



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

(302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

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## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2009

### Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Scott Koenig, City of Dover/Public Works (Chair)

Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District

Mary Ellen Gray for Sarah Keifer, Kent County Planning

Lisa Collins for Cathy Smith, DE Transit Corp.

Kris Riesenbergh, Federal Highway Administration

Michael Albert for Anne Marie Townshend, City of Dover/Planning/Insp.

David Edgell, Off. of State Plng (Vice-chair)

Greg Oliver, DeIDOT Planning

Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture

Bill Osborne, Transp. Mgmt. Assoc. DE

Byard O'Neal, DE Motor Transport Assoc.

### Members not attending:

Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern

Jeff Stone, DE Economic Dev. Office

Gary Norris, City of Milford

David Hugg, Town of Smyrna

Keith Lynch, Federal Transit Admin.

Louis Lombard, Dover Air Force Base

Phil Wheeler, DNREC

Mayor Donald Tinari, Cheswold, mun. rep.

### Non-members attending:

Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Dev.

James Galvin, MPO Staff

Juanita Wieczoreck, MPO Staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

### **1. Introduction of Members & Guests**

### **2. Public Comments**

### **3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda**

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

### **4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes/August 12, 2009**

MOTION By Ms. Gray to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Osborne. Motion carried.

### **5. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEM: Amendment to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program**

#### **5.1 Review amendments and MPO Council action – J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reviewed the amendments to the TIP, some of which had not been available at the August TAC meeting. He reported that Council adopted the amendment on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, pending any substantive comments. The MPO did not receive any public comments. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that the MPO is also awaiting conformity determination.

#### **5.2 Report on Forest St/Loockerman St. discussions – S. Koenig**

Mr. Koenig reported that he spoke with Mike Simmons at DeIDOT. The Loockerman Street/ Forrest Street improvements will be moved in the plan for 2014 with no funding attached. At this time, DeIDOT does not know where the money might come from. Mr. Koenig feels that this project could be done on a short time line, as not much has to be done in acquisition. The community has made no objections to the project. He has asked DeIDOT to see if Transportation Enhancement money is available, and to have the project ready and "on the shelf" when money becomes available. The City also felt that this project should move up on the priority list. The City's



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Transportation Committee has noted that they will be more specific in the future as to what projects and what phases they request.

Mr. Osborne noted that the process did work; Gene Ruane of Dover's City Council attended the Council meeting and discussed the project, and the Council considered re-instituting the project. Mr. Koenig noted that it was a good project, had community support and would have a favorable economic impact.

### **5.3 Further recommendations to MPO Council**

Ms. Wieczoreck asked if there were any more recommendations to Council. Ms. Gray had questions about the changes, and whether more or less money was being spent; Ms. Wieczoreck replied that there was less money spent due to a reduction in funds. Mr. Oliver noted that there is less money in the trust fund than anticipated, the money is just not there.

Ms. Wieczoreck reminded the committee that there was a lot of discussion concerning process at the last meeting. Mr. Edgell commented that it was done, but he was still unhappy about the lack of time to consider the amendments. Mr. Osborne said that the TAC's complaint was a matter of record, and that he felt Council was listening.

It was decided no action was necessary.

### **6. PRESENTATION: Analysis of VMT Generation by Developments in the County Approved since 2003 – J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reviewed the background of the analysis. He noted that the process was to study subdivisions in Kent County since 2003, and to identify services needed, or in place such as retail outlets, super markets, convenience stores, drug stores, and banks. Twenty thousand lots have been approved in Kent County, fifteen thousand of them outside municipalities. Research showed that the total mileage for household services was 81 million miles generated by lots approved since 2003.

He also noted that this analysis was not about emissions, although eventually that would be addressed. The analysis was reviewed with Ralph Reeb, who had suggestions for reworking the presentation before making presentations to the municipalities and Kent County Levy Court. The presentation has been made to Kent County Planning.

Mr. Koenig asked what Mr. Reeb's suggestions were; Mr. Galvin explained that Mr. Reeb was concerned about the impression that this could be used for conformity purposes. However, there is a process for conformity that the MPO must use legally. This analysis is an implication rather than a quantifiable number.

There was discussion as to Kent County incorporating air quality information into the subdivision approval process. The analysis is primarily indicative, and it was suggested that it could be used with the Adequate Public Facilities ordinances.

Mr. Osborne noted that DNREC is already doing some of this. Mr. Galvin informed the committee that Mr. Phil Wheeler explained that emissions can't be based on VMT. Mr. Edgell noted that his office gets DNREC's comments during the PLUS process; the difference is that Mr. Galvin's analysis ties the information to geographical locations – DNREC just gives numbers with no explanation as to location. Mr. Osborne said that DNREC told him they have the information. Mr. Edgell explained that he wanted to understand it, and Mr. Galvin's analysis helped him do that. He felt it was a viable tool and that it could be used "without opening a Pandora's Box."



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There was further discussion concerning air quality issues and how to incorporate this information for planning purposes. Mr. Koenig summed up the conversation saying:

“In conclusion, growth outside of the growth zone creates more air quality issues. The State has to support growth inside the zone.”

Mr. Galvin reported that Mr. Reeb suggested we concentrate on mileage, not emissions. There was further discussion concerning municipalities and development. Mr. Koenig noted that it was not just DelDOT that should spend more inside the growth zone; all State programs should focus there. He added that the perception is that more money is being spent outside growth zone. Mr. Edgell noted that his office’s annual reports document that capital money is being spent inside the growth zone following the State Strategies guidelines. Mr. Koenig thought it should be promoted as such.

### **7. DISCUSSION: Migration Trends – J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin referred the committee to an article on line that was an assessment of migration between states. Delaware ranks #4 in attracting people to the State. The article also noted that with the downturn in the economy, there was less movement.

### **8. Member Agency Reports:**

**City of Dover: Planning-** Mr. Albert reported that the Comprehensive Plan rezoning recommendations are going to the Planning commission for approval. Information on the rezoning is on line. He also reported that the APA voted Dover’s Green as one of the great places in America. An event is planned to announce the award.

#### **Public Works – NO REPORT**

**Kent County: Planning** – Ms. Gray reported that the County passed the street width ordinance of 28’ minimum. There will be variants allowed of wider and lesser widths.

**Soil Conservation** – Mr. Riley reported that the Cheswold Village development was approved, with reservations. The plan met all requirements, but he expects downstream issues to occur. The Fry Farm plan was also approved. A traffic circle at Route 15 is planned by the developer.

#### **Delaware Motor Transport Association – NO REPORT**

**Federal Highway Administration** – Mr. Riesenbergh reported that FHWA will not be moving their offices. The move has been delayed for a year. A Reauthorization extension is expected, and could be anywhere from 2-18 months. Mr. Oliver noted that it was already extended for 30 days.

**TMA DE** – Mr. Osborne announced that a new chairman was elected at TMA’s annual meeting.

#### **Milford; Smyrna; Dover Air Force Base; Other Municipalities – NO REPORTS**

#### **Norfolk Southern; Federal Transit Administration - NO REPORTS**

**State of Delaware: DelDOT Planning** – Mr. Oliver reported that the Complete Streets policy was signed by the Secretary on September 30<sup>th</sup>; it is now in the Governor’s office. He noted that the policy would have a significant impact on projects – it will add to the cost substantially. Fewer projects would be done, but with better facilities. DTC will be the lead in developing a rail freight plan. The plan is required to qualify for federal money. He also reported that Delaware and Maryland have applied for funds for a multi-state project for rail freight corridors. Mr. Oliver noted that there are dredging issues on the Nanticoke and Wicomico rivers; Salisbury University will do that study.

**DTC** – Ms. Collins reported that there is a new route, 117. She also noted that there is a Harrington - Dover shuttle, Route 120, that is a local portion of Route 301. There have also been several requests for a Milford – Harrington route; this could be a Saturday shuttle service.

**Statewide Planning** – Mr. Edgell reported that his office is working with the administration on the Governor’s land use agenda. Although nothing is final yet, it is not a radical departure from the State Strategies. He also reported that the Community VIZ program is being used in Milford. Ms. Wiczoreck informed the



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committee that it is in the MPO budget to purchase the VIZ program this year.

### **State of Delaware – DEDO; DNREC; Agriculture - NO REPORTS**

**Sussex County** – Ms. Wheatley reported that communities are coming out against commercial development. She noted that even when everything is done within parameters and meets all requirements, there are objections to development. Five hundred people are showing up at meetings, proving that “just because you’ve done everything right doesn’t mean there won’t be issues.”

### **9. Staff Report –**

- 9.1 Outreach Activities – K. Layton**
- 9.2 Transportation Studies – J. Galvin**
- 9.3 Other Project Updates/Activities – J. Wieczoreck**
- 9.4 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – J. Wieczoreck**
- 9.5 Correspondence & Publications/Reports – J. Wieczoreck**

### **10. Next Meeting: December 9, 2009**

MOTION By Mr. Oliver to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Riley.

Before the vote, Ms. Wieczoreck asked for agenda suggestions for the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Osborne suggested Phil Cherry for a presentation and discussion of air quality calculations.

Motion carried.