



MPO COUNCIL OK'S LONG RANGE PLAN

Metropolitan Transportation Plan to go to feds for review



After months of research, writing and revisions, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization's long-range plan has been approved.

On Jan. 9, the MPO Council, or policy-making body, unanimously accepted the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan, for-

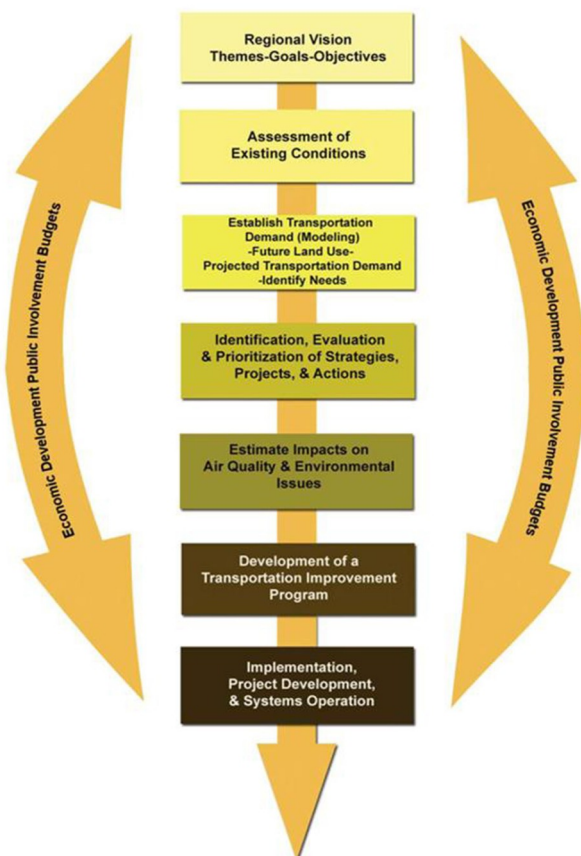
merly called the Regional Transportation Plan, defines how transportation needs will be addressed over the next 25 years in central Delaware.

The newly approved edition of the plan spans from 2013 to 2040. It describes where money will come from to pay for projects in the plan while maintaining federal air quality standards. The

U.S. Department of Transportation also requires that the MTP process coordinate with local and state plans as well as incorporate input from the public and private sectors. As part of the approval process, the plan also went to the MPO's technical and public advisory committees for review and approval.

MPO Staff gave several presentations to Kent County Levy Court, municipal agencies and civic organizations to give an overview of the plan as well as encourage the public to comment upon, or provide some input into the plan and what central Delaware needs

See MTP, Pg. 3



CAREY, EABY KEEP MPO COUNCIL LEADERSHIP SEATS

TERRY PEPPER TAKES OLSEN'S SEAT ON PANEL

The Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization is pleased to announce the results of its annual MPO Council leadership elections.



Carey

Council members in November unanimously voted for Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey, Sr. to remain chairman of the MPO Council and for Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Bradley S. Eaby to keep

his seat as vice chairman.

In January, Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Terry Pepper formally replaced Elizabeth Olsen on the MPO Council.

Olsen, who was deputy secretary of Delaware's Division of Safety and Homeland Security, had served as Gov. Jack Markell's representative on the council. Olsen left the DSHS office on Dec.

31 to work in the private sector. She had recently named Pepper, who is



Pepper

deputy principal assistant to the secretary of the DSHS office, as her alternate on the MPO Council.

Pepper, who holds the at-large seat on the Levy Court, has worked for DSHS for four years. Prior to this, he was the safety and homeland security policy analyst and local government

liaison with Gov. Ruth Ann Minner's office for eight years.

The MPO Council is the MPO's policy-making body. It is comprised of elected officials, or their appointed representatives, from member governments and representatives of major transportation providers, including the governor's office, Kent County Levy Court, the city of Dover, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other agencies.

THANK YOU, DAVE FRY

WELCOME TWO NEW PAC MEMBERS



Fry

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Public Advisory Committee member Dave Fry.

Fry resigned from the PAC in December to focus on his many activities, including a new appointment to the Kent County Board of Assessment and Review.

Fry joined the PAC in April 2010 and has been a very vocal and active member. The Camden resident has had a varied career, including 30 years working for the federal government, 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 Ad-

justment. The Dover/Kent County MPO wishes him all the best.

NEW PAC MEMBERS

The MPO also welcomes two new PAC members. On Jan. 22, Kent County Levy Court appointed Jayce R. Lesniewski and Earle Dempsey to the committee.

Lesniewski is an attorney who lives in Dover. He has a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University and a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

In his spare time, he is a volunteer for the Biggs Museum of American Art.

Dempsey, of Magnolia, is a customer relationship manager



Lesniewski



Dempsey

for Delaware's Department of Technology and Information, as well as an adjunct professor for Delaware State University's College of Business. He has a bachelor's degree from Salisbury University and a master's in business administration from Delaware State University.

He is president of the Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company and is the statewide recruitment and retention coordinator for the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

The PAC still has an open seat for a governor's office appointee and opportunities to be alternates for other PAC members. For more information, call the MPO at (302) 387-6026.



MTP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

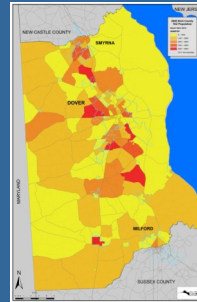
in terms of transportation planning.

Staff additionally held a public workshop for the plan on Nov. 14 at Dover Public Library and a public comment period from Nov. 9 to Dec. 9. These efforts, as well as some media attention netted several comments on the plan.

The MPO is ready to forward the MTP to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.



LEFT: Dover/Kent County MPO Principal Planner James Galvin talks to MTP workshop attendees about projects and answers questions.



RIGHT: A gentleman looks at maps of Kent County and upcoming projects for the area, as listed in the Dover/Kent County MPO's draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MPO held a workshop on Nov. 14 at the Dover Public Library. The MPO took the Plan to the MPO Council in January for approval. With council approval, the document next goes to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for review and approval.

DART SERVICE CHANGE NOW IN EFFECT

DART's winter service schedule is now in effect.

For Kent and Sussex county riders, changes involve minor time adjustments to fixed routes. Intercounty service changes are as follows:

Route 45 — a new southbound trip will be added leaving Wilmington (Delaware Ave. at Adams St.) at 6 p.m., arriving at

Odessa Park & Ride at 6:58 p.m.

Route 301 — minor time adjustment for connections at Christiana Mall to Newark based routes.

In New Castle County, bus boarding on Orange St. in Wilmington was restored.

Trips have been added between the

Chase Center at the Riverfront and Rodney Square during the morning and afternoon peak rush periods. The new trips leaving the Chase Center are 7:16 a.m., 7:46 a.m., 8:17 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 8:35 a.m., 8:58 a.m.; a new trip will leave Rodney Square at 4:55 p.m.; Route 43; service will be extended to

the new Amazon.com facility in Middletown; service will end at the Odessa Park and Ride, no longer serving the town of Odessa.

Schedules are also available at DartFirstState.com, and clicking on "Buses" under the "Service" heading on the left side of the Web page.

COUNCIL APPROVES MPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

On Jan. 9, the council for the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization approved an update of the office's Public Participation Plan.

This plan outlines the MPO's strategy to involve the community in its work, from open public meetings and events to its plans and programs.

Federal rules require MPOs to have public participation plans. The Dover/Kent County MPO originally created its plan in 1994. This is the plan's fifth revision. Council approved a previous revision in 2009. The latest version includes current federal language and terminology. The new plan also states that the

plan will be reviewed every two years and keeps Public Advisory Committee meetings to the Dover area instead of rotating between the northern, central and southern areas of Kent County. The MPO's public and technical advisory committees reviewed and approved changes to the plan in 2012 and MPO staff launched a 45-day public comment period in November, which ended on Jan. 15, 2013.

WORK ON NEW GRADE SEPARATED INTERSECTION BEGINS SOUTH OF MILFORD

Work on another Rt. 1 grade separated intersection began Dec. 3 just south of Milford.

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) began preliminary work for the project at the junction of Del. 1 and 30. Initial work includes erosion and sediment control and embankments. Bridge, ramp and acceleration/deceleration lane construction will follow.

This is the third of seven grade separated intersections, commonly called overpasses, along Del. 1 to mitigate traffic jams and crashes,



especially in the summer beach season. Two others already exist on the highway. The first sits just south of Dover Air Force Base at Del. 9, and the other sits north of Frederica near Del. 12. DelDOT worked with the Dover/Kent County MPO to move the Del. 30 project up in the construction schedule due to crashes that have occurred there.

The four other overpasses are proposed for South Frederica, Little Heaven, Front Street (Del. 14) in Milford, and Thompsonville Road, north of Milford.



Below is a list of grade separated intersections along Del. 1. Two intersections already are in place, and another is on the way. DelDOT hopes to build four more along the highway by Fiscal Year 2018.

The Dover/Kent County MPO: Connecting Kent County

The Dover/Kent County MPO is making connections.

Working with local governments on transportation plans and programs is the core of the MPO's mission. But in the past couple of years, the office has stepped up its role as a consultant and advisor for local government to create more transportation options and improve efficiency.

Helping to expand central Delaware's walk/bicycle network has been a chief focus for the MPO, especially since the adoption of its Regional Bicycle Plan two years ago. Since the summer, staff has been working with the Town of Smyrna to create a trail between the George C. Wright, Jr. Municipal Park in northern Smyrna to the central part town.

MPO Executive Director Rich Vetter said the idea for the connector trail came from last summer's U.S. 13 study in Smyrna. Town officials, Vetter said, were interested in connecting existing and future neighborhoods north of the Duck Creek area and Smyrna High School with the park.

"We all saw the benefit," said Vetter, who has helped town officials determine project cost and feasibility.

Janet Vinc, manager of planning and zoning for the Town of Smyrna, said creating a trail that connects the park to the rest of the town would promote Smyrna as a tourism destination in addition to creating practical transportation options.

"This interconnectivity would

also help to create a sense of community, particularly for those yet-to-be-built residential communities located north of Duck Creek by creating walkable/bikeable connections between the historic core of Smyrna to the George C. Wright, Jr.

Municipal Park and the surrounding anticipated residential/commercial development," Vinc said.

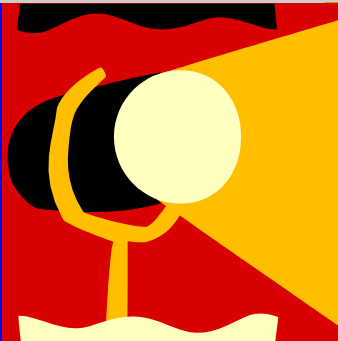
There also are talks between the MPO and Kent County staff about creating a walk and bicycle trail between Smyrna and Big Oak Park county park, located near the junction of Del. 1, U.S. 13 and Big Oak Road. Creating this connection is in the MPO's Regional Bicycle

See PROJECTS, Pg. 7



The main photo shows Big Oak Road as it is without sidewalks or a trail. The inset is an artist's rendering of what the road could look like with a trail running parallel to the road.

JOURNEYS SPOTLIGHT



Anthony Aglio
Bicycle and Pedes-
trian Coordinator for
the Delaware
Department of
Transportation



Ask Anthony Aglio's long-term vision for Kent County, and he'll describe a seamless network of walk and bike trails. Cyclists and pedestrians would be able to connect in and out of central Delaware municipalities and town centers where they could stop, shop and eat.

Aglio, bicycle coordinator for the Delaware Department of Transportation, has been working closely with the Dover/Kent County MPO, Kent County Levy Court and municipalities within Kent County to increase these travel options and make central Delaware more bike and walk friendly. The ultimate goal, Aglio said, is to connect as many on-and-off-road bike and walk trails as possible to destinations of interest.

One track toward that goal is a 10-to-12-mile off road loop between Camden, Wyoming and Dover. The loop, he said, would connect new and existing off-road trails, including those near Schutte Park in Dover, Dover's Eden Hill neighborhood and medical center, Legislative Mall, Brecknock Park in Camden and the St. Jones River Trail.

Cyclists already have a designated bicycle lane on U.S. 13, an improvement that appeared in 2012. This spring, DelDOT will break ground on a trail that will connect Dover's Silver Lake Park and the Isaacs Branch trail that runs behind the DelDOT campus at Public Safety Boulevard. The connecting point will be a 10-foot-wide shared use path on the west side of U.S. 13 and River Road where the Silver Lake trail ends and the entrance to the Isaacs Branch trail is close ahead.

"Once that's completed, we'd like to see people use the trail," Aglio said. "That's the most important thing."

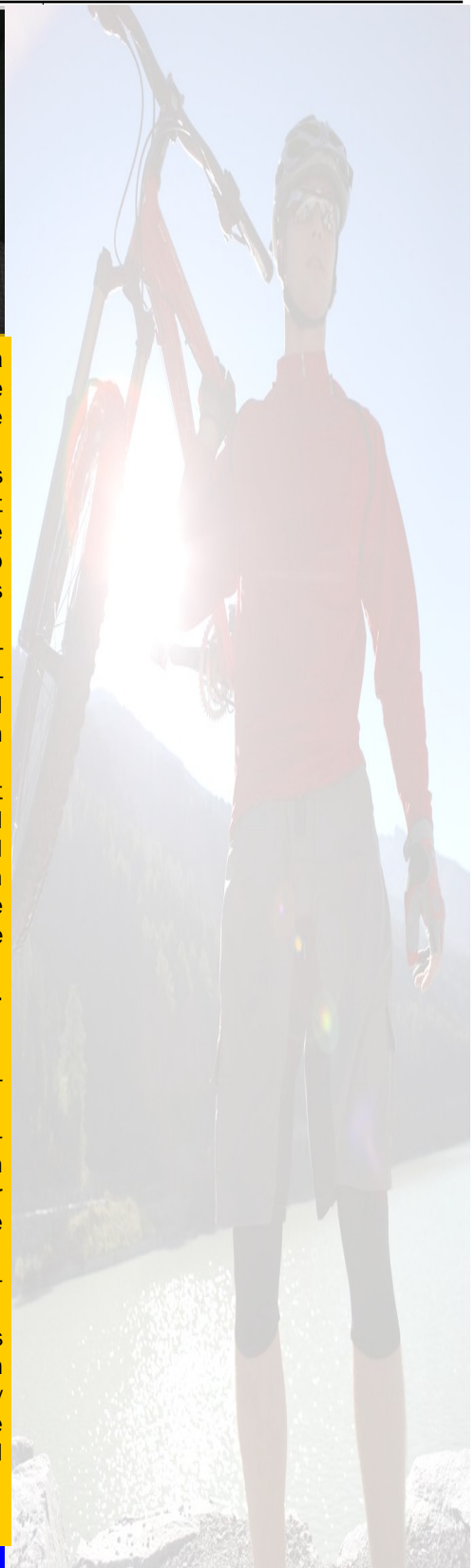
Keeping the trails and lanes safe is a priority for Aglio.

"We are trying to develop a system that so people can walk and bike for utilitarian reasons as well as recreational purposes," Aglio said.

Better biking comes with economic benefits. Aglio said the National Association of Realtors estimates that homes in walking friendly neighborhoods can fetch anywhere between \$4,000 and \$34,000 more than homes that are farther away from public spaces. Therefore, homes nearest to a trail network will be the highest valued, Aglio said.

Studies, he also said, have shown that bike and walking paths do not increase crime, but can lower it when there are more eyes on the street.

"Most bike friendly communities are shown to have higher income levels and property values and better quality of life," Aglio said. "These facilities, in turn, are attractive to employers who are trying to hire young professionals, many of which come with young families. This generation is drawn to places that are convenient, livable and have a sense of character. Central Delaware can offer all of these things."



PROJECTS, CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

Plan. The MPO has prepared a conceptual plan that will go to DeIDOT in January. It is the MPO's hope that from there, the project will become one of DeIDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program priority projects.

In Dover, the MPO has initiated a study to determine the feasibility of making West Street one way for southbound traffic. The rationale for this is to lessen traffic jams on the narrow, two-lane road.

In conjunction with this project, the MPO, the Delaware Department of Transportation and Century Engineering are working on a way to continue the North Street bicycle trail to the Dover Transit Center via West Street. The trail abruptly ends by a railroad crossing at the intersection of North and West streets. Vetter

said people already walk along the train tracks or on the grass to get to the transit center. Continuing the trail would allow them to reach the bus station more safely while fulfilling the City of Dover's larger goal of becoming more walk and bicycle

friendly.

"It's all part of trying to fill in the missing pieces," Vetter said.



An artist's rendering shows a wooden boardwalk near U.S. 13, in Smyrna.

RIGHT: Pedestrians walk along West Street. Proposed improvements there would include the installation of side-walks.



ABOVE: A view of North Street in Dover shows where a bike/walk trail could connect with West Street near a railroad crossing toward the Dover Transit Center.



This map shows the proposed route to extend the bike and walking trail from North Street to West Street and the Dover Transit Center, as well as other sidewalk and road improvements.

MPO Meeting Calendar 2013

| Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), 2nd Wednesday, even months, 10 a.m.— Noon | Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Second Tuesday after TAC meeting 6-7:30 p.m. | MPO Council First or 2nd Wednesday, odd months, 3-5 p.m. |
|--|--|--|
| Feb. 13, 2013 | Feb. 26, 2013 | March 6, 2013 |
| April 10, 2013 | April 23, 2013 | May 8, 2013 |
| June 12, 2013 | June 25, 2013 WORKSHOP | July 10, 2013 |
| Aug. 14, 2013 | Aug. 27, 2013 | Sept. 4, 2013 |
| Oct. 9, 2013 | Oct. 22, 2013 | Nov. 6, 2013 |
| Dec. 11, 2013 | December 2013, TBD | Jan. 8, 2014 |



The Dover/Kent County MPO is going Green

To save paper and postage, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization would like to deliver its newsletter, Journeys, via the Internet. Please contact the MPO at kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org, or at (302) 387-6026 and tell us if you prefer to receive Journeys via e-mail, or the U.S. Postal Service. Thanks for helping the MPO's efforts to be earth conscious. Go green!

The preparation of this document was financed in part with funds provided by the Federal Government, including the Federal Transit Administration, through the Joint Funding Simplification Program, and the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation.

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

Phone: 302-387-6030
Fax: 302-387-6032

The MPO Council:
Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey Sr., **Chairman**
Bradley S. Eaby, **Vice Chairman**
(for President Brooks Banta)
Kent County Levy Court
Mayor Don Tinari, Town of Cheswold
(for Kent County municipalities)
Lauren Skiver, Executive Director
Delaware Transit Corporation
Drew Boyce, for Sec. Shailen Bhatt
Delaware Department of Transportation
Terry Pepper (for Governor Markell)
MPO Staff:
Executive Director: Rich Vetter
Principal Planner: Jim Galvin
Public Liaison: Kate Layton
Planner: Chris Kirby
Executive Secretary: Catherine Samardza

Dover/Kent County MPO
P.O. Box 383, Dover, DE 19903

Return Service Requested

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #108
DOVER, DE