



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

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

## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2012

### PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ALTERNATES ATTENDING:

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dwight Meyer, Chair    | Michael Gumrot, Vice Chair |
| Phyllis B. Collins     | Arley Cooper, Jr.          |
| Dr. Daniel Houghtaling | Prameela Kaza              |
| James Webster          | Edmund Maron               |

### MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Rob Book (KC alternate) | Dr. Carlton Cannon |
| Horace Cook             | David Fry          |
| Kevin Yingling          | James Brown        |

### NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Bill Geronimo, DelDOT Finance  | Cathy Smith, DTC, MPO TAC |
| Lisa Collins, DTC  | Kate Layton, MPO Staff    |
| Lt. Col. Ronald Sarg (Ret.), MOA<br>(Military Officers Association of America) | James Galvin, MPO Staff   |
| Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff  |                           |

### 1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS

After the introductions, it was agreed to move Item #10 forward to Item #2

### 2. (10.) DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft FY2013-2018 Capital Transportation Program (CTP) – DelDOT Finance or MPO Staff

Mr. Geronimo distributed materials summarizing the CTP. This summary is not all-inclusive or final. He also explained that Secretary Bhatt was trying to reduce DelDOT's debt, using "3 Rs" – A robust program that was realistic and responsible. To that end, there will be no bond to fund the program this year. This should result in zero debt by FY2031. The program is smaller, but realistic and financially responsible, and "capped" at a total in line with what has actually been spent over the last few years. Mr. Geronimo also noted that the Governor is committed to the bicycle and pedestrian trail program, and Secretary Bhatt is working with DNREC to produce a cohesive plan.

There was a review of the projects listed on Mr. Geronimo's summary, with discussion concerning the projects. In regards to the Thompsonville interchange, it was suggested that, rather than an overpass, DelDOT look into the possibility of pushing the traffic north to come south – similar to Route 301. Mr. Geronimo said that he would talk to Natalie Barnhart and get back to Ms. Layton.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

### 4. PRESENTATION: Status of the U.S. Transportation Bill – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that she spoke to Marc Dixon of FHWA for an update on this issue. Although he was unable to attend the meeting, Ms. Layton provided the information given to her in a Power Point presentation, also distributing this in a handout. Topics covered included the MPOs establishing performance targets for CMAQ and HSIP projects, new programs eligible for CMAQ funds, and new population "triggers" for MPOs. This last would affect the Dover/Kent County MPO as a "small" MPO; there is a possibility that it would be merged with WILMAPCO and continue to operate as a satellite office covering lower Delaware.

### 5. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

MOTION By Ms. Collins to approve the agenda as amended (Item #10 becoming #2). Seconded by Mr. Gumrot.  
Motion carried.



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## 6. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes – April 24, 2012

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Kaza. Motion carried.

## 7. ACTION ITEM: Data and Demographics Committee Projections – J. Galvin (6 enclosures)

Mr. Galvin reviewed the process used by the Data and Demographics subcommittee to update the projections. He reported that Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Development, sent the members of the committee an e-mail congratulating them on the work and its results.

MOTION By Mr. Webster to recommend that Council approve the projections. Seconded by Dr. Houghtaling. Motion carried.

## 8. ACTION ITEM: FY2012-2015 TIP Amendments

Staff reviewed the three amendments (Bike Trails, Paving and Rehabilitation, DTC Transit Center), and reported that the public comment period would continue to the beginning of July. It was also noted that the MPO would not create a new TIP this year and would continue to amend the FY12-15 TIP as amendments were received from DelDOT.

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to recommend that Council approve the amendments. Seconded by Ms. Kaza. Motion Carried.

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEM: Completed Studies –MPO staff -DTC Survey

MPO Staff and Ms. Smith reviewed the reasons behind the survey and who it was sent to. The survey, which has been available electronically and in hard-copy form, is to help DTC determine why commuters do not use public transportation. The survey results will be collated later this summer, with a final report in October. There was discussion concerning the bus routes; Ms. Collins, who has lived in areas with effective public transportation, felt that service should be provided continuously up and down U.S.13, rather than routing all buses to the transit center in Dover. PAC members also felt there were not enough rural routes, and that there should be Sunday service.

### -Harrington Sidewalk/Curb inventory

Staff reviewed this project, noting that MPO staff worked with the Harrington's City Manager, Terry Tieman. The MPO developed an inventory and map of missing sidewalks and pavement improvements needed for Harrington. The projects were prioritized by the City, and will be constructed as funding is available. The City will be budgeting for the projects yearly. In addition, a capital improvement plan is being developed.

### -Bike Trails – Route 10 & City of Dover Bike Trail

Staff reviewed these two projects, which were discussed in previous PAC meetings. Century Engineering has been retained by DelDOT to design the City of Dover trail. Design should start this summer, with construction possibly next spring. The Route 10 Bike Trail report has been forwarded to DelDOT for review. The recommended solution is a barrier on the south side of the bridge, similar to what has been done on South Little Creek Road for fishing off the bridge.

## 10. DISCUSSION ITEM: U.S. 13 Master Plan – Town of Smyrna – MPO staff

Staff reported that the MPO is working with Smyrna to define their vision for U.S.13 through Smyrna. This area is of particular interest because sewer is being run up to Duck Creek and the rest area, and commercial development is expected to follow. The MPO executive director, Rich Vetter, Mr. Galvin and Mr. Edgell (TAC member from OMB) will run a charrette to involve the community in the plans for the area.



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## 11. DISCUSSION ITEM: Route 8/Hazletville Road Connector – MPO staff

Staff reported that this project has been pushed back four-to-five years while DelDOT looks at alternative designs. Mr. Myer noted that Papen Farms, the property that aligns with the proposed road, is not only opposed to the project, but the land is in permanent agricultural preservation. The City of Dover is pursuing this project because of the new high school. Mr. Myer said that this project is causing a great deal of controversy in the farm community: farmers are subject to the State telling them what they can and cannot do, but the school district can do whatever it wants regardless of who it impacts, and is supported by the State. It was noted that this project was included in a study of the area that the MPO completed a few years ago; at that time, the Department of Agriculture did not make any objections to the proposed road.

## 12. Staff Reports –

- 12.1 Outreach Activities – K. Layton
- 12.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports
- 12.3 Correspondence & Publications/Reports

## NEXT MEETING: August 24, at DSU's Smyrna Outreach Center

Ms. Layton noted that she reported to the TAC concerning the PAC suggestion of meeting at a central location on a regular basis in the future. The TAC agreed that it was a good idea, and that the Kent County Administrative Building was a good location. If there is no available room on the dates needed, the Camden Town Hall will be the alternate location.

Mr. Cooper announced that he was resigning from the PAC effective immediately.

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kaza. Motion carried.