



DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Scott Koenig, City of Dover/Public Works (Chair)	David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)
Mike Petit de Mange, Kent County Planning	David Hugg, Town of Smyrna
Mark Glaze for Greg Oliver, DelDOT Planning	Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture
Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District	Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Tammy Ford, Transportation Mgmt. Assoc. DE	
Wayne Henderson for Cathy Dennis, Delaware Transit Corporation	

Members not attending:

Raffi Papazian, Dover Air Force Base	Jack Taylor, DE Motor Transport Assoc.
Florence Bicchetti, Federal Transit Administration	Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern
Mark Mallamo, City of Milford	Anthony DePrima, City of Dover/Planning/Insp.
Gary Smith, DE Economic Dev. Office	
Paul Lang, Federal Highway Admin.	

Non-Members attending:

Richard Kautz, Sussex County Planning	Monroe Hite III, DelDOT Planning
Joseph Cantalupo, DelDOT Planning	Ken Hogan, City Council, Dover
Juanita Wiczoreck, MPO Staff	
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff	Kevin Hickman, MPO Staff

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 10:05 AM.

- 1. Introduction of Members & Guests**
- 2. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda**

MOTION By Mr. Riley to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Motion carried

- 3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes/ December 14, 2005 Meeting**

MOTION By Mr. Petit de Mange to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Edgell. Motion carried.

- 4. PRESENTATION: Update on the Status of the US 113 North-South Study – M. Hite, DelDOT**

Mr. Hite reviewed the parameters of the US113 North-South Study, explaining that this area is focused on the Milford area. The Study's public involvement process has included a Working Group, members of the public, and environmental and regulatory resources. He explained that the original 25 alternatives have been narrowed down to six. All the alternative alignments have problems; some are wetlands/environmental issues, while others are historical and cultural resource issues. Mr. Hite displayed maps outlining 4 of the alternative alignments in different colors – blue, purple, green and orange. He also informed the committee that the DelDOT website for this project has video and interactive maps that can be viewed for additional information. Mr. Koenig asked what the time line was for narrowing the 6 alternatives down to one; Mr. Hite responded that they expect to have the final alternative chosen by January or February of 2007. Mr. Hite was asked if the project would be segmented; he responded that after narrowing the selection to one alignment, that alignment would be broken into segments. He further explained that given the current financial situation in Delaware, it could take 15 years to build the new road, but that the corridor would be protected as soon as possible. Ms. Wiczoreck asked if Mr. Hite could send maps of the alternative alignments for display in the MPO office, and



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he promised to send copies.

5. **PRESENTATION: Safe Routes to School Program – J. Cantalupo, DelDOT**

Mr. Cantalupo gave a slide presentation outlining the Delaware Safe Routes to School program. He explained that the program is now in the federal budget, but the program has been around for a while, and some states have been implementing it already. The program focuses on health and exercise – getting children to walk or bike to school. Other benefits are Air Quality improvement by eliminating car trips, and the idling issues associated with parents dropping off and picking up their children. He explained that education is important – changing social attitudes so that parents see walking or biking as a viable alternative to cars and teaching children to travel and cross streets safely. It is also important to identify safety hazards at the schools caused by speeds, infrastructure or traffic and eliminating those hazards. The program is available to all schools, although the primary focus is on grade schools, and it is voluntary. Delaware’s pilot program began with 6 schools; however, 2 dropped out. Mr. Cantalupo explained that the program is very flexible, and each school creates it’s own program to fit the unique needs of that school and community. DelDOT staff has discovered that the schools need technical support, and money in the federal budget can be put to that use. It is also important that incentives to try the program be built in to the program – prizes for walking to school a certain number of days awarded to the children are one example. Mr. Cantalupo also emphasized that the program needs both school staff and community support. DelDOT will be publishing guidelines for the program on March 1 in the Delaware Register for a 30 day public review and comment period. The guidelines could be finalized by May 1 or June 1. A source book of resources for the schools will also be published, to be available with the guidelines.

6. **Member Agency Reports:**

City of Dover: Planning & Public Works – Mr. Koenig reported that Dover’s revised Comprehensive Plan has been certified by the State. Water main work on Division Street continues. DelDOT will be paving when the water main work is done. He also reported that the City of Dover sent a letter to DelDOT to re-affirm Dover’s transportation priorities. Mr. Koenig also reported that a Public Meeting on the downtown parking study will be held at Wesley College or City Hall when the final draft is complete.

Kent County:

Planning – Mr. Petit de Mange reported that Levy Court has reviewed the “Roads” portion of the Adequate Public Facilities ordinance. Levy Court asked for some changes, and it will go back to them next month for approval. Mr. Petit de Mange hopes to have this section of the ordinance implemented by the end of March. He also reported that the Coastal Zone ordinance that was denied 2 years ago will go back to Levy Court for review on February 21st, due to renewed interest in protecting the coastal area. This time around, the Planning Commission has endorsed the ordinance unanimously.

Soil Conservation – Mr. Riley reported that the stormwater utility program is going in at district, state and local levels. Puncheon Run development is having flooding problems. The City of Dover is taking the lead on the project, with a consultant subcontractor for flood control. He also reported that they have been very successful in getting developers to over-manage their sites.

Dover Air Force Base – NO REPORT

Municipalities:

Smyrna – NO REPORT

Milford – NO REPORT

Norfolk Southern – NO REPORT

Delaware Motor Transport Association – NO REPORT

Federal Highway Administration – NO REPORT

Federal Transit Administration – NO REPORT

TMA DE – Ms. Ford reported that Rideshare Delaware reached a milestone of 10,000 registered riders last month. The lucky registrant won a weekend getaway. The TMA sponsored a telecommuting workshop for New Castle County, and will look at one for Kent County. The City of Newark is showing interest in the car-sharing program implemented in the City of Wilmington. The TMA distributed surveys throughout Kent County to identify student transportation needs. She will share the results at the next meeting. The summer



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Ozone Action program will be announced in April. TMA is also working with the Air National Guard on van pools.

State of Delaware:

DelDOT Planning – Mr. Cantalupo briefly reported on Transportation Enhancement projects that were being done, offering to report in more detail if asked. He also said that the Department had been remiss on getting this information to the MPO in a timely manner. He informed the TAC that no TE project has been refused to date, although some needed more funding than available, requiring the sponsor to come up with more money. Mr. Hugg asked about projects in Smyrna that haven't been done, reporting that he can never get any information from DelDOT or Kent County on projects.

DTC – Mr. Henderson reported that DTC experienced a 14% ridership increase from 2004 to 2005. He also reported that Dover Air Force Base is working with DTC concerning the new Base housing projects. Mr. Hugg suggested that DTC look at Smyrna's new hospital facility now, before it opens in August.

DNREC – Mr. Wheeler reported that the next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting would be on March 2nd. DNREC is also looking at some issues concerning anti-idling regulation enforcement.

Agriculture – NO REPORT

Statewide Planning – Mr. Edgell reported that the Office of State Planning is moving to the Armory at 144 Federal Street. He also reported that OSP is working on a Municipal Annexation of Roadways policy; at this time each town does it differently. The new policy would have a process for the municipalities to interact with DelDOT for enforcement, maintenance and guidance issues.

DEDO – NO REPORT

7. Staff Report – J. Wieczorek

7.1 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports

7.2 Correspondence & Publications/Reports

Ms. Wieczorek announced that the MPO would be changing the meeting notification process to be a paperless mailing. She is aiming to have it in place by July.

8. Next Meeting: April 12, 2006

MOTION By Mr. Riley to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Edgell. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 12 Noon.