



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

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

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014

### Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County Planning (Chair)  
Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District  
Ann Marie Townshend, City of Dover, Planning & Insp.  
Phil Wheeler, DNREC  
Lisa Collins for Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation  
Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture  
Marc Dixon, Federal Highway Administration

David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)  
Janet Vinc for Dave Hugg, Town of Smyrna  
Michael Kirkpatrick, DelDOT Planning  
Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden  
Joe Zilcosky, DE Economic Dev. Office  
Gary Norris for City of Milford

### Members not attending:

Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern  
Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works

Ryan Long, Federal Transit Admin.  
Jason Halpin, Dover Air Force Base

### Non-members attending:

Valerie Gray, DNREC (TAC alternate)  
Bill Cook, City of Dover  
Michael DuRoss, DelDOT Planning  
Rich Vetter, MPO  
Chris Kirby, MPO Staff  
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

Adam Weiser, DelDOT Traffic  
Betty Tustin, Traffic Group, Inc.  
Bobbie Geier, DelDOT Planning  
James Galvin, MPO Staff  
Kate Layton, MPO Staff

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

MOTION By Mr. Kirkpatrick to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Melendez. Motion carried.

- 4) **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2013**

Ms. Samardza noted that Mr. Wheeler had contacted her via e-mail about a mistake in the minutes regarding a line indicating DNREC's involvement in the Freight Seminar, which she corrected.

MOTION By Mr. Kirkpatrick to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Melendez. Motion carried.

- 5) **Presentation: Delmarva Freight Plan – Bobbie Geier & Mike DuRoss, DelDOT**

Ms. Geier and Mr. DuRoss gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Freight Plan. Ms. Geier reviewed the background, and Mr. DuRoss presented highlights from the project. It was noted that FHWA must accept/approve the Plan before it can be implemented. There was some discussion concerning opportunities for businesses, especially in lower Delaware. However, Ms. Geier reminded everyone that rail companies are all privately held, and the State cannot build any infrastructure to support privately held companies. She also noted that there will be an increase of issues with residents living near active rail lines; land use plans for areas near railroad tracks are needed. Mr. Kirkpatrick thought it would be up to the government to regulate this, since most people don't think about rail freight until it impacts them in some way. He felt there would be more calls for regulation. There was also some discussion concerning rail limitations in Delaware due to Amtrak trains; the needs for freight and passenger rail are different. Integrating and reconciling those differences so that trains can use the same tracks, and scheduling to avoid any overlaps, can be difficult.

- 6) **Presentation: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) – US13 Widening – Adam Weiser, DelDOT**

Mr. Weiser's presentation reviewed how DelDOT came to the decision to propose the US13 widening project. He noted that this project came out of the HSIP program. Slides illustrated the frequency and type of accidents along the corridor from Puncheon Run to Woodside. Details included breaking the corridor into sections and tallying the accidents for each section of roadway. Committee members had questions as to whether or not all other traffic calming and safety solutions had been



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exhausted; Mr. Weiser said that DeIDOT felt that yes, all other solutions have been incorporated into this section of highway. At this time, it is expected that most of the necessary area needed to widen the road would be taken from the median and within the existing right-of way. Because this project came out of HSIP, it is automatically a safety project. There was discussion as to whether or not increasing capacity would increase traffic speed, and add to the number of accidents. Mr. Weiser said that it was believed that added capacity would stop traffic less, leading to smoother travel. There were additional comments from TAC members regarding "more lanes, more traffic." Mr. Weiser also reported that this area is within an area approved for development, and in fact there is commercial development happening in the area. Some committee members wondered how many accidents were caused by cell phones, either conversations or texting.

Mr. Galvin noted that this subject would have to be an action item in the future, to add the project into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. If the project is not in the MTP and the MPO's TIP, it cannot be added to the State Capital Transportation Program (CTP). Ms. Gray asked that it be added to the April agenda for action. There was further discussion, concerning options for this plan. Mr. Weiser said that different approaches to the project would be part of the project development. Mr. Weiser asked if there was any further information required, that he would provide a breakdown of the severity of accidents in the corridor. Ms. Townshend asked that he provide information whether the accident involved injury or property damage; Mr. Edgell asked for more detail on location. Mr. Wheeler expressed concern that there was no real information on the project design; Mr. Vetter noted that it would be 3 years to complete the project design. Mr. Melendez asked about cost; Mr. Vetter replied that there is \$70M in the draft CTP as a "placeholder." Ms. Gray (Kent County), Mr. Wheeler (DNREC), Mr. Zilcosky (DEDO) and Ms. Townshend (City of Dover) all expressed concerns regarding this project.

### **7) Discussion Item: Proposed FY2015 Transportation Studies – R. Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reviewed the transportation studies proposed for the FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program. He noted that he had no further information yet concerning the DTC US13 Transit study. Mr. Norris and Mr. Edgell discussed the proposed Milford project, a master plan to look at land use and transportation links. This would be similar to the study done for US13 in Smyrna, and the study area would include the Woodshaven development service road interchange and the intersection of New Wharf Road and DE1 (Royal Farms and Grottos Pizza). The proposed projects also include assisting the City of Dover in updating their bicycle Plan.

### **8) Discussion Item: Draft FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – James Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reviewed the materials detailing proposed changes to the TIP, as required by changes in the draft Capital Transportation Program (CTP). He noted that the Thompsonville grade-separated intersection was moved up over the south Frederica grade-separated interchange. He also reported that some projects would have to be amended due to changes in year or funding amounts. Mr. Galvin informed the TAC that the TIP would be an action item in April.

### **9) Member Agency Reports:**

**Agriculture** - Mr. Melendez reported that 44 farms were incorporated into the agriculture preservation program.

**DEDO** - Mr. Zilcosky reported that the Chase Center in Wilmington will host a Small Business Fair.

### **10) Staff Report:**

**10.1 Outreach Activities – K. Layton**

**10.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – R. Vetter**

Ms. Layton reported that her "tabling" season is beginning. The MPO will be participating in a number of events including the 55+ Expo, Dover Days, and Milford's Bug and Bud Festival. She announced that the bicycle summit is now "Heels and Wheels" and will take place on March 21 at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall. Registration is free.

### **11) Next Meeting: April 9, 2014**

**MOTION** By Mr. Wheeler to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Zilcosky. Motion carried.