



Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

(302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

DOVER/KENT MPO COUNCIL MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2009

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

Brad Eaby, for Brooks Banta, President, Kent County Levy Court, Chairman
Robert Mooney, Mayor, Town of Camden, for Kent County Municipalities, Vice-Chairman
Carleton E. Carey, Sr., Mayor, City of Dover
Kennard Potts for Stephen Kingsberry, Director, Delaware Transit Corporation
Elizabeth Olsen, DE Dept. of Safety & Homeland Security, for Governor Markell, State of Delaware
Ralph Reeb for Carolann Wicks, Secretary, DelDOT
Kwame Arhin for Hassan Raza, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA)

Members not attending:

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

Non-members attending:

Gary Laing, DelDOT, Public Relations	Brenda Gardels, DelDOT Finance
Mayor Donald Tinari, Cheswold	Juanita Wieczoreck, MPO Staff
Kate Layton, MPO Staff	Jim Galvin, MPO Staff

The meeting was called to order without a quorum and began with non-action items.

- 1. Introduction of Members and Guests**
- 2. Public Comments**

3(11). TAC Report – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck briefed the Council on the TAC's actions regarding the FY2010-2013 TIP. The TAC had questions as to whether or not the Milford NE Front Street/SR1 project had to be amended into the Plan to be incorporated into the TIP. Commissioner Eaby said that he would prefer this to go into the Regional Transportation Plan, and Ms. Wieczoreck agreed that it would be a good idea. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that the list of TIP projects, including the SR1/NE Front Street project, had been shared publicly, but there was no advertisement on the MPO's part to put it into the RTP. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting on a protocol to take action. Mayor Carey said that something needed to be done to let the public know what was going on.

Dr. Arhin asked if there was a process for TIP modification; Ms. Wieczoreck said there was a process but an administrative change does not require a TIP amendment. There was some further discussion on federal protocol and procedures.

Ms. Wieczoreck also noted that the TAC meeting had Byard O'Neal, the executive director of the Motor Transport Association, in attendance.

4(12). PAC Report – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that the February PAC meeting was a good one, which Senators Ennis and Bushweller attended.

There was a quorum of members at 3:24 PM, at which time the Council moved to Action Items.



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5 (3). ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

MOTION By Mayor Mooney to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

6 (4). ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes/January 7 & January 28, 2009

MOTION By Mayor Mooney to approve both sets of minutes. Seconded by Mr. Reeb. Motion carried.

7 (5). ACTION ITEM: Proposed Amendment to the FY 2006-2009 Transportation Improvement Program – DelDOT

Ms. Wieczoreck noted one correction to the material distributed; under signage and pavement markings, the correct amount should be \$2 Million, not \$2 Billion. She also said that the next-to-last projects on the list would have to be separated out.

Delaware is confident that it will be able to use its portion of the stimulus funds within 120 days. It was suggested that Council take action on the second pavement and rehabilitation project separately, so that, contingent upon funding, the project will already have approval.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to amend the 06-09 TIP with all projects listed with the exception of the second paving and rehabilitation project, contingent upon the MPO not receiving negative public comments before the end of the public comment period. Seconded by Mayor Carey. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to amend the 06-09 TIP to include the second Paving and Rehab project contingent upon receipt of federal funds and no negative comments from the public prior to the end of the public comment period. Seconded by Mayor Carey. Motion carried.

Ms. Wieczoreck noted that regulations require a resolution attesting to the process used in amending the TIP. There were some typographical errors noted; the resolution will be corrected and presented to Commissioner Eaby for signature.

8 (6). ACTION ITEM: North Dover Study Recommendations – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck gave a Power Point Presentation, which she had presented to the Dover Safety Advisory and Transportation Committee. She noted that it is important for the City of Dover to have the same level of commitment to this project as the MPO. The committee did endorse the project, but had not yet made its recommendation to the City Council.

Ms. Wieczoreck reviewed the elements considered in the study and the recommended scenarios. The MPO received correspondence from Delaware State University, expressing dissatisfaction with the location of the proposed road through the college, as it will disrupt a woodland trail and possibly impact a great blue heron rookery. This would require an environmental inventory if the project moves forward. There was also a comment from a resident in Persimmon Park Place, asking why a section of Leipsic Road would be replaced. Ms. Wieczoreck surmised it was a trade-off with Dover Downs.

MOTION By Mayor Carey to approve and adopt the study. Seconded by Mr. Reeb.

Mayor Carey then asked what response was given by the City of Dover SA&T committee; Ms. Wieczoreck reported that it was well-received. Commissioner Eaby asked when the study was started: Ms. Wieczoreck reported that it was begun at the end of 2007; Mr. Reeb noted that there have been other studies of this area. Ms.



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Wieczoreck noted that this is the second study done by the MPO.

Motion carried.

9 (7). ACTION ITEM: Project Submittals to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

9.1 SR 1 and NE Front St. – Milford

9.2 Recommendations from the DE Concept Plan and Operations Study – J. Wieczoreck

9.3 Recommendations from the North Dover Study – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck reviewed the projects listed for the FY10-13 TIP. She also discussed changes the TAC made to the scores originally recommended by staff. Mr. Reeb noted that the weakness of the current priority process is that it calculates down to fractions of points, and is like asking which gold medalist in the Olympics is best. He also noted that the TAC recommendations do not change the magnitude of the projects and suggested that Council approve the changes made by the TAC.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to approve the project submittals for the FY2010-2013 TIP with the scores recommended by the TAC. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

10 (8). ACTION ITEM: Adoption of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck reviewed the TIP. She explained that the final document is not complete and has not had full public outreach. She also discussed the disconnect between the SR1/NE Front Street Project being in the TIP, but not the Plan. It has to be in the Plan before it can be in the TIP. She also raised the issue of the SR1/NE Front Street moving ahead of other projects even though it has a lower score. Mr. Reeb explained the concept behind the grade-separated intersections on Route 1. Ms. Wieczoreck said that the TAC and PAC had recommended a score of 27.15 for the SR1/NE Front Street project for inclusion in the Plan.

MOTION By Commissioner Eaby to adopt a score of 27.15 for the SR1 and NE Front Street, Milford project for the Plan. Seconded by Mr. Reeb. Motion carried.

Ms. Wieczoreck explained that the Council had a choice of actions: to approve the project list and adopt the TIP at the next meeting, or to adopt the entire document with the caveat that there are no substantive or negative comments in the next 30 days. Mr. Reeb felt that the list could be adopted; Ms. Wieczoreck asked that the SR1/NE Front Street project be removed, since it has not been added to the Regional Transportation Plan.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to adopt the two lists as the basis for the 2010-13 TIP with the recognition that the inclusion of the SR1/NE Front Street grade separation intersection project is contingent upon successful adoption into the Regional Transportation Plan. Seconded by Mayor Carey. Motion carried.

11 (9). ACTION ITEM: Smyrna Request for Permanent TAC Membership

Ms. Wieczoreck noted that this had been presented to the Council previously, and referred to the TAC for recommendation. The TAC recommended approval of the request. The addition of Smyrna does not change the quorum requirement.

MOTION By Commissioner Eaby to approve the request. Seconded by Mayor Mooney. Motion carried.



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12 (10). Municipalities Report – R. Mooney, Others

Mayor Mooney reported that Brett Taylor of DelDOT made a presentation to the League of Local Governments (LLG) about the stimulus package. Mayor Mooney did not feel that many appreciated the presentation, because the focus was not as broad for small municipalities as it should have been. Sentiment was that the MPO and DelDOT were taking care of Dover, but anything done for the small municipalities was done only if it were convenient for Dover. He also noted that Sussex County members of the LLG were disgruntled, as they had no MPO and no protocol for Sussex projects to “rise to the top.” Mayor Mooney felt that it took credibility away from how things are done, and the sentiment should be corrected and not allowed to stay out there. He felt that in the near future something should be done in a public forum of the membership. The smaller municipalities said that the stimulus package gives an unfair shot for Dover, and the smaller towns and cities feel left out. Mr. Reeb explained that there are a number of federal requirements associated with the stimulus money. Mayor Mooney suggested that something should be done to remedy the bad feelings expressed at the League meeting. It was thought that the MPO might do a PR campaign to explain the process and send to the LLG. It was also suggested that the document should be put out by DelDOT in conjunction with the MPO and put on both entities websites. Mr. Reeb added that the document should explain what the stimulus money is supposed to do and the criteria for picking projects in a manner that is clear to the layman. Commissioner Eaby suggested a contact person to field questions, and Mr. Reeb added that there should be an FAQ section. Another suggestion was a one-page explanation of how the stimulus money is distributed on the MPO website, with a link to more information about the stimulus.

Mayor Carey reported that Dover has its transportation project priority list, which includes the West Dover Connector, Kenton Road Corridor upgrades and College Road Corridor upgrades.

13 (4)(12). PAC Report – K. Layton

Ms. Layton continued her report from the beginning of the meeting. She relayed a request to the Council that DelDOT better communicate with businesses in cases of long-term closure projects. Specifically, the PAC felt that DelDOT should have had better communication with the businesses on South Governor’s Avenue as to how much business would be lost. Commissioner Eaby suggested that DelDOT could explain what would happen in front of businesses and what to expect. It was also suggested that utilities could be coordinated to come at the same time rather than different times requiring multiple digging and disruption. Mr. Reeb explained the complexities of such scheduling. He suggested that what could make a difference is putting up signs telling how to still get to businesses that are blocked.

13. Project Update:

- 13.1 Public Outreach – K. Layton**
- 13.2 Transportation Studies – J. Galvin**
- 13.3 Public Education – K. Layton**

14. Executive Director’s Report

- 14.1 UPWP and Financial Reports**
- 14.2 Correspondence**

Ms. Wiczoreck reported that the MPO is still negotiating the lease for space in the new Camden Town Hall. She is also working with the IT consultant to reconfigure the MPO computer server. She also reported that Janet McNulty sent a “thank you” for the \$650.00 donation to the education fund for Dan McNulty’s daughters.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2009 – Dover/Kent County MPO Conference Room



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MOTION

By Mayor Mooney to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 PM. Seconded by Mayor Carey
Motion carried.