 meeting, the TAC recommended concurrence with the use of federal funds.

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to concur with DelDOT's use of federal funds. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Fuchs. Motion carried.

9. PRESENTATION: State Transportation Plan – R. Geier

Ms. Geier was not in attendance and this item was tabled.



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10. Municipalities Report – Vice-Mayor Fuchs, Mayor Carey – NO REPORT

11. TAC Report – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck noted that the TAC's displeasure with the lack of communication with DelDOT had already been addressed. She also reported that it was worse this year than ever before. Mr. Reeb asked if the Secretary had been contacted: Ms. Wieczoreck said that Secretary Wicks was copied on the letter sent to Finance, but the MPO received no response from her office. There was further discussion concerning the lack of communication with sponsoring agencies when projects are changed or removed due to legislative action. It was suggested that Council Chair write a letter to the Secretary detailing what the MPO wanted in better communication. Ms. Wieczoreck said that it would be helpful for the MPO to know how decisions were made going into the General Assembly's June 30th deadline. Mr. Reeb felt that the MPO should be careful, because the TIP priority process is not adequate. Mayor Carey directed staff to draft a letter to Secretary Wicks asking for better communication after the Bond Bill changes.

Ms. Wieczoreck also reported that Ms. Theon Callender is now the municipal TAC representative. She is representing Cheswold's Mayor, Jeannette Williams, and is a member of the town council.

12. PAC Report – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that the PAC's concerns, similar to the TAC's were also addressed previously. She also reported that Michael DuRoss from DelDOT Planning gave a presentation on the State Transportation Plan. PAC members commented that the Power Point presentation was highlights, not a plan, and they would like to be supplied with a link to the Plan. Ms. Layton informed Council that Phyllis Collins, a prospective PAC member, was being considered by the Governor's office for appointment.

13. Project Update:

- 13.1 Public Outreach – K. Layton**
- 13.2 Public Education – K. Layton**
- 13.3 Transportation Studies – J. Galvin**
- 13.4 Regional Bicycle Plan – J. Wieczoreck**

Ms. Layton is participating in the Central Delaware Chamber Leadership program this year.

The MPO, along with Renaissance Planning and Becker Morgan Group, will hold a charrette for the Dover Transit Center Neighborhood Plan. It will take place from September 27 through October 1.

The Regional Bicycle Plan work group was asked to send a letter of support to DelDOT to include striping for bicycle lanes in the US13 Paving and Rehab project. There was considerable discussion concerning bicycle



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safety.

MOTION By Vice-Mayor Fuchs to write a letter of support for DelDOT to include bicycle lane striping in the US13 Paving and Rehab project, and to encourage continued public outreach and education to both drivers and bicyclists on sharing the road. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

14. Executive Director's Report

14.1 UPWP and Financial Reports

14.2 Correspondence

Next Meeting: November 10, 2010 – Camden Town Council Chambers

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Fuchs. Motion carried.