# **DOVER/KENT MPO COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2015**

**Dover/Kent MPO Council Members and /or Representatives thereof attending:**

**Brad Eaby, for Brooks Banta, President, Kent County Levy Court, Chairman**

**John Sisson, Executive Director, Delaware Transit Corporation**

**Terry Pepper, Dep. Dir., Safety & Homeland Security, for Governor Jack Markell, State of Delaware**

**Drew Boyce, for Jennifer Cohan, Secretary, Delaware Dept. of Transportation**

**Mary Ridgeway, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA)**

**Don Tinari, Mayor, Town of Cheswold, for Kent County Municipalities**

**Members not attending:**

**Robin Christiansen, Mayor, City of Dover**

**Terry Garcia Crewes, Regional Administrator, Region III, Federal Transit Admin. (FTA)**

**Non-members attending:**

**Emmett Venettt, Woodshaven Civic Assoc. Marc Dixon, FHWA**

**Bill Geronimo, DelDOT Finance Rich Vetter, MPO staff**

**James Galvin, MPO Staff Kate Layton, MPO Staff**

**Chris Kirby, MPO Staff Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff**

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

Mr. Vetter asked that Item #9, Mr. Venettt’s presentation, be moved to Item #6, moving down the rest of the agenda items.

MOTION By Mr. Boyce to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Pepper. Motion carried.

1. ***ACTION ITEM*: Approval of Minutes / March 4, 2015 (enclosure)**

MOTION By Mr. Sisson to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Boyce. Motion carried.

1. ***ACTION ITEM*: FY 2015 - 2018 TIP Amendments - DelDOT Finance (enclosures)**

**Route 1/N.E. Front Street**

**Route 1 at Little Heaven**

Mr. Geronimo reviewed the amendments, noting that the additional money was coming from the federal Section 164 (DUI) penalty funds for The Route 1/NE Front Street project. Under DelDOT’s new secretary, Secretary Cohan, the safety ratings of the project was reviewed, and the priority was changed. The Little Heaven project has increased in cost due to additional work necessary to move the County pump station, add piles to the bridges, and add more fiber lines.

Mr. Vetter reported that the TAC and PAC recommended approval of both amendments.

MOTION By Mr. Boyce to approve both amendments to the FY2015-2018 TIP. Seconded by Mr. Pepper.

Motion carried.

1. **(9) PRESENTATION: Route 1/N.E. Front Street Grade Separated Intersection - Emmett Venett, Woods Haven Civic Association**

Mr. Venett gave a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated conditions at this intersection and the impact the problems are causing for residents in Woodshaven to access the highway. He reported that he has brought this issue up with the City of Milford, and DelDOT’s former Secretary. He has been involved in advocating for this intersection for a couple of years, and believes that the accident/safety data has not been adequately reviewed. His information illustrated that the intersection has had more accidents, and more accidents with injuries, than the Thompsonville intersection. He felt it was obvious that the NE Front Street project should have come first. The issue is not simply quality of life; there is congestion at the crossovers, impacts emergency vehicles, travel to school and work, and affects property values. The City of Milford has issued a resolution supporting the NE Front Street project. Mr. Venett said he understood that the MPO was involved in prioritizing the Kent County area projects, and wanted to ask that the TAC consider moving this project ahead for funding sooner rather than later. He added that he understood the issues in getting visitors to the beach, but felt that local residents deserved consideration to get to school and work. He asked that good logic be used to advance the project.

Commissioner Eaby noted that the amendments to the TIP that were just approved does move this project forward. Mr. Venett replied that it moves forward to two years of Right-of-Way acquisition, not construction. Commissioner Eaby responded that this was a first step that would lead to construction.

1. **(6) *ACTION ITEM*: FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reviewed the projects in the FY16 UPWP, noting that the first six (6) are always the same, required by federal regulations and necessary for the MPO to function. He reported that the budget would be modified slightly, because the Salisbury/Wicomico MPO also covers area in Sussex County (Delmar, Seaford). Delaware must contribute to the S/W MPO, and both WILMAPCO and the MPO budgets will be impacted. He does not expect it to be a large amount, perhaps $5,000 - $10,000 from the MPO. Mr. Vetter expects that there will be an amendment to the MPO financial agreement when the final amount is settled.

MOTION By Mr. Pepper to approve the FY2016 UPWP. Seconded by Mr. Sisson. Motion carried.

1. **(7) *ACTION ITEM*:FY 2016 - 2019 Transportation Improvement Program – Jim Galvin (enclosures)**

Mr. Galvin reported that the FY2016-2019 TIP is a large document, due to material and format subject to DelDOT and FHWA requirements. He noted that there are not a lot of changes (from the FY2015 TIP), but funding is greatly reduced from previous years. The funding reduces further over the four-year period: 2016 - $64M / 2017 - $39M / 2019 - $16M.

Commissioner Eaby asked about the City of Dover’s Garrison Oak project. Mr. Galvin reported that although this project is the top priority for Dover, it did not make it into the CTP. It’s not likely to be included, because not much is happening there; if more activity develops, it will be more likely to get DelDOT’s attention.

Ms. Layton reported that the public comments received by the MPO were included in the materials sent for the meeting.

MOTION By Mr. Sisson to adopt the FY2016-2019 TIP. Seconded by Mr. Boyce. Motion carried.

1. **(8) *ACTION ITEM*: Reinstatement of Delaware Motor Transport Association to the TAC - MPO Staff**

Mr. Vetter reported that DMTA leadership was contacted concerning the Council’s suggestion to make the organization a voting TAC member. DMTA leadership declined, preferring to remain a non-voting member.

MOTION By Mr. Boyce to reinstate the DMTA as a non-voting TAC member. Seconded by Mayor Tinari.

Motion carried.

1. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

DelDOT - Mr. Boyce reported that DelDOT is still working with the General Assembly to make known the need for additional revenue. However, the legislators will have the final word. Commissioner Eaby said that he thought the idea seemed to be getting a little more traction, that the legislators realize something needs to be done.

DTC – Mr. Sisson reported that DTC will be conducting an origin/destination study on Kent and Sussex transit services. He noted that ridership demographics have changed since transit service was implemented in the counties, and DTC wants to look at where people are going and how to make transit work better.

Cheswold – Mayor Tinari reported that Cheswold is looking up, with seven new annexations. They are working on the Comprehensive Plan, and funds coming in from a developer will enable the Town to pay some bills. There is some heavy traffic on Main Street that may need to be evaluated.

Kent County – Commissioner Eaby reported that the Sports Complex plan has been reviewed by the Regional Planning Commission and will come to Levy Court later in May for site plan approval. M&T Bank is providing the financing. The first tournament at the Complex is planned for fall of 2016. DelDOT is coordinating construction of the Thompsonville grade-separated intersection and entrance timing with the Sports Complex project. He also noted that the Civil Air Terminal is gaining momentum again, with the possibility of a cargo company coming in. Phase I would be parking and a potential hangar; Phase II would be a cargo area, which could impact Horse Pond Road and Lafferty Lane.

Dover – It was reported that there is a new tenant for Garrison Oak. This is an existing business that is relocating.

1. **TAC Report – James Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reported on the work of the Interim Priority Work Group. The Group has developed a list of criteria and scoring that will be input into a DecisionLens program. The Group will further develop the criteria at the next meeting. Mr. Boyce said that he felt the Council should guide the TAC to look towards developing a good credibility, and use hard data as much as possible. He also said that DecisionLens is just a tool that does the math. The criteria, and evaluation of the criteria, comes from the people involved.

1. **PAC Report – Kate Layton**

Ms. Layton reported that the news media is interested in the TIP process. She noted that the PAC did recommend adopting the FY2016-2019 TIP, but there was one opposed vote, and one abstention. The PAC member that was opposed felt the bike/ped projects were not clearly defined.

Ms. Layton also reported that Ann Priestley, DTC’s new appointment to the PAC, has still not attended a meeting and has not responded to attempts to contact her. Mr. Sisson said that his office has also tried, and he has someone working on finding a new PAC representative.

1. **Staff Reports –**

**13.1 Outreach Activities – Kate Layton**

**13.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter (enclosure)**

**13.3 Other MPO Projects & Updates – Rich Vetter**

Ms. Layton reported on the events that the MPO has or will be involved with:

Milford Bug & Bud Festival

55+ Expo

Dover Days

Safe Summer Day

The PAC workshop will take place at Dover Downs on June 23.

Mr. Vetter reported that it looks like there will be money left over in the MPO budget to roll over to FY2016. He updated Council on activities with comprehensive plans for both Little Creek and Wyoming, the Route 10 bike trail and a bike safety assessment of the Route 8 corridor.

Next Meeting: July 8, 2015

MOTION By Mr. Pepper to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sisson. Motion carried.