

JOURNEYS

—Planning Transportation for Everyone—



MPO COUNCIL APPROVES FY 2015-2018 TIP

A Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2015 to 2018 is now in place.

At its Nov. 5 meeting, The Dover/Kent County MPO Council unanimously approved the document, six months after the TIP was initially up for adoption.

The 2015-2018 TIP had

gone to the council for approval a couple of times earlier this year, but with no results due to tie votes from the council members. Heavy discussion of new project rankings also played a part in the delayed vote. One project in particular, the construction of a grade-separated intersection on Rt. 1 in south Frederica was a

sticking point. In the previous TIP, this project had been scheduled to go to bid and construction this year. In the current TIP, the project won't go to construction until FY2017, which troubled developers of a proposed sports complex in the Frederica area.

The Delaware Department of Transportation is

working on an agreement with the sports complex's developers to create an alternate entrance that could serve until the interchange is built.

The FY2015-2018 TIP first went to the council on May 7 for approval, and then went into special meetings before the November vote.

Plans in Progress

This winter, the Dover/Kent County MPO and Dover's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee hope to have a plan that's ready for Dover City Council's adoption.

"The pedestrian plan is essentially complete," MPO Executive Director Rich Vetter said, and added that the MPO has incorporated the subcommittee's input regarding maintenance policies and needs, such as sidewalk repair, repair locations and the like.

Vetter also said the pedestrian plan lists a variety of recommendations for new sidewalks, trails, pedestrian signals, crosswalks, maintenance, signs, road striping, lighting and fences.

The bicycle plan also is nearly finished, with just a few more touches needed.

Both plans are updates to editions the city created nearly 20 years ago.

Dover, the Delaware Department of

Transportation and the MPO held a preliminary workshop in June for the plans to find out what citizens wanted from biking and walking facilities in the city. The draft bicycle plan still has a little way to go, Vetter said.

"But we're relatively close," he said of the subcommittee's need to finalize any recommendations for enforcement, encouragement, evaluation and education as well as further discuss other bicycle facility recommendations.

The goal is still to have a second public workshop to examine recommendations within both draft plans and then submit the drafts to Dover City Council for adoption.



RIGHT: A conceptual shows what the intersection of State and Washington streets would look like with signs, curb cuts and pedestrian crossing stripes added to the road.

INSET: The State and Washington intersection as it is today with no pedestrian signs, curb cuts or markings.

PAC NEWS

MPO SAYS HELLO AND FAREWELL TO PAC MEMBERS



Priestly

Someone new has joined the MPO's Public Advisory Committee.

The Dover/Kent County MPO welcomes Annie Priestly, of Dover. Priestly came to the PAC in

October as an appointee from the Delaware Transit Corporation. Updated MPO bylaws require that the Delaware Department of Transportation and the DTC each have an appointee on the committee.

Priestly is a retired employee from the DTC, where she worked for 17 years as a fixed-route supervisor, travel trainer, travel training and ADA coordinator, and eligibility supervisor. Before joining the DTC, Priestly worked in the

human services field, such as for Easter Seal of Delmarva.

While at DTC, Priestly served on many different committees as well as planned and facilitated workshops and training programs for community services agencies, senior centers, Easter Seals and some of the local schools. The workshops and training covered all programs offered by DTC.

Priestly is originally from New Bern, N.C., but has lived in Dover since 1977 when her husband was stationed at Dover Air Force Base.

Priestly has an Associate's Degree in Human Services from Delaware Technical and Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management from Wilmington College. Through the years, she has supplemented those degrees through continuing education courses and training.



Maron

The MPO also gives its best wishes to Ed Maron, who is leaving the PAC.

Maron was appointed to the PAC in 2011 and later served as the PAC's vice chairman.

The Public Advisory Committee ensures that the MPO receives input from the public regarding all transportation plans, programs and policies that the MPO Council adopts. Members are community residents from diverse backgrounds who are interested in planning and transportation.

The PAC has appointees from the State of Delaware, Kent County and the City of Dover.

ELECTIONS

PAC, TAC, COUNCIL HOLD ELECTIONS

The Dover/Kent County MPO's Public Advisory Committee has a new chairman this year.



Gumrot

At its August meeting, the PAC voted to have Michael Gumrot serve as their chairman for the year. Gumrot, who has been on the PAC since 2008, has previously served as PAC vice chairman. He replaces

Dwight Meyer who declined nomination for another term. Members re-elected Edmund Maron as their vice chairman. Due to Maron's recent departure from



Gray

the PAC, however, the PAC will soon hold a special election to fill the spot.

The MPO's Technical Advisory Committee will keep its officers another year.

At its October meeting, TAC members re-elected Mary

Ellen Gray as chairman and David Edgell as vice chairman.

At its Nov. 5 meeting, the MPO Council elected Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Brad Eaby as its chairman and Cheswold Mayor Don Tinari as its vice chairman.



Eaby

All officer posts last for one year.

Capital City Trail construction continues

With Phase I of the Capital City Trail completed, Phases II and III are coming along.

Construction of Phase III started this fall. It is an extension of Phase II, continuing the improvements along Park Drive between Loockerman and Division streets. The existing sidewalk along Park Drive will be widened to 10 feet for pedestrians and bicyclists. Landscaping will be added, as this section of the trail is adjacent to Dover's Silver Lake Park.

Phase II of the trail is an extension of Phase I, which consists of adding a new 10-foot-wide path between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Loockerman Street. This part of the path is adjacent to the Delaware State Archives building. Construction of this phase started in the spring. As with the other two phases, it includes, landscaping, benches, and a mid-block crossing of Loockerman Street.

The MPO Regional Bicycle Plan initially identified the need to provide an improved bicycle and pedestrian connection between Silver Lake in down-

town Dover and the St. Jones River Greenway that runs from U.S. 13 behind the DeIDOT campus and ultimately to Route 10. A detailed planning study, completed in 2012, recommended several phases of bicycle and pedestrian improvements for the Dover area.

Construction of Phase I of the trail started in Spring 2013. The \$800,000 trail will provide a link between the walk and bike trail network that starts at Silver Lake Park and extends to Legislative Mall, and the Isaac Branch Trail, which runs between the Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT) campus and Del. 10 in Dover. The connector provides a safe crossing of U.S. 13 at Public Safety Boulevard. Eventu-

ally, the two trails will extend 4.5 miles, connecting Dover residents and visitor to parks, historic attractions, government offices, Dover Air Force Base, schools and businesses. To see footage of what the trail will look like when finished, visit the MPO's website at www.doverkentmpo.org to view the video about the trail.



A north facing view of the Capital City Trail Phase II connecting to Loockerman Street in Dover.

APA chapters of Delaware, Maryland hold conference in Newark

Health and sustainability was the theme of this year's regional conference for the Delaware and Maryland chapters of the American Planning Association.

Held in Newark in October, the conference featured exemplary planning efforts in Delaware, Maryland and elsewhere that sought to create healthier and more sustainable neighborhoods, towns, cities and regions.

Connections between natural and built environment, and public health have come more into focus for planners and public health professionals. Commu-

nity design is starting to reflect this connection by providing for physical activity near to where people live, thus potentially proving as a tool to lower obesity, asthma and other chronic illnesses.

rates.

The conference is sponsored by the Delaware and Maryland chapters of the American Planning Association and Nemours.

PLANNING FOR HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE PLACES

APA
DE
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 28-29, 2014
NEWARK, DELAWARE



FOOT TRAFFIC COUNTS FOR A LOT IN DELSTATE STUDY

Dover/Kent County MPO staff and Century Engineering continued their walking and bicycle traffic counts at Delaware State University.

This fall, the two agencies took counts at nine locations around the Dover campus as part of an ongoing

look at pedestrian and bicycle volume and movement to identify potential safety needs.

The counts, which were also done in 2012 and 2013, took place along U.S. 13 and College Road on weekdays as well as a weekend. This year, the traffic counts included crosswalk compliance to see how many pedestrians

use these facilities versus those who cross mid-block.

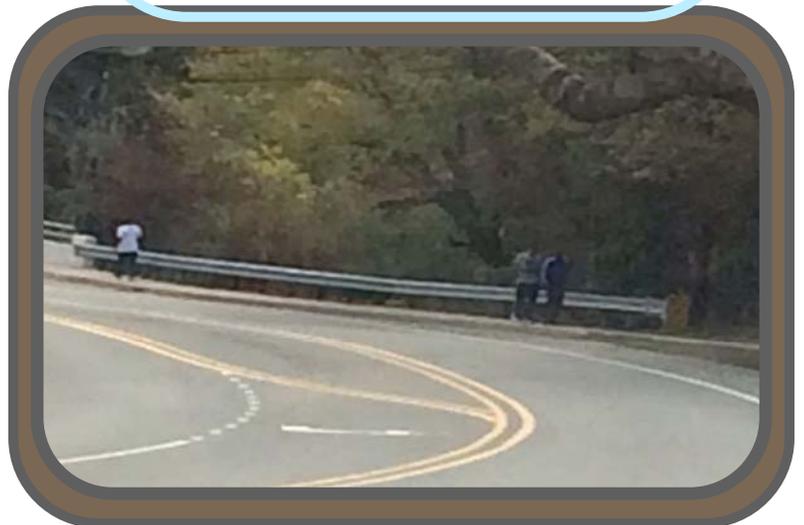
Century will develop a summary report in December comparing results from the last two years as well as summarizing the crosswalk compliance observations.



TOP LEFT: Two pedestrians walk along College Road near the Delaware State University campus. The Dover/Kent county MPO and Century Engineering studied areas in and around the Dover college campus to find out pedestrian and bicycle patterns and see where any needs are necessary.

TOP RIGHT: A bicyclist peddles eastbound on College Road on a fall afternoon.

BOTTOM: Students use the sidewalk that links College Road to the Delaware State University Campus to get to and from school.





TROPO SIGHTINGS

There's been a couple of recent sightings of Tropo, the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware's interplanetary friend.

In October, Tropo went to Lewes for the University of Delaware's Coast Day, and later in the month to Middletown for the 3V3 Delaware Union Soccer Tournament.

This year's Coast Day theme was weather and climate. University scientists, staff, and students highlighted some of the ways we observe and study the effects of climate and weather in Delaware and around the world.

The soccer tournament had more than 300 players, age 6 to 10. Nemours Health Prevention and Outreach was on hand to share information about avoiding asthma triggers, such as air pollution. It also shared a letter to coaches and parents about not idling vehicles while waiting for children at sports practices.

Tropo loves people and going wherever the action is, but even more, he loves spreading his message for clean air and fighting air pollution wherever possible.



TOP and LEFT:

Tropo gets a hug from some new fans at the 3V3 tournament in Middletown in October.

(Photos courtesy of Nemours)

BOTTOM:

Tropo says hello at Delaware Coast Day in Lewes. (Photo courtesy of DNREC)

DART's Stuff the Bus campaign a success

Delaware Transit Corporation collected nearly 10 tons – 19,355 pounds – of food during this year's "Stuff the Bus" Thanksgiving Food Drive.

The weeklong food drive took place Nov. 10 to 14 at various locations in Delaware. In Kent County, DART staff collected donations at the Dover Acme grocery store and at the Milford Walmart.

The Food Bank of Delaware will distribute the donated food through its more than 550 hunger relief partners to Delaware residents in need.



Lerrissa Boardly of DART takes donations aboard the bus.

"We're thrilled to hold the Stuff the Bus food drive each year," DTC Chief Executive Officer John Sisson said. "Thanks to the impressive efforts of our employees, and the kindness and generosity of our riders and the public, it

allows us to give back to the community and help Delawareans in need through the Food Bank of Delaware."

This year's donations of non-perishable food filled two 30-foot buses. Donations came from the general public, businesses,



DART received nearly 10 tons of goods during the Stuff the Bus campaign.



Prameela Kaza takes donations aboard the bus.

schools, organizations, and state agencies

DART partnered on the campaign with Delmarva Broadcasting Company.

CTP HEARING IN KENT DRAWS RECORD CROWD

RIGHT: Drew Boyce, director of planning for the Delaware Department of Transportation, right, talks with Sen. Gary Simpson of Milford, middle, and a citizen, left, at DeIDOT's annual Capital Transportation Program public hearing. More than 50 people attended the Kent County CTP hearing, held at the DeIDOT building in Dover. A court reporter was on hand to take verbal comments, although attendees were welcome to also write and send in their comments. The Dover/Kent County MPO also attended the hearing with information about projects within its Transportation Improvement Program.

BELOW: DeIDOT had a packed house in September during its annual CTP hearing held at the DeIDOT campus. Many attended with questions about a proposed grade separated intersection along Rt. 1 in Frederica.



We're on the Web!
www.doverkentmpo.org
Also visit us on Facebook and Twitter



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