**DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2015 ANNUAL WORKSHOP**

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS attending:**

**Mike Gumrot, PAC Chair Jayce Lesniewski, Vice Chair Chris Asay**

**Dr. Carlton Cannon Carolyn Cohee Phyllis B. Collins**

**Jonathan Contant Earle Dempsey Karen McGloughlin**

**Dwight Meyer Jonathan Street Carol Giesecke**

**James Webster**

**Members not attending:**

**Jeremy Tucker /Kevin Yingling (alternate)**

**Non-members attending:**

**Roland Cohee (PAC member spouse) Nancy Cannon (PAC member spouse)**

**Roberta Geier, DelDOT Kendall Sommers, DE State Parks/DNREC**

**Rich Vetter, MPO Staff James Galvin, MPO Staff**

**Kate Layton, MPO Staff Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff**

**1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**3. *ACTION ITEM*: Approval of Agenda**

MOTION By Mr. Webster to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Asay. Motion carried.

**4*. ACTION ITEM*: Approval of Minutes, April 21 meeting**

Ms. Cohee noted a formatting issue on Page 2.

MOTION By Mr. Meyer to approve the minutes with the correction noted above. Seconded by Mr. Asay.

 Motion carried.

**5. PRESENTATION*:* Kendall Sommers, DNREC, State Parks and Recreation; planning technology**

Ms. Sommers gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating DNREC’s program for inventory of recreational facilities. The inventory assists the State, counties and municipalities in determining what facilities or improvements may be needed, and where. Service areas are identified with the program, locate gaps for best location for new facilities, and evaluate which facilities would benefit by investment to reach the most people. Information such as bicycle and pedestrian networks and public transportation can be put into the program, as well as population densities and Census data regarding housing, age and ethnicity. PAC members asked a number of questions regarding the capabilities of the program and making suggestions regarding park facilities and possible funding for improvements.

**6. PRESENTATION: Delmarva Freight Plan - DelDOT Planning (enclosure) — Roberta Geier, DelDOT**

Ms. Geier gave an overview of the process that went into creating the Plan. Although the federal MAP-21 does not require a freight plan, a plan is highly recommended, and that federal funding is available for projects that qualify. She noted that this was a data-intensive project and was a cooperative effort between Maryland, Virginia, WILMAPCO, the Salisbury Wicomico MPO and the Dover/Kent County MPO. DelDOT also reached out to surrounding MPOs, such as the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). The entire Delmarva Peninsula was considered during the project. DelDOT identified freight corridors and ran models using “what if” scenarios. Interviews, workshops and questionnaires were used to reach out to communities and businesses throughout the State. It was found that rail freight is critical to the poultry industry and other agricultural growers. Ms. Geier reviewed some of the “what if” scenarios, saying that the model results help with future planning for the region. Although FHWA indicated that this should be called the Delaware Freight Plan, the peninsula is unique in that three states are involved. She also reported that this is not as big an issue for Maryland as it is for Delaware, and that Maryland does not want Delaware prioritizing their projects. There were some questions and subsequent discussion with the PAC members. Ms. Geier said that the entire Plan was on the DelDOT website for review.

**7. *ACTION ITEM*: Delmarva Freight Plan Endorsement**

MOTION By Mr. Lesniewski to recommend that Council endorse the Delmarva Freight Plan. Seconded by

 Mr. Meyer. Motion carried with one abstention.

**8. PRESENTATION: Route 10 Trail Study - Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter presented a map detailing the status of various sections of the Route 10 Trail: existing, in construction, in design, or in planning. There was discussion concerning the various sections and how they are or will be constructed (shared use path, shoulders, and bike lanes). There was also discussion concerning the inclusion of bike lanes as roads are improved. However, in some areas, physical space requirements for bike lanes are not possible. The State policy is that the inclusion of bicycle lanes must be considered, but the lanes are not required if it is not physically possible. Mr. Asay objected, saying that approach doesn’t work for bicyclists, that no one will ride in an area they consider dangerous.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEM: Project Prioritization Working Group Progress – Jim Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reviewed the history leading up to the MPO development of a new prioritization process for both the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP – long range transportation plan). He noted that last year the MPO Council had issues concerning DelDOT’s priority project list, and deferred approval of the TIP for four months. This meant that DelDOT could not use federal monies until January 2015. The Working Group met to discuss different ways that projects could be prioritized. The members chose to use DecisionLens, but not to use DelDOT’s criteria for the program. Instead, they chose to develop a list of criteria unique to the MPO (list of criteria was distributed to PAC members). Mr. Galvin described the numerical ranking used in DecisionLens. He noted that while engineers deal in “black and white,” planners deal with “gray.” PAC members had questions regarding Level of Service categories and environmental concerns. Mr. Galvin explained how the individual Working Group members input their scores, and DecisionLens adds everything together to come up with the total project score. He said that the MPO hopes to have the PAC, TAC and Council all go through the process to see what, if any, differences in ranking occur.

**10. \*\*\* MEMBER REPORTS \*\*\***

Mr. Meyer noted that DelDOT has been systematically replacing rural bridges. He said that this has not been publicized, and said that DelDOT is doing a great job. He noted that agriculture has changed and grown over the last 100 years, and farm equipment is bigger and a heavier weight than in the past.

Mr. Dempsey reported that he was elected to the Lake Forest School Board.

**11. Staff Reports –**

**11.1 Progress & Financial Reports – R. Vetter (enclosures)**

**11.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – R. Vetter**

**11.3 Correspondence, Publications/Reports/Outreach – K. Layton**

Mr. Vetter reported that the MPO would have money left at the end of the fiscal year; these funds would be rolled over

into the new fiscal year budget. He reviewed some of the projects in the FY16 UPWP.

There was discussion concerning DelDOT’s new Secretary, Jennifer Cohan. Mr. Vetter said that under Secretary

Cohan the MPO has been included more and involved in the scoping of projects.

Ms. Layton reported on the MPO public outreach events, including the 55+ Expo, Earth Day with the Air Quality

Partnership, Dover Days, Safe Summer Day and the Modern Maturity Center Health Fair. She was involved in a

radio interview concerning the ozone “season.” Upcoming events include the Wyoming Peach Festival and continued

involvement with the Kent Kids Coalition. Ms. McGloughlin asked if the MPO would be involved in the ADA

Festival in July; Ms. Layton was not aware of the event, and would be on vacation when it took place.

**12. ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting: August 25, 2015, Kent County Levy Court building**

MOTION By Ms. Cohee to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Street. Motion carried.