



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 3, 2008**

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 Carey, Mayor, City of Dover,
Kennard Potts for Stephen Kingsberry, Director, Delaware Transit Corporation,
Joe Swiski for E. Olsen, DE Dept. of Safety & Homeland Security, for Governor Minner, State of Delaware
Ralph Reeb for Carolann Wicks, Secretary, DeIDOT

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:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mark Luszc, DeIDOT | Juanita Wieczoreck, MPO Staff |
| Chris Asay | Bobbie Geier, DeIDOT |
| Mayor Donald Tinari, Cheswold | Kate Layton, MPO Staff |
| Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff | Richard Ornauer, PAC |

The meeting was called to order without a quorum and after Items 1 and 2, continued with # 7, a presentation on the DeIDOT Roundabout program by Mark Luszc.

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

Mr. Asay introduced himself, noting that he is currently a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee for Pedestrian Facilities. He requested that the MPO take action to develop a metropolitan Area Bicycle Plan. He noted that Dover is small and flat, making it easy to ride a bike. He also noted that it reduces driving stress, transportation costs, congestion, and road maintenance costs. It also increases health, fitness and mood.

Mr. Asay said that no one is effectively planning for bike use, and that bicycle facilities are scattered and discontinuous. He cited the corner of Salisbury Road and Forrest Avenue as an example where sidewalks and bike lanes are included in part of the intersection but then abruptly stop.

There was some discussion concerning the MPO's position supporting bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It was noted that funding is a big issue and that many bike/ped projects are done through the Transportation Enhancement Program. Jurisdictional issues between the State, County and municipalities are also a problem. Mr. Asay stated that the State approach makes no sense. It designates routes but makes no effort to make them bike-friendly.

Mr. Eaby said that he would look at the State Plan and the Kent County Plan and coordinate with Mr. Asay. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that the MPO has funds in the UPWP for transportation studies, and that this is the kind of study that could be funded. It would require a 20% match.

3 (8). *PRESENTATION: DeIDOT Roundabout Program – M. Luszc, DeIDOT*

Mr. Luszc gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the Roundabout Program. He began by explaining the differences between a traffic circle and a roundabout. He also showed slides of Delaware's existing roundabouts,



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explaining the criteria that determined where a roundabout would be a better choice than a traffic signal. He noted that roundabouts have proven successful in other states. One of the more compelling reasons for roundabouts is a significant reduction in serious accidents. Mr. Luszcz also reported that there are 19 more roundabouts being considered for area roads, including Barratts Chapel Road. Mr. Ornauer noted that the Mifflin Road “mini” roundabout was very successful at reducing speeds on the road.

There was discussion concerning local response to roundabouts and the relative costs in comparison to a regular intersection. Mayor Mooney said that this was a big issue with the neighborhood concerning the Savannah Farm annexation. He asked if DelDOT could show the town an overlay of a “Jersey Circle” versus a “Roundabout.” Mr. Luszcz suggested he send a map of the proposed intersection to him for the comparison.

4 (9). PRESENTATION: Statewide Long-range Transportation Plan – R. Geier, DelDOT

Ms. Geier distributed hard copies of her Powerpoint presentation. She explained that this plan was more about process, as DelDOT’s work is affected by the decisions of others. That ever-changing cycle determined that the process became more important than a plan. She reviewed the priorities and the separate components of the plans. She noted that subarea plans and funding strategies are big issues.

There was discussion concerning coordination of subarea planning between land use agencies and communities.

5 (3). ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

MOTION By Mr. Potts to approve the agenda with the change in item order. Seconded by Mayor Carey. Motion carried.

6 (4). ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes/July 2, 2008

MOTION By Mayor Mooney to approve the minutes of July 2, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

7 (5). ACTION ITEM: Annual Meeting

7.1 (5.1) Elections

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

MOTION By Mr. Reeb to close nominations. Seconded by Mayor Carey. Motion carried.

Mr. Eaby was elected by acclamation.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb nominating Mayor Mooney as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mayor Carey.

Before the vote, Ms. Wieczoreck explained that Mayor Mooney was currently the municipal representative for the Kent County Mayors. If a new representative is elected, he or she would be the Vice Chair.

Motion carried.

MOTION By Mayor Carey to close the nominations. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

Mayor Mooney was elected by acclamation.

7.2 (5.2) Final UPWP Report –



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There was no Final Report due to payments pending on projects.

7 (6). ACTION ITEM: Proposed Project List for the Draft Regional Transportation Plan Update – J. Wieczoreck

An updated project list was distributed. The new list reflected corrections of math errors and changes from the TAC.

The PAC also asked that scoring be changed to increase the value of multimodal facilities.

The TAC felt that the weights were sufficient, but made changes to #14, College Road, and to #35, Garrison Tract. The Garrison Tract changes were made at the request of the City of Dover.

There was discussion concerning the changes and the language suggestions made by the PAC and TAC. Mr. Ornauer explained why he and the PAC felt that more emphasis should be placed on multimodal facilities. He also reported that the PAC thought that West and North Streets should be revisited now that Eden Hill Medical Center is open.

Council discussed the recommended changes, but the consensus was that the scoring was working as presented. Some members admitted that they did not understand the weights; some felt that there was something wrong with an approach that got too involved with decimal points. Mr. Reeb said that a push could be made for a dedicated percentage of money to go to bike/ped projects. He also pointed out that projects often have federal requirements as well. He also noted that this process creates a ranking that can be used to prioritize projects, but it still has to be explained to the federal agencies. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that the next step is cost and revenue estimates to help draw a line as to which projects could be accomplished. Cost estimates could help the committees and Council decide on whether to do one large project or five smaller ones.

MOTION By Mr. Reeb that Council adopt the rating system with the modifications proposed as a basis for ranking projects to go into the 20 year Transportation Plan. Seconded by Mayor Mooney. Motion carried.

8 (7). ACTION ITEM: Federal Funding Letter from DelDOT – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck reviewed the letter and how DelDOT proposes to use the funding in the categories noted. She reminded Council that this letter requires concurrence from the MPO for the funds to be used.

MOTION By Mayor Carey to concur with the use of federal funds as proposed by DelDOT. Seconded by Mr. Potts. Motion carried.

10. Municipalities Report – R. Mooney, A. DePrima

Mayor Mooney reported that the July meeting with Norfolk Southern was very productive. He noted that as an outcome of that meeting Dwayne Day from DelDOT sent out a letter to every representative agency and there was a subsequent meeting for rail security about 2 weeks ago. Mayor Mooney felt that security measures are still lacking for passenger and rail freight, but that Ms. Wieczoreck and the MPO should be commended for initiating this.

Mayor Mooney also noted that the Town of Camden was going to initiate the voluntary installation of bike racks in town to encourage the use of bicycles. Ms. Wieczoreck asked that he send the MPO the language used for the ordinance or resolution. Mr. Reeb said that DelDOT could help Camden with design issues. Mayor Mooney said that he never knew how complicated this was.

Mayor Carey reported that the meeting with Norfolk Southern was good, but not all the information from subsequent meetings was being distributed. He also said that he could not contact NS representatives. MPO staff is



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to contact NS to have them call Mayor Carey. Mayor Mooney reported that Dwayne Day was still working on the minutes from the last meeting and they have not been distributed yet.

Mayor Tinari reported that Route 42 traffic is picking up; it is a major road to Route 301 for trucks. The Air Park project is running into land use issues; there is a request for annexation and development next to the airport.

11. TAC Report – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that Mr. Koenig was elected as TAC Chair and Mr. Edgell was elected Vice-Chair.

12. PAC Report – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that the PAC elected Mr. Cook as Chair and Mr. Meyer as Vice-Chair.

13. Project Update:

13.1 North Dover Study

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that the project is 99.8% complete; however, there are “sticking points” with DelDOT and no more money. The Department wants more information and options at the Scarborough Road/SR1 Interchange. The consultant, RK&K, is developing a cost proposal for the additional work. Then the MPO will have to find additional funding. Mr. Reeb noted that this study has seen huge progress from several years ago; the businesses have agreed to service roads.

14. Executive Director’s Report

14.1 UPWP and Financial Reports

14.2 Federal Funding Eligibility Update

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that FHWA’s issue of the UPWP being federally participating has been resolved and questions concerning certain UPWP line items should be resolved soon

14.3 Correspondence

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that the MPO received a \$1,000 Community Service Grant from Kent County Levy Court for employee benefits. She also reported that the FTA had approved the MPO UPWP.

Ms. Wieczoreck also informed Council that FHWA is requiring an Air Quality Conformity determination for the TIP and the RTP. However, the 2006-2009 TIP has already been approved and the MPO is SAFETEA-LU compliant. This can be addressed through an amendment; only Carter Road is an issue. She also reported that a meeting was held to eliminate duplication of effort, as FHWA has requested that the MPO TIP look exactly like DelDOT’s CTP. However, there must be a written agreement in place to change this process, and it must be defined in the UPSP.

Ms. Wieczoreck announced that Jim Galvin would be joining the MPO later this month.

She also asked members to sign the forms required for the MPO’s Workers Compensation insurance. Council also discussed updating the signature cards on the MPO checking account.

Next Meeting /November 5, 2008 – Dover/Kent County MPO Conference Room

MOTION By Mayor Mooney to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mayor Carey. Motion carried.