



Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903
<http://doverkentmpo.org>

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

DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2006

Public Advisory Committee Members & Alternates attending:

Dr. Daniel Houghtaling (Chair)	Charles Gray (Vice-chair)
Horace Cook	Arley Cooper, Jr.
Donald Erhart	William Saunders
James Maloy (alternate)	Dwight Meyer
Nicholas DiPasquale	Richard Ornauer
Elizabeth Thompson	

Members not attending:

Prameela Kaza	Joanne Masten
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Non-members attending:

Constance Holland, DE Office of State Planning Coordination
Ralph Reeb, DE Department of Transportation
Alan Marteney, Century Engineering
Juanita Wieczoreck, MPO Staff
Richard Klepner, MPO Staff
Annette Hubbard, Dover Resident

1. Introduction of Members & Guests
2. *DISCUSSION*: Linking Transportation and Land Use

Ms. Wieczoreck introduced Ms. Holland and Mr. Reeb and distributed copies of the questions that had been sent to the MPO office prior to the workshop. Ms. Holland provided the following answers to questions that had been posed by members of the committee prior to the workshop.

Should the state play a strong role controlling growth? Should there be more state oversight into land use decisions?

- *The State already plays a strong role in controlling growth through infrastructure financing; however land use decisions should be made at a local level, but the state should be helpful.*

Should the state have the authority to prevent the annexation of New Castle County lands into the towns of Smyrna and Clayton?

- *The State has had a strong role in how the annexation of New Castle County lands into the towns of Smyrna and Clayton has taken place.*

What is the state's role in transportation (and other infrastructure) in curbing non-growth area development?



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- *Plans have to be certified by the State for non-growth area development. Ms. Holland talked about HB280, which would establish a statewide transfer of development rights program.*

Should there be a greater fiscal contribution by the state and/or counties to preserve farmland?

- *There should be greater financial contribution by the state and/or counties to preserve farmland and developers need to contribute as well.*

How can the state convince counties and other municipalities of the importance of conforming to Livable Delaware?

- *With most of the growth happening in the growth areas, the counties and other municipalities know it is important to conform with Livable Delaware.*

Should the MPO be authorized a stronger role to enforce Livable Delaware -- and if so what should it be?

- *The MPO should have a stronger role to enforce Livable Delaware, coordinating with City, County and State offices to help enforce standards set by Livable Delaware by making sure most of the growth is in the designated areas and that they are held in compliance with the standards.*

Mr. Reeb provided DelDOT's perspective on implementing transportation improvements and answered questions posed by committee members prior to the workshop.

What is the current status on DelDOT projects and how does this affect the PAC?

- *Mr. Reeb explained that the Department is concentrating on taking care of the large and small projects and working with developers to see that the medium-size projects get done. He said the Department is having some success getting cash contributions from developers to fund projects. He added that the Department is also taking over all sidewalk projects.*

What is the status of relocating the Dover bus terminal and DART service?

- *Mr. Reeb explained that the Department is working with the Kent Conservation District, the City of Dover, Kent General Hospital and some private concerns to address the Tar Ditch drainage problem. Some of the land for the transit hub could be used for that project. He said that the Department plans to be out of the current transit transfer center by 2009.*

What is the status of pedestrian and bike paths in the county?



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- *Mr. Reeb said that the Department is trying to stitch together a statewide bicycle and pedestrian system. He said that one of the first challenges is trying to figure out how to get all bicycles onto the road. He said they are also trying to arrange the system so that it reaches places where people want to go. The Department is trying to get the Clayton to Easton rail line converted to a rail trail. They would also like to see a bike path from southern Pennsylvania to the Delaware beaches.*

What is the status of DelDOT funding?

- *Mr. Reeb discussed development versus money for infrastructure. He said they are trying to do subarea plans that identify what each developer needs to contribute to fund improvements. He added that this year the Department will be reviewing priorities to be sure they still apply.*

What is the status of air quality?

- *Mr. Reeb said that the air quality is good compared to how much Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) has increased.*

What is the status of the proposed changes to the subdivision manual?

- *Mr. Reeb explained that the subdivision manual is still a work in progress. The initial proposed changes were not accepted by the development, consulting and farming communities. He projected that they will have a workable manual by August or September.*

The discussion with Mr. Reeb and Ms. Holland finished with a question/answer session on a variety of topics. Mr. Reeb asked the PAC to help identify the kind of information that is useful in helping citizens get involved in the process. Ms. Holland explained that one of her challenges is getting groups of people together to talk about how property can be preserved without creating financial hardship for the property owner.

3. PRESENTATION: New Public Participation Requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users – J. Wieczoreck, D/KC MPO

Ms. Wieczoreck discussed the requirement under SAFETEA-LU for a public participation plan. The committee discussed techniques for improving the MPO's public outreach process.

The following suggestions were made:

- Create website listserv sign-up
- Invite folks interested in transportation/land-use to get involved.
- Put a "clip and return" coupon on the bottom of meeting notices for people to indicate their interests.
- Televisе MPO meetings and workshops to get people interested in attending PAC meetings. Check that TV stations are on our media list.



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- Make meeting announcements more explicit about what we are doing.
 - Approach the county about inserting notices in sewer bills. Approach City about tagging onto electric billing.
 - Determine how to provide comprehensive information about developments and permitting agencies.
 - Hold meetings in communities where you know there is an issue.
 - Invite DelDOT to join PAC meetings in communities where there may be issues.
 - Start a speaker series.
 - Put a notice in the Levy Court Parks and Recreation newsletter
 - Ask for donated space for name, number and website on ads on placements from the companies that produce them
 - Include notice of upcoming events on Delmarva Power bills
 - Ask FHWA/FTA to do a peer review of our outreach process
4. ***DISCUSSION:*** Welcome Materials for New Public Advisory Committee Members - J. Wieczoreck, D/KC MPO

Ms. Wieczoreck asked the committee members to suggest what information new PAC members should receive. They suggested:

- MPO brochure, by-laws, public participation policy, acronyms list, Long Range Transportation Plan, TIP, DelDOT pipeline brochure, abstract of what the documents are and how they relate to one another.
 - Put materials in a three ring binder.
 - Print documents on punched paper.
5. ***DISCUSSION:*** Member Contact Sheet Review

PAC members gave Ms. Wieczoreck any new or changed contact information.

6. ***DISCUSSION:*** Rail-to-the-Fair

Mr. Cooper, Mr. Maloy and Mr. Meyer volunteered to ride the train and hand out information. Mr. Ornauer volunteered to hand out information at the station, but did not want to ride the train. Mr. DiPasquale said he may be able to participate, but would have to let staff know.

7. **NEXT MEETING:** August 22, 2006 –Location TBA

The meeting was adjourned informally at approximately noon.