

# Journeys

*Celebrating 25 Years*



The Newsletter of the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

## Get on Your Bike and Ride



**B**icyclists from around Dover celebrated Bike to Work Day on May 17.

MPO staff, City of Dover employees, representatives from the Delaware Department of Transportation, Dover Air Force Base and more gathered early in the morning in front of the Dover Public Library to socialize and celebrate the occasion, the city's fifth, which falls within National Bike Month.

Dover City Council's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee organized

the event, which encourages people in Dover to bicycle to work.

In addition to organizing the bike to work event, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee has worked behind the scenes with DelDOT and other agencies on projects, such as the upcoming Senator Bikeway, that are geared toward better biking and walking infrastructure.

"We have a good agenda of things that we continue to work on that are going to make biking and walking in the City of Dover a more

pleasant activity as we go forward," subcommittee chairman James Hutchison said.

Bike to Work Day also celebrated the unveiling of a new bicycle rack, now stationed in front of the library. Dover High School students studying computer-aided drafting designed the rack, which was the winning entry to a bicycle rack design contest that the subcommittee held last year. All but two of the students, who have since graduated, attended the official unveiling of the rack,

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# Dover, Kent County see changes in personnel, MPO sees changes on Technical Advisory Committee

March saw some key changes in personnel for the City of Dover and Kent County government.

Dover City Manager Scott Koenig and Dover City Planner Ann Marie Townshend both announced their resignations from their posts, while not long after, Assistant Kent County Planner Mary Ellen Gray announced her plans to leave her position.

Koenig retired from the city on March 17 after more than 20 years as head of public works and as the city manager. Townshend, who had been with the city as head of planning since 2006, left her job with Dover on March 31 to begin her new post



Townshend



Koenig

on April 3 as city manager for the City of Lewes. Gray left Kent County on April 7 and began her new position as Newark City Planner on April 10. Dave Hugg, who previously served as state planner and head of planning for the Town of Smyrna before retiring, is serving as interim Dover City Planner until the city hires a new head of planning.



Gray

Koenig, Townshend and Gray all were longtime members of the Dover/Kent County MPO's Technical Advisory Committee. Last fall, TAC members re-elected Gray as its committee chairman. Koenig served as TAC chairman for a number of terms before he was promoted to Dover City Manager. The TAC will hold a special election in August to fill Gray's seat.

## Welcome to the PAC!

*Tracey Miller joins Public Advisory Committee*

The Dover/Kent County MPO extends a warm welcome to its newest Public Advisory Committee member, Tracey Miller.

Miller, of Wyoming, is the PAC's appointee from Gov. John Carney's office. Jonathan Street previously held the seat. Gov. Carney's office also renewed the seat of Dr. Phyllis Collins, who is the PAC's other governor's appointee. Both appointments are good for two years.

Miller is a board member and president for the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, and recently served as the interim executive director. Before moving to Delaware a few years ago, she served as the assistant to the Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, as well as served as the council member at-large for the Greenfield City Council in Greenfield, Mass.

The MPO is proud to have Miller aboard.



Miller

## New leadership for MPO Council

*Christiansen new council chairman*

New leadership is at the helm of the Dover/Kent County MPO's council. Dover Mayor Robin R. Christiansen is the new chairman of the council and Kent County Administrator Michael J. Petit de Mange is the new vice chairman. Council members voted for the new leadership in a special election at its May meeting. Christiansen fills the seat of former Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Bradley S. Eaby. Christiansen had been the MPO Council's vice-chairman before Eaby vacated his seat on the council. Petit de Mange is the Levy Court's new appointee to the group.



Christiansen

## DART weekend Beach Bus service starts in May

**D**ART cut the ribbon on May 12 at the opening of its new transit center in Lewes along Route 1, just south of Five Points.

“The Lewes Transit Center is a much needed addition to our transportation system, as it will provide a convenient hub for improved transit service, connecting local passengers with job opportunities, recreational activities, medical appointments, shopping, and more throughout the county,” Delaware Transportation Secretary Jennifer Cohan said at the event.

The ribbon cutting was to celebrate the first phase of the Lewes Transit Center project — a 248-space Park & Ride with security cameras, bicycle racks and repair station, as well as electric car charging stations, temporary passenger amenities, and a ticket booth to sell the newly available 7-Day Pass. A large canopy will be installed this fall equipped with LED lighting and phone charging stations.

“Our beach resorts are a destination for hundreds of thousands every year and a key economic driver for our state,” Governor John Carney said. “This new transit center will provide both residents and guests easier access to all the local amenities our resort towns have to offer.”

The three-bay maintenance facility designed for both gas and alternate fuel buses is slated for completion by mid-2019. Having a maintenance facility on the eastern side of Sussex County will greatly improve



the efficiency of DART’s transit service, lending itself to year-round service, as well as making express service between Lewes and Dover a reality.

Funding for the Transit Center comes in part from the Federal Transit Administration’s State of Good Repair Grant of \$5 million, as well as its Section 5311 Rural Transportation Assistance Program.

“The Lewes Transit Center is a great example of what happens when state and local governments partner

together to solve problems.

The new center will encourage ride-sharing and help promote the use of mass-transportation in one of our state’s most congested areas,” said U.S. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, a ranking member on the Environment and Public Works

Committee. “Since this hub will help reduce vehicle emissions and ease congestion, it will be a win-win for both the environment and our tourism industry.”

U.S. Sen. Christopher Coons also was on hand at the ribbon cutting.

“Delaware beaches are a welcome escape for thousands of visitors each year, and the beaches should be a place you should be able to move around easily,” Coons said. “This is a great project that is going to help people without cars get down and back to Lewes, and it’s also going to help relieve current and future congestion in the beach area and on the way to the beach.”

## Council approves TIP and spending plan

**C**ouncil for the Dover/Kent County MPO approved two key documents for the agency at its May 3 meeting.

MPO Council approved the agency’s short-range plan, the Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2018-2021, and the MPO’s annual spending plan, also known as the Unified Planning Work Program.

The TIP represents the first few years of the MPO’s long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Projects in the TIP are ones for which the Delaware Department of Transportation wants to secure

federal funding. The TIP also serves as a budgetary guide for how much money will be spent on each project. The MPO’s FY 2018-2021 TIP includes more than \$127 million in road, bridge, and other projects in central Delaware over the next four fiscal years.

The UPWP, which becomes effective July 1, reflects a total budget of \$828,380 in cash and in-kind services. Most of the funds are marked for planning studies and programs that coordinate transportation and land use in central Delaware. Both the FY 2018-2021 TIP and the FY 2018 UPWP are available online at [www.doverkentmpo.org](http://www.doverkentmpo.org).

## SPOTLIGHT

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT *Air Quality?*

How much do you know about air quality? Maybe you know a lot, or maybe you know a little. Test your knowledge with a little quiz.

## Questions

- 1) True or False: Air quality makes a difference in health and the environment?
- 2) True or False: Ground level ozone is good for you?
- 3) What is ground level ozone?
  - a. A layer in our atmosphere that protects life on Earth
  - b. Air pollution
  - c. A layer of atmosphere found in the ground
- 4) What makes ground level ozone?
  - a. A combination of chemicals from industrial emissions to automobiles and other gasoline-powered engines
  - b. A buildup of carbon dioxide when people talk too much
  - c. Underground hot springs
- 5) How can you know when ground level ozone levels are higher?
  - a. Skywriting from airplanes
  - b. By visiting air quality websites, signing up for e-mail alerts, and sometimes from tuning into your local weather reports
  - c. You can just tell by looking outside.
- 6) How can you do your part to lower air pollution?
  - a. Combining errands into one trip
  - b. Avoid idling your car's engine for too long
  - c. By carpooling or signing up for RideShare programs, riding the bus or public transit instead of driving, or walking and bicycling to destinations when and where possible.
  - d. All of these

The correct answers to this quiz are on Page 6. You can find and share a similar quiz online through the MPO's Facebook page or find it online at the MPO's website, [www.doverkentmpo.org](http://www.doverkentmpo.org). You can find more information about air quality at the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware's website at [www.wilmapco.org/AQP](http://www.wilmapco.org/AQP). There's more air quality information at [www.wilmapco.org/AQP](http://www.wilmapco.org/AQP).



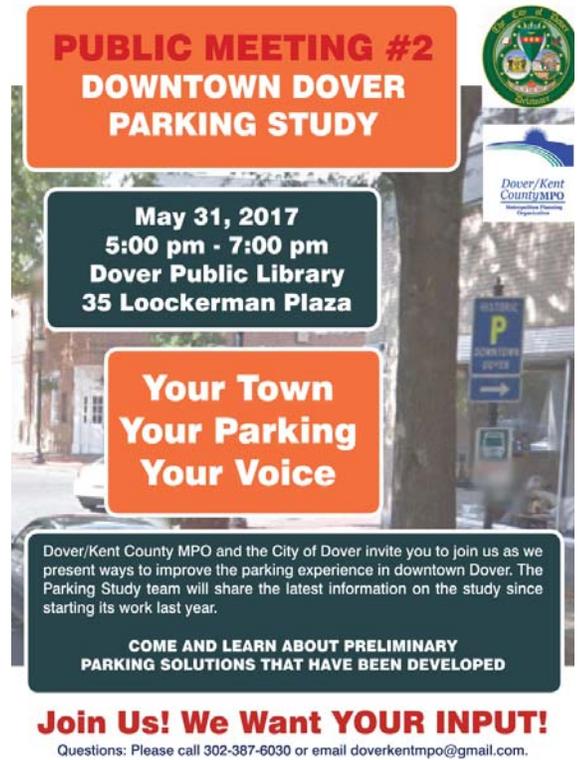
## Air Quality Tips

- 1) Avoid idling your vehicle for very long periods (for example: when waiting at railroad crossings, or while waiting to pick up your child from school).
- 2) Wait until closer to evening to mow the lawn if you have a gasoline-powered machine.
- 3) Conserve energy in your home.
- 4) Carpool or take public transit to places when possible.
- 5) Bicycle or walk to destinations when possible.
- 6) Be sure your tires are properly inflated.
- 7) Avoid topping your gasoline tank.
- 8) Combine multiple errands into one trip to avoid "cold starts" for your car's engine.
- 9) Consider an electric grill, and consider replacing your charcoal grill with an electric one to generate fewer fumes.
- 10) Avoid jack-rabbit starts when driving.

# Downtown parking study: Second workshop held May 31

A second public workshop took place on May 31 for the downtown Dover Parking study. Community members and area stakeholders attended the meeting that was held at the Dover Public Library. There, planners displayed boards depicting parking space numbers and possible solution scenarios.

The City of Dover requested a parking study in early 2016 and work began later in the year. The main scope of the study asks basic questions such as whether there is enough parking in downtown Dover, how to communicate locations of available parking to visitors, parking fee structures, whether a parking garage is needed, and if so, where to build one. Work has included car counts at different parking areas downtown, interviews with business owners, area residents and visitors about downtown parking, as well as researching solutions such as reconfiguration of parking spaces, computerized parking meters similar to ones the City of Rehoboth Beach uses, agreements with private businesses and changes in parking policies. The group held its first public workshop for the parking study in late March. The working group anticipates presenting its final recommendations to the public in August.



**PUBLIC MEETING #2  
DOWNTOWN DOVER  
PARKING STUDY**

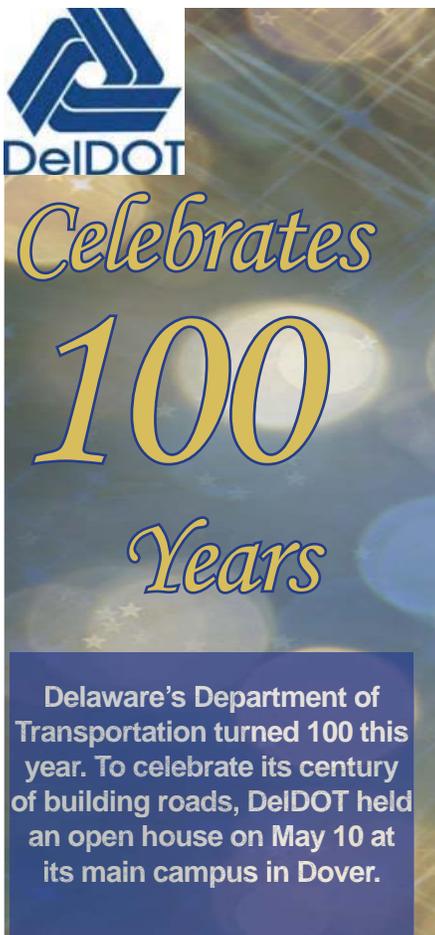
**May 31, 2017  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Dover Public Library  
35 Lookerman Plaza**

**Your Town  
Your Parking  
Your Voice**

Dover/Kent County MPO and the City of Dover invite you to join us as we present ways to improve the parking experience in downtown Dover. The Parking Study team will share the latest information on the study since starting its work last year.

**COME AND LEARN ABOUT PRELIMINARY  
PARKING SOLUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED**

**Join Us! We Want YOUR INPUT!**  
Questions: Please call 302-387-6030 or email [doverkentmpo@gmail.com](mailto:doverkentmpo@gmail.com).



**DeIDOT**  
*Celebrates*  
**100**  
*Years*

Delaware's Department of Transportation turned 100 this year. To celebrate its century of building roads, DeIDOT held an open house on May 10 at its main campus in Dover.



## BIKE, continued from Page 1

which doubles as a sculpture. A grant from Restoring Central Dover paid to have Mastercraft Welders in Camden build and paint the steel rack, which spells out the word “dover” in lowercase letters. The Capital School District’s mascot, the Senator, is embedded inside the letters, which are painted in the official state colors of Arno Blue and Golden Beige. An 18-foot canopy sits atop the 16-foot bike rack frame for to protect cyclists and their bikes from the elements.



FROM LEFT: Dover High School Computer Aided Drafting Teacher Fran Cutrona, and his students Andrew Glasser, Sydney Fink, Chole Tackett, Caleb Lilje, Travon Robinson, Hayleigh Jimenez, Raj Patel, and Danielle Pajula stand in front of their winning bike rack design, now built. Not pictured, Morgan Dickerson and Adam Faulkner.

## Air Quality Quiz Answers

*From page 4*

1) True

2) False

3) B

4) A

5) B

6) D

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City of Dover

Michael J. Petit de Mange, Vice Chairman  
(For Kent County Levy Court President P. Brooks Banta)

Mayor Justin King, Town of Camden  
(Delaware Municipalities)

John Sisson, CEO,  
Delaware Transit Corporation

Drew Boyce (for Sec. Jennifer Cohan)  
Delaware Department of Transportation

Terry Pepper (for Gov. John Carney)  
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