



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

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

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## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEETING

### MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2006

#### Public Advisory Committee Members & Alternates attending:

Nicholas DiPasquale, Chair	Horace Cook, Vice Chair
Prameela Kaza	Dwight Meyer
William Saunders	Richard Ornauer
Elizabeth Thompson	James Maloy (alternate)
Dr. Daniel Houghtaling	
Jim Webster (PAC member awaiting appointment approval by the City of Dover)	

#### Members not attending:

Joanne Masten	Donald Erhart	Charles Gray
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#### Non-members attending:

Bruce Ennis, State Representative	Robert Walls, State Representative
Don Blakey, State Representative	Daniel McNulty, MPO Staff
Donna Stone, State Representative	Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff
Ralph Reeb, Director, DelDOT Planning	Kermit Moore, Frederica, Private Citizen
Juanita Wiczoreck, MPO Staff	George McCluskey, Jr., Smyrna, Private Citizen

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 PM and it was decided to go to Item 7 after the Item 1, Introduction of Members and Guests and begin with Mr. Reeb's presentation.

1. Introduction of Members & Guests
2. **DISCUSSION: Discuss Kent County's Transportation Priorities - Kent County Legislators**

The discussion began with a short presentation from Mr. Reeb. Mr. Reeb announced that the Governor's transportation funding options are listed on the DelDOT website. He reported that the usual ways of increasing income were looked at; tolls, fees and licenses, registration, gas taxes, tire taxes, and federal match. A combination was selected to support transportation spending. The figures must agree with increased congestion, or the State must find more money. He pointed out that in Europe, major toll roads are all privately owned, and that Delaware is at that point, with roads to work on and no money. There is no one thing that needs more funding, but the total collection of projects that need doing to prevent problems adds up. It is estimated that transportation funding will be \$2+ billion short over the next 6 years. Mr. Reeb felt that the final solution would be a trade off – what can we live with or without to pay for projects? For example, if the gas tax puts the cost of gas too high, people will use less gas. He believed that a master plan area needs to be identified, with a vision of what that area will become, to develop a transportation system to serve that growth. New development has to pay its fair share of the costs.

There was discussion concerning development density and the developers paying their share, and what projects could be done with less money if the short fall could not be made up. It was noted that some roads could be delayed, but construction costs are always rising; priorities would have to be re-evaluated – as in, what is the cost if we don't fix this now? The budget will have to be cut as close to the bone as possible.

There was some discussion as to which county gets the most money and how that is decided. Mr. Reeb acknowledged that prioritizing is not done as well as it could be; he believed that problems should be prioritized, then address projects.



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There was a brief discussion about transportation modeling. State Representative Stone commented that modeling was an accurate science, but that people don't believe in the results.

Ms. Wieczoreck noted that privatization of the toll road is very unpopular in the region.

Further discussion regarding language in the state budget was discussed, particularly the confusion when a project is authorized but there is no funding. Representative Stone stated that she supports and, during the coming year, will work on moving operating expenses out of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and back into the General Fund where they belong. She added that the TTF was intended for infrastructure.

The newly-elected legislators noted that they have a lot to learn and will keep their eyes and ears open.

### 3. Public Comments

Mr. Kermit Moore noted that there is no evening bus service.

### 4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

In addition to moving Item 7 earlier, Ms. Wieczoreck asked that Item #6 be taken off the agenda, as the new figures were not yet ready.

MOTION By Mr. Ornauer to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Cook. Motion carried.

### 4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes / October 24, 2006

MOTION By Mr. Saunders to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kaza. Motion carried.

### 6. ACTION ITEM: Discuss and recommend projects to be included in the UPWP - J. Wieczoreck

MOTION By Mr. Cook to recommend the following projects as the top three priorities:

- 1) Corridor plans for important corridors in the Kent County Growth Area
- 2) US13 Commercial Corridor Concept Plan in Camden
- 3) South Smyrna Area Transportation Study
- 4) Elderly Mobility Committee

Seconded by Dr. Houghtaling. Motion carried.

### 7. Staff Report – J. Wieczoreck, D. McNulty

- 8.1 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports
- 8.2 Project Updates – DE 8 Concept Plan and Operations Study, Elderly Mobility Survey
- 8.3 Correspondence & Publications/Reports
- 8.4 Progress update on Public Participation Process recommendations suggested at the June workshop

Mr. McNulty passed around a prototype of the PAC binder that was asked for at the PAC workshop in June.

The TIP Bus Tour was discussed and planned for February.

### 9. Next Meeting: February 27, 2007

MOTION By Mr. Ornauer to adjourn the meeting at 10 PM. Seconded by Mr. Saunders. Motion carried.