

Dover/Kent County MPO Regional Bike Plan:

Survey says central Delaware residents want more bike facilities

Regardless of age, neighborhood or skill level, people want better, safer, and more bicycle routes in Kent County.

That's according to the nearly 200 survey, e-mail,

telephone and face-to-face comments the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization collected for its Regional Bicycle Plan.

As with previous plans and programs, the MPO sought public input for the

bike plan, due later this year. The survey was designed to find out people's bike riding habits and if they would like to see more bike facilities and improvements in the area.

Paper and online versions of the survey were available from March through June. MPO staff took the survey to local bike shops and on the road to Killen's Pond's Earth Day, Milford's Bug n' Bud Festival, Old Dover Days, a car show in Smyrna, Kent County Levy Court's Safe Summer Day, the Delmarva Chicken Festival and other public events.

MPO staff also took phone calls, e-mails and addressed local bicycle club members and the Smyrna Town Council about the plan.

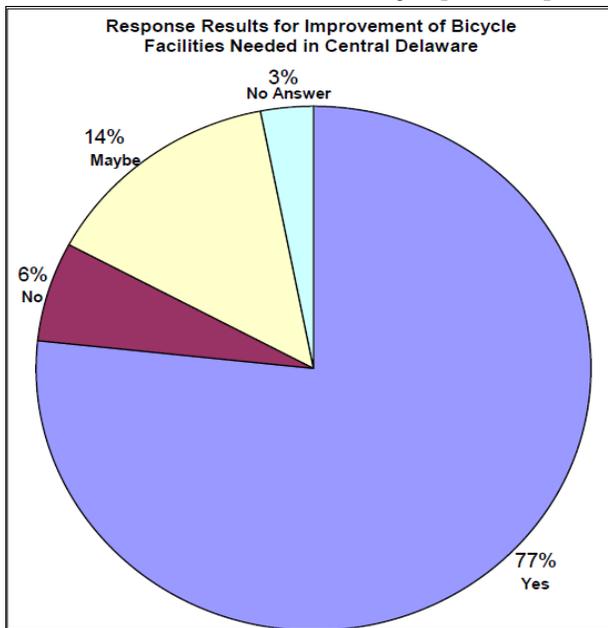
Most people who took the survey live and/or work in Kent County, are between

the ages of 35 and 44, own cars and ride for recreation and exercise. Safety and accessibility greatly influence riding habits, according to responses. These factors not only affect where people ride, but why they don't ride bicycles. Health issues and a lack of a working bicycle also play a role into not riding.

Safety also ranked highest among suggestions for improvement among all means of communication with the MPO. Among other requests, people asked for more bike lanes or safer road shoulders.

"Just 12 to 18 inches would be a huge help for us," one person wrote, asking for a bike lane or wider shoulders on the back roads between Milford, Harrington and Greenwood.

See BIKE PLAN, Pg. 3



Construction of new Dover Transit Center underway

By year's end, DART riders will have a new main transit hub in Dover. It's only a two blocks from the existing hub on Water Street, but it will be bigger, and have more parking and shelter space.

Construction on the \$5.3 million Dover Transit Center started in early June, said project manager, John Sisson of the Delaware Department of Transportation. DelDOT has targeted com-

pletion for early December, before the bus schedule changes for the winter, Sisson said.

The new center occupies four acres at the former George & Lynch property, at the corner of Queen and Water streets near downtown Dover. The existing Water Street transit hub uses 1.5 acres, has some parking, and a couple of small, covered shelters for riders to wait for their bus.

Funding for the new transit center comes from the 2009

federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The money is paying for ground level work --- bus lanes, a large shelter, a larger parking lot, and some room for taxis.

Talks are in the works for a transit center building



Construction is in progress at what will be the new Dover Transit Center at Queen and Water streets.

to share the site. The challenge is to secure funding for the building.

Bill Neaton, executive director of the Downtown Dover Partnership, a private, not-for-profit branch of

See CENTER, Pg. 5

**PAC welcomes Fry
Cannon moves to at-large
position on panel**



Fry

The Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization welcomes a new member to its Public Advisory Committee and an alternate as a full-time member of the panel.

Kent County Levy Court confirmed David Fry's appointment to the PAC in April.



Cannon

Fry, 71, of Camden, spent more than 30 years working for the federal government in computer programming and was a manager in research and development. He also spent 14 years as a race car driver and five years as a driving instructor.

After moving to Delaware in 2004, Fry served on the Camden-Wyoming Sewer and Water Authority and the Camden Board of Adjustment.

Carlton Cannon, who has served for two years as the City of Dover's at-large alternate PAC member, became a full member in July. He fills the seat of William Saunders, who retired from the PAC.

Cannon, of Dover, is director of bands at Cab Calloway School of the Arts in Wilmington. He holds a doctorate of education, innovation and leadership as well as a master of education and school administration from Wilmington University and a bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from Delaware State University.

Best wishes, Bill Saunders

The Dover/Kent County MPO bids farewell to Bill Saunders who retired from the MPO's Public Advisory Committee in the spring.

Saunders was first appointed to the PAC in December 2000 as an alternate to Kent County representative, Alan Greenwell. In June 2002, the City of Dover appointed Saunders as a full PAC member as one of its representatives.

Saunders was a very active PAC member during his tenure, faithfully attending meetings and other MPO functions.

He will be sorely missed.



Saunders

Galvin graduates from leadership class



Galvin

Congratulations go to Jim Galvin, principal planner for the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization, on his graduation from Leadership Central Delaware.

Galvin was among 23 members in the class of 2010 sponsored by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce.

The class began last September at the Atlantic Sands Hotel in Rehoboth Beach and

ended June 3.

Leadership Central Delaware brings together existing and emerging leaders as well as community organizations. The 10-month training program helps class members enhance their communication, team building, interpersonal and networking skills. Classes take place once a month and cover a wide range of business and civic issues.

MPO public liaison Kate Layton will join Leadership Central Delaware's Class of 2011 in September.

MPO welcomes two summer interns

The Dover/Kent County MPO welcomes two interns to the office this summer.

Tara Davis joined the MPO in late May. She is a recent University of Delaware graduate with a degree in civil engineering. This fall, she hopes to enter a graduate program at U.D. and earn an advanced degree in transportation engineering. Davis later hopes to work as a transportation engineer in an urban setting. She lives in Middletown and enjoys travel and frequently visits her family in her native Brooklyn, New York. She enjoys volunteer work through a program called New York Cares.

Ben Johnson returns for a second summer with the MPO.

Johnson, a native of Tulsa, Okla., holds bachelors degrees in International Studies and Russian Language and Literature from the University of Oklahoma. From 2003-2004, Johnson attended the Nevsky Institute of Language and Culture in St. Petersburg, Russia for his Russian studies.

This spring, he finished a Masters in Public Administration program from the University of Delaware's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Johnson is now looking for a job with either a state or local government and hopes to stay in the mid-Atlantic region. He lives in Newark with his fiancée Maryann and is a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician with Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Co. in Newark.

Johnson and Davis will help the MPO with planning research as well as public events and the MPO's annual information booklet.



Davis



Johnson

SURVEY, continued

Those who e-mailed their comments also thanked the MPO for conducting the study. "The plan is a great idea," a Kent County resident told the MPO. "I was not aware of there even being bike riding areas designated to bikes ... making these riding areas public knowledge and creating new and/or improve the ones in place is fabulous!"

All public comments will be considered during the bike plan's preparation.

Upon completion, the bike plan will show existing bicycle trail, lane and other facilities in central Delaware. It will

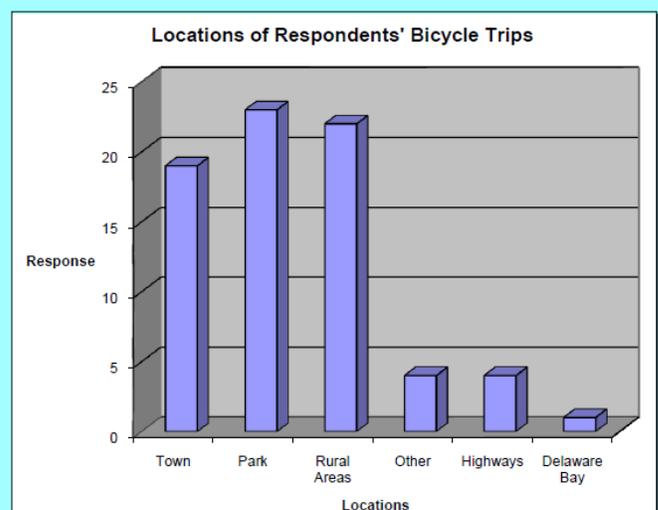
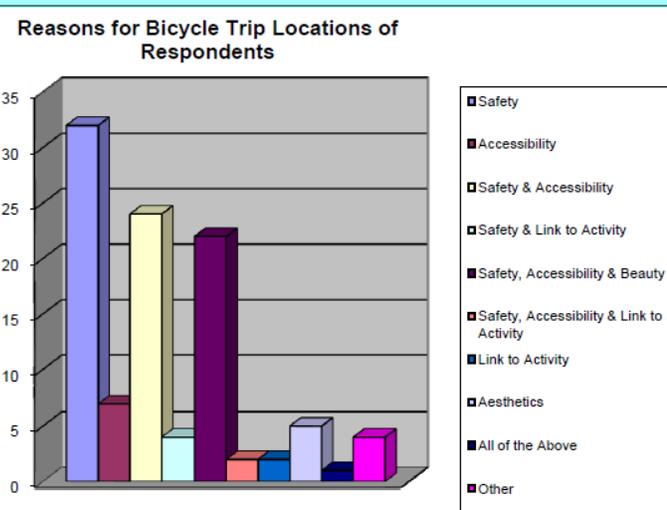
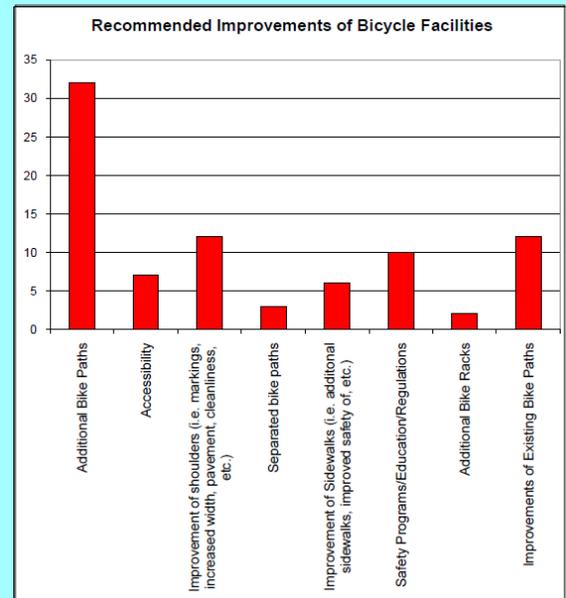
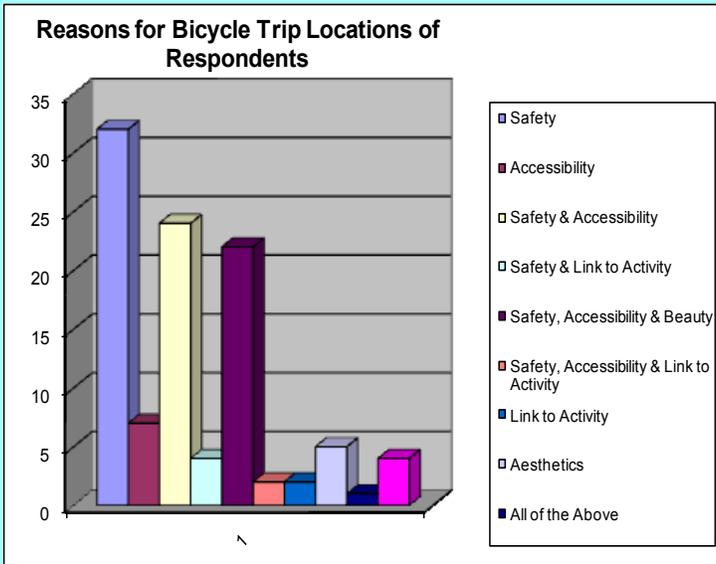


A Kent County resident fills out a bike survey at Kent County Levy Court's Safe Summer Day festival, held at Brecknock Park in Camden.

show how these facilities connect, and recommend improvements.

A working group oversees the bike plan's development. The group is comprised of representatives from the Delaware Department of Transportation, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Kent County, municipalities and the public. Projects identified in the Regional Bike Plan will be submitted to the DelDOT for development and funding.

The committee's next step will be the creation of a priority process to rank improvements as well as balance different needs for different riders. The bike plan also will address educating bicyclists and drivers about biking in Delaware.



Dignitaries help Air Quality Partnership kick off Ozone Season

Ozone Season 2010 in Delaware opened April 18, with help from a few state and local dignitaries and a nod to the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

The Air Quality Partnership of Delaware kicked off the season at Green Fest, sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Delaware.

Held on Legislative Mall in Dover, Green Fest featured dozens of business, craft and other booths brimming with information on how people can be more environmentally aware.

Collin O'Mara, secretary of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control proclaimed April 18-24 as Air Quality Awareness Week. He cited work within DNREC to improve Delaware's environment as well as the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization's advocacy for better air quality through smart growth and transit-friendly urban design.

A better environment, however, is everyone's responsibility, O'Mara said. "The best, and really

the only, way to work toward a solution is if we all work together," he said.

Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey Sr. spoke at the kickoff about the city's upcoming 10-megawatt solar farm designed to entice more clean-technology companies to the area. The solar farm, slated for December completion, will be one of the larger solar technology systems on the East Coast.

The City of Dover, however, has practiced "green" initiatives for a few years. Buildings use energy efficient lighting systems, some city vehicles are gasoline-electric hybrids and generators at the McKee Run power plant run on cleaner burning fuel oil than in previous years, Carey said.

Mark Grano, president of the Delaware Homebuilders Association, encouraged people in Delaware to continue environmentally friendly initiatives.

"That's what makes Delaware unique is the synergy when we see each other and talk," Grano said. "We can make some

Collin O'Mara, secretary of the Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control talks about some of the state's achievements and challenges in controlling air pollution at Green Fest, held in April.



DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara and Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey Sr. helped the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware kick off ozone season at Legislative Mall in Dover. From left, AQP chairwoman Terri Brixen, Julie Theyerl, Shane Breakie, O'Mara, Carey, Denise Tracey and Randi Novakoff.

progress that other states only wish they could."

The Air Quality Partnership of Delaware is a public/private partnership consisting of individuals, businesses, and agencies working to improve air quality. On days when air quality is poor (action days) the partnership sends email alerts to those requesting them so that meas-

ures can be taken to lessen the impacts of air quality.

This year the partnership is switching to the nationwide Enviroflash e-mail alert program. Anyone wishing to sign up for email air quality alerts can do so by visiting www.wilmapco.org/aqp.

Ten Steps to better air quality

Summer is a great time for fun in the sun, but it's also when ground level ozone, or smog, is at its peak. Here are some steps you can take to reduce air pollution:

- 1) **Share a ride.** It saves gas and reduces pollution by reducing the number of vehicles on the road.
- 2) **Combine trips.** Plan routes and consolidate errands. Saves time, stress and reduces pollution.

Starting it up after a vehicle has cooled causes it to emit pollution equal to a 30 mile drive.

- 3) **Don't top the gas tank.** Gas vapors get released into the air and the gas pump's calibration is affected, making it ineffective for the next four cars that get fuel.
- 4) **Care for your car.** Regular tune-ups, changing oil and spark plugs, and checking tire inflation can

improve performance and reduce emissions by up to 10%.

- 5) **Fuel up at night during ozone season.** Refueling during cooler periods of the day can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone.
- 6) **Telecommute.** Work from home. Save time & money. Reduce congestion, emissions.
- 7) **Walk.** It's easy to do and easy on the air.

8) **Bicycle, skate.** Keep yourself and our air quality in good condition.

9) **Take mass transit.** When possible, do it to reduce pollution and congestion.

10) **Spread the word.** Let others know how simple, easy steps can make a difference.





Ozone messages now playing at a theater near you

So you're ready to see a great summer blockbuster. You have your popcorn, your drink and the best seat in the house.

While you're waiting to see if love conquers all, or watch heroes battle villains, you also have a chance to learn how to fight summertime air pollution.

With the help of a matching grant from Delaware's Department of Natural Resources

and Environmental Control, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization has taken its message for better air quality to the silver screen.

In June, the MPO received a \$4,500 grant from the Community Environmental Project Fund, which comes from fines paid to DNREC for environmental violations.

CEPF grants go toward programs aimed to improve

the environment and quality of life in Delaware.

The CEPF grant will help pay for movie theater advertisements that relay how to fight air pollution.

Carmike Cinema in Dover and Movies at Midway in Lewes each have contracts with the MPO to play one ad in their rotation of other ads before each film. The MPO's ads feature the organization's air pollution-fighting superhero, Captain

Clean Air, and tips on how people can improve air quality.

Tips include combining errands into one car trip, sharing rides, engine and tire maintenance and for drivers to avoid topping their gasoline tanks. Each theater has 14 screens, each playing between 300 and 400 features per week.

The ads will run through late September.

Special task force focuses on older drivers

Seniors today are younger than they used to be. Older adults are more active in their golden years, and driving longer than previous generations. Sixty is the new 50, and 50 is the new 40.

In the past decade, many seniors have migrated to Delaware for tax incentives, a lower cost of living and good quality of life. By the year 2030, senior citizens could represent nearly a quarter of Delaware's population, according to the U.S. Census. With that in mind, the State of Delaware is preparing to meet the needs of older adults.

A Senior Driving Task Force, an initiative of Delaware's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), is one

measure to prepare for the population shift. The group formed earlier this year and its first meeting was in March. The overall goal is to keep senior citizens driving for as long as safely possible. The purpose of the task force is to:

- Gain a broad perspective on senior drivers through data, discussions with stakeholder groups and by forging partnerships with organizations within the public and private sectors.
- Recommend and implement policy initiatives that affect Delaware's senior drivers
- Recommend and implement public outreach and education

programs that promote safe driving for seniors

- Engage seniors and provide them with self-assessment tools about driving.

Census projections show that the rate of senior citizens will rise nationwide, as listed in a DMV report, "Paving the Road for Safer Senior Drivers."

These figures also show that Delaware not only has the fastest growing aging population in the country, but the number of residents age 65 and older will rise 133 percent by the year 2030. By that time, seniors will comprise 23 percent of the state's population.

Although seniors are living more active lifestyles these days, some statistics

show safety risks among older drivers. The DMV reported that 17 percent of Delaware's drivers are age 65 and older and are involved in 14 percent of the state's fatal crashes.

The task force already has many partners, including Delaware State Police, AAA Mid-Atlantic, AARP and the University of Delaware. The task force is creating packets for new senior residents and will have a Web site in September. In addition, the DMV will redesign its driver manual to make it more senior-friendly. For example, the DMV might revise the manual and minimize the amount of information to include information that only pertains to seniors.



CENTER, Continued

the City of Dover, said the city has drafted a memorandum of agreement to forge a public/private partnership with DelDOT on a transit center building. If constructed, the transit center building would house offices for the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Plan-

ning Organization, DART and other organizations.

As the new transit center takes shape, the MPO will work with the community this fall to create and present a vision of the neighborhood as a transit hub incorporating transit-oriented development.



A computerized drawing shows what the new transit center will look like upon completion.

Dover and Kent County celebrate National Trails Day with Fun Ride and Stride



Kent County residents celebrated National Trails Day when they attended the Dover Trails Fun Ride and Stride on June 5.

The event was a collaborative effort from the Dover/Kent County MPO, the City of Dover's Silver Lake Commission, the St. Jones Greenway Commission, the City of Dover, Kent County Levy Court and Nemours Health Prevention Services to raise awareness about the free suburban retreats.

Participants had the option to bike or walk trails at Silver Lake Park and Isaacs Branch of the St. Jones Greenway, up to eight miles. Spectacular views of the St. Jones River, wildlife and native plants accentuated the trail experience.

Although most of the participants were from Dover, residents from Felton, Camden, Magnolia, Marydel, Hartly, Smyrna and Milford

attended the event.

A few visitors rode their bicycles on the trails, including the Ferrin family of Hartly, but most visitors chose to walk. A few even brought their dogs along for company.

Three check-in stations at Silver Lake Park and entrances to the St. Jones trail off Public Safety Boulevard and Del. 10 offered refreshments and prizes for participation.

Nemours, a local Girl Scouts chapter, the Delaware Greenway and the Delaware Department of Transportation also set up information booths near the stations.

Twenty-two people answered exit surveys about their experience on the trails. Nine people said it was their first time using at least one of the trails. All said they plan to visit the trails again.

The Ferrin family of Hartly bikes along the Isaacs branch of the St. Jones Greenway trail during the Dover Trails Fun Ride and Stride.

(Photo by Bret Scott)



Dave Fry, left, and Bridget Lane, members of the Dover/Kent County MPO's Public Advisory Committee, helped out at the event by manning the MPO's tent at the entrance to the St. Jones Greenway trail.

Cheryl Biddle, of Dover's Silver Lake Commission, left, speaks to an area resident at the Dover Trails Fun Ride and Stride, held June 5 to honor National Trails Day and to raise awareness of public trails in Dover.



Milford student wins DART contest grand prize

This year, the grand prize for DART's 10th Annual Student Poster Contest

went to Kent County resident. Evelyn Orta-Perez, a ninth grade student at Mil-

ford High School, submitted the winning design. DART received 109 poster entries

statewide.

This year's contest theme was "Celebrating 15 Years As DART."

First place prizes, by grade level, went to: Odalys Cordero, sixth grade, H. B. duPont Middle School; Jose' Zavala, seventh grade, Kirk Middle School; Sasha Hilliard, eighth grade, H. B. duPont Middle School;

Caitlin Harkey, 10th grade, Wilmington Christian School; Ashley Attix, 11th grade, Polytech High School; and Chelsea Connell, 12th grade, Wilmington Christian School.

All winners received gift bags and four tickets to a Blue Rocks game at Frawley Stadium.

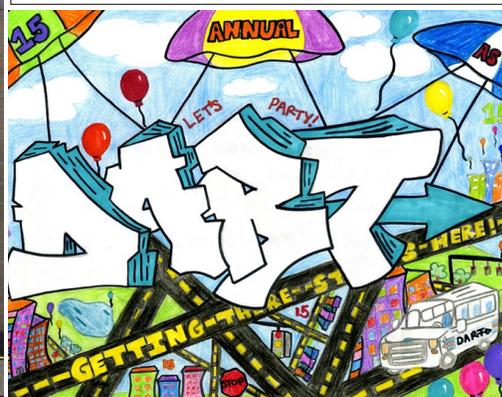
DART gave Orta-Perez the privilege of throwing out the first pitch at a Blue Rocks game.

You can check out all of this year's winners as well as previous years' entries at www.DartFirstState.com.

Story and photos courtesy of DART



Evelyn Orta-Perez, a ninth grade student at Milford High School is this year's grand prize winner in DART's 10th Annual Student Poster Contest. This year's contest theme was "Celebrating 15 Years As DART."



Second Delaware Bike Summit focuses on local initiatives

About 170 people attended the second annual Delaware Bike Summit on May 21 at the Baby Grand opera house in Wilmington.

Guests ranged from avid cyclists to municipal and state officials around Delaware. Speakers included Gov. Jack Markell, Wilmington Mayor James Baker and members of Delaware Trail Spinners, the national League of American Bicyclists, Bike Delaware and the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension.

This year's summit was held in conjunction with the annual Wilmington Grand Prix bike race, whose starting gate and finish line were on Market Street, just outside the Baby Grand.

Panelists discussed bicycle friendly communities and states. Lunchtime brainstorming sessions allowed guests to suggest and submit ideas for better biking in the First State.

Last year's summit

brought in experts from around the country to talk about bicycle programs and improvement methods they found to be successful. This year's focus was on contin-

clists moved Delaware up in its rank of the 50 states in terms of bicycle friendliness. Delaware was ranked 39th of the 50



Anthony Aglio, bicycle coordinator for the Delaware Department of Transportation, left, and Ralph Reeb, head of DeIDOT planning, speak on a panel during the 2010 Delaware Bike Summit.

ued challenges facing Delaware in terms of bicycle facilities, as well as progress it made in the past year thanks to state, municipal and grass-roots endeavors.

Delaware has had some success in making more room for bicycles. The League of American Bicy-

clists moved Delaware up in its rank of the 50 states, but moved to ninth place in the nation. Gov. Markell's executive order for complete streets, the inclusion of bike racks on public transit and a planning study for a bicycle rail trail between Georgetown and Lewes are possible contributing factors to Delaware's improved ranking.

The Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization hopes to improve bicycling conditions through the creation of a regional bicycle plan. This year's

summit discussions could serve as a springboard for how Delaware can take its success even farther.

"We hope that the summit will help to recharge the enthusiasm and energy needed to continue to achieve significant progress in the months to come," said Amy Wilburn, chairwoman of the Delaware Bicycle Council. "We also hope that over the years, along with other advocacy efforts, our bike summits eventually will lead to cyclists feeling that they belong on our roads and will encourage more ordinary folks to take to the roads on their bikes."

Federal funds help pay for bus shelter upgrades

Thanks to partial funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DART has started a program to replace its oldest or most weathered bus shelters.

So far, DART has installed 17 Duo-Gard shelters, with more to follow.



Story and photo courtesy of DART

DART has more than 2,700 bus stops statewide and 263 of these stops, about 10 percent, include passenger shelters. Kent County has 360 bus stops, of which 25 have shelters.

The newest shelters feature half-inch thick tempered glass panels instead of quarter-inch polycarbonate panels.

Thicker material makes the shelters stronger, more shatter resistant and easier to clean. New waste receptacles also are more secure and tamper resistant. Whenever possible, shelters have solar powered LED lights.

TMA receives CEPF grant for ozone season bus passes

This summer, the Transportation Management Agency of Delaware is giving out free bus passes through DART First State's Air Quality Transit Partner Program.

TMA recently received a grant to reprise the bus pass program from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control with funding from the Community Environmental Project Fund.

Through this program, employees of registered worksites can receive five free daily bus passes.

The program encour-

ages transit ridership and educates commuters about Delaware's ozone problem.

Employers must belong to the TMA program for employees to receive the passes. The agency does not have a way for individuals to sign up for the passes.

TMA has administered the bus pass program statewide for DART since 2003, as it recognizes that automobile emissions are the second largest source of carbon emissions in Delaware's economy. For more information, employers can call TMA at (302) 658-9082.

MPO thanks its volunteers at annual PAC workshop



Jim Webster, top left, Prameela Kaza, top right, and Mike Gumrot, far right, members of the Dover/Kent County MPO's Public Advisory Committee, show the survival kits they and other PAC members received on June 22 at the MPO's annual PAC workshop. The PAC held its workshop at Dover Downs' Festival Buffet in Dover. PAC members heard a presentation on Walkable Communities and a progress report of the MPO's Regional Bike Plan.

Thank You, Kent County Levy Court

When Kent County Levy Court adopted its Fiscal Year 2011 budget, the county's spending plan included an \$800 Community Service Grant Award to the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The money shall be used for the purpose of carrying out the MPO's primary mission.

As in previous years, the grant money will go toward insurance costs, which frees the organization's budget for other ventures.



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