



DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2006

Members attending:

David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)
Greg Oliver, DelDOT Planning
Mike Petit de Mange, Kent County Planning
Cathy Dennis, Delaware Transit Corporation
Louis Lombard, Dover Air Force Base

Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District
David Hugg, Town of Smyrna
Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Gary Smith, DE Economic Dev. Office
Paul Lang, Federal Highway Admin.

Members not attending:

Tammy Ford, Transp. Mgmt. Assoc. DE
Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern
Anne Marie Townshend, City of Dover/Planning/Insp.
Scott Koenig, City of Dover/Public Works (Chair)

Jack Taylor, DE Motor Transport Assoc.
Florence Bicchetti, Federal Transit Admin.
Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture
Gary Norris, City of Milford

Non-members attending:

Richard Kautz, Sussex County Planning
John Dewar, Federal Highway Admin.
Juanita Wiczoreck, MPO Staff
Josh Waltz, MPO Staff

Adrienne Lombard, IDEA Institute
Lisa Collins, DE Transit Corporation
Dan McNulty, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM in the MPO Conference Room.

1. **Introduction of Members & Guests**
2. **Public Comments**
3. ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda***

MOTION By Mr. Hugg to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Petit de Mange. Motion carried.

4. ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes/August 9, 2006 Meeting***

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

5. ***ACTION ITEM: Review and Rating of New Projects Submitted to the FY 2008 Transportation Improvement Program– J. Wiczoreck, D/KC MPO***

Ms. Wiczoreck reviewed the material sent to the TAC concerning Walnut Shade Road and US13 and the staff recommendations for rating (2.67). The committee revised the rating, changing the transit score from 0 to 1; and the bike/ped score from 1 to 2; resulting in a new score of 2.77.

MOTION By Mr. Hugg that the MPO Council approve the rating of 2.77. Seconded by Mr. Petit de Mange. Motion carried.

There was some discussion concerning future projects, with the decision that they would be prioritized when submitted.



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6. **PRESENTATION: Overview of the Kent County Planning Activities – M. Petit de Mange**
 - 6.1 **Comprehensive Plan Update**
 - 6.2 **Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances**

Mr. Petit de Mange reported that the County expects to have the Comprehensive Plan Update completed by June 2007. A Technical Report should be published in January 2007. The recommendations from the 2002 Comprehensive Plan are being pursued – such as the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which will provide a standard for the County to use to determine if a project will cause capacity problems. The developers are opposed to this. There are also a lot of challenges to growth in the west side of the County. There will be 14 “Listening Posts” – community forums around the county for public participation and outreach for the Plan. There will also be a working group/editorial board appointed by Levy Court.

Mr. Petit de Mange noted that 75% of the development taking place in Kent County is within the growth zone. He also noted that there is no such thing as a “no growth” zone, so if any area should be so-designated, it should be brought to the County’s attention as soon as possible.

7. **DISCUSSION ITEM: Priority Process for the Transportation Improvement Program – J. Wieczoreck**

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that DelDOT suggested the Dover/Kent County MPO review its priority process, noting

WILMAPCO’s new process as an example. The new process is more data-based. Mr. Hugg noted that a data-based process would make the priorities more defensible. Mr. Edgell felt that the process needs to make the distinction of high vs. low priorities, and whether cost should be a priority factor; i.e., choose to do more low cost

projects rather than one high cost project. Mr. Oliver noted that WILMAPCO’s process puts all transit, sidewalk

and bicycle and pedestrian projects go to the top based on quality of life issues, and that highway projects fall to the bottom of the funding heap. He suggested aligning the projects with the Bond Bill categories. Ms. Wieczoreck cautioned the members about comparing the D/KC MPO process with WILMAPCO’s, since WILMAPCO has programming authority and the D/KC MPO does not. After some further discussion, the TAC members asked Ms. Wieczoreck to move forward on drafting a new priority process for presentation at the December 2006 or February 2007 meeting.

8. **Member Agency Reports:**
 - City of Dover / Planning – NO REPORT**
 - Public Works – NO REPORT**

Kent County / Planning – Mr. Petit de Mange reported that the Roads and Schools sections of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance have not yet been scheduled for hearing by Levy Court. The Central Water section of the Ordinance is scheduled for hearing on October 17; the EMS section for hearing on October 24.

Soil Conservation – Mr. Riley announced that a consultant has been engaged to work on the Puncheon Run watershed study. He also reported that Dover is still interested in doing a study of the Tar Ditch system.

Dover Air Force Base – Mr. Lombard reported that a consultant has been hired to work on the General Plan. Another consultant is looking at natural infrastructure. The Base is interested in expanding operations and is looking at a mix of aircraft at the base. The consultants will be working with Kent County and the City of Dover. He said that he believed the Air Base is Dover’s biggest economic factor and would not be economically viable without the Base.

Municipalities / Smyrna - Mr. Hugg reported that Smyrna would host an Economic Development Workshop on October 25th at the Pharmacy Museum. He also reported that DelDOT Central District has



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allotted \$100,000 for improvements on US13 in Smyrna.

Milford – NO REPORT

Norfolk Southern – NO REPORT

Delaware Motor Transport Association – NO REPORT

Federal Highway Administration – Mr. Lang reported that FHWA is still working under a continuing resolution, as Congress has not yet authorized funds. Funding under the Continuing Resolution is based on a percentage of last year's budget.

Federal Transit Administration – NO REPORT

TMA DE – NO REPORT

State of Delaware: DelDOT Planning – NO REPORT

DTC – Ms. Collins reported that DART service changes will take place on December 4. The changes are for Routes 102 and 113 and are minor. Marketing surveys have been sent out to Kent County; results should be in by the spring 2007. Persimmon Tree Lane is also being surveyed to investigate service potential.

DNREC – NO REPORT

Agriculture – NO REPORT

Statewide Planning – Mr. Edgell reported that OSP is working with Kent County on their Comprehensive Plan Update. He also reported that there is a movement in New Castle County to do Transportation and Land Use Master Plans. OSP is negotiating a similar agreement with the Sussex County portion of Milford. Mr. Petit de Mange noted that he thought this type of agreement could be a piece of the Kent County Comprehensive Plan.

DEDO – Mr. Smith reported that there is interest in the Garrison Tract. If it moves forward, the company would be a big employer with the largest structure in the state and the highest wages in the County.

9. Staff Report – J. Wieczorek

9.1 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports

9.2 Project Updates – DE 8 Concept Plan and Operations Study, Elderly Mobility Survey

9.3 Correspondence & Publications/Reports

Ms. Wieczorek announced that Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson, the consultants for the DE 8 Study, have been given notice to proceed. The Kick-off Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16th. She noted that the Public Advisory Committee for this project is still looking for citizens living in the area to include in the committee. Two or three public workshops are planned for the study. The City of Dover is also looking at the area with regards to a corridor overlay zone. Ms. Wieczorek will be working with Ms. Townshend from the City on this issue.

Mr. McNulty reviewed the results of the Elderly Mobility Surveys, distributing charts to the committee. One of the most common complaints concerned bus service. Ms. Collins asked if the survey respondents specified areas without service. Mr. Waltz said that he could get the area to the nearest intersection for her. Ms. Collins asked for that information to be sent to her.

10. Next Meeting: December 13, 2006

MOTION By Mr. Wheeler to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM. Seconded by Mr. Lombard. Motion carried.