
JOURNEYS

The Newsletter of the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization



Division Street Design Week

When the Dover/Kent County MPO asked Dover residents and business owners what they would like for western downtown Dover, they said they wanted traffic improvements, a good mixture of businesses and a defined gateway to downtown. Soon, those preferences and more

will be part of a report for the MPO and City of Dover's Capital Gateway Study.

The purpose of the Capital Gateway Study is to develop a plan for enhancing the area where western Dover transitions into downtown. The study area encompasses Division Street from Saulsbury Road to State Street, and Forest Street from Division

Street to the railroad track where it runs through downtown Dover.

From Nov. 16-19, the MPO and the City of Dover held Division Street Design Week, an intensive, weeklong workshop, for locals to help planners come up with a vision for a more attractive entrance to Dover's downtown area. As is, the study area has under-utilized properties, vacant

See **DESIGN WEEK**, Pg. 2

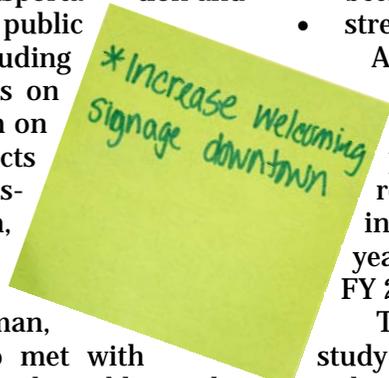
Design Week, continued from Pg. 1

lots and a mixture of commercial and industrial properties which leave the area in need of clean up and a more uniform theme.

Design Week was hands-on and community-driven. During three well-attended public meetings, people divided into groups around maps of the study area to discuss and write down their preferences in terms of transportation and land use. There were other public involvement exercises, including the writing of wish list items on sticky notes and placing them on a "vision wall" under subjects like transit, bicycle and pedestrian access. The design team, which involved representatives from the MPO, the city and consultants from Whitman, Requardt & Associates, also met with local key stakeholders prior to the public workshops.

Information collected from the stakeholders and public workshops indicated that people would like to see a:

- reduction in dilapidated properties
- the promotion of mixed-use development
- more green space
- improved safety
- a landmark to act as a gateway to the downtown area
- a balanced mix of on-street parking
- walkable streets
- better bus stops
- street improvements for local and through-traffic.



Any plans for roads will adhere to the Governor's Order for Complete Streets, which means they will accommodate all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians and the disabled. DelDOT has a roundabout for the west end of Loockerman Street in its list of proposed projects for the next several years. The project would go into the design phase in FY 2017 and construction in FY 2020.

The design team is creating a final report for the study area, which will include proposed changes and goals, as well as pictures of what the area would look like with the changes. The MPO hopes the report will go before Dover City Council in the spring for adoption and that city staff will adopt land use regulations to coincide with the report's proposals.



Three public workshops took place during Division Street Design Week Nov. 16-19 at the Sankofa Cultural Arts Center. Area residents, business owners, local officials and other stakeholders attended the meetings and provided input for the area that transitions from west Dover and Dover's downtown. Workshop exercises including posting notes and stickers expressing preferences for the area, as well as gathering around maps of the study area to examine and make marks where improvements could be made. Local children also held their own mapping exercise to express their own views. This work will find its way into a final written report for the Capital Gateway Study, including renderings of what specific areas could look like if proposed changes take place, including a roundabout at the western end of Loockerman Street, scheduled for construction in fiscal year 2020.

Front cover: A Dover resident peers over a map at one of the Division Street Design Week public workshops.

Thank you, Jim Webster and Jeremy Tucker; hello new PAC members

As the MPO's Public Advisory Committee bids farewell to two of its members, the MPO also welcomes new faces.

The Dover/Kent County MPO sends warm wishes and bids farewell to Jim Webster and Jeremy Tucker. Both have left the PAC due to work and other obligations.

Dover City Council first appointed Webster, a local business owner, to the PAC in January 2007. In January 2016, Dover City Council presented Webster with a gift for his years of service on the committee.

Kent County Levy Court appointed Tucker, also of Dover, to the PAC in 2012. Tucker works for the Delaware Electric Cooperative. Both Webster and Tucker will be greatly missed, and the MPO thanks them for their work with the PAC.

The MPO also welcomes two new PAC members, Jesse Spampinato and John Grady.

Spampinato, an operations supervisor for the Delaware Electric Cooperative in Greenwood, became a PAC member in December, taking Tucker's seat as a Kent County Levy Court appointee.

Spampinato has been with the Cooperative for 10 years, serving also as an engineering supervisor and planning engineer.

During his career, Spampinato has worked on projects with high-dollar budgets. He has managed electrical distribution contract crews and secured successful construction for a new distributed power generation solar park with a \$1.5 million contract. When not working, Spampinato spends time with his family, exercises at the gym and plays golf. He also is a member of his church's board of directors.

Grady, of Dover, is an attorney who has lived in Kent County since 1976. In his law career, he has litigated cases in all of the Delaware courts and with the Social Security Commission. He is still a member of the Delaware bar, but has reduced his practice. His areas of interest in the law are personal injury, civil rights, real estate, wills and estates, and employment.

Grady is president of Colonial Tennis Club, is an active member of Holy Cross Church, and was one of the founders of St. Thomas More High School in Kent County. He and his wife, Veronica, have six children.



Spampinato



Dover Mayor Robin R. Christiansen hands an award to Dover business owner James Webster for his years of service on the MPO's Public Advisory Committee. Webster served on the PAC from January 2007 to October 2015.

Find the Dover/Kent County MPO on Facebook and Twitter!



FAST

is the new name in transportation

Feds approve new transportation bill

On Dec. 4, President Barack Obama signed a new, five-year surface transportation bill into law.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act replaces the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) transportation bill, which was approved a few years ago,

The House of Representatives approved the legislation on Dec. 3 by [359 to 65](#), according to information from the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The Senate approved it the same day by [83 to 16](#).

FAST is the longest transportation bill Congress has passed since 2005. It will allow \$280.9 billion in new spending obligations from the Highway Trust Fund from 2016 through 2020 — \$225.2 billion for highways, \$48.7 billion for mass transit, and \$7.0 billion for highway and motor carrier safety.

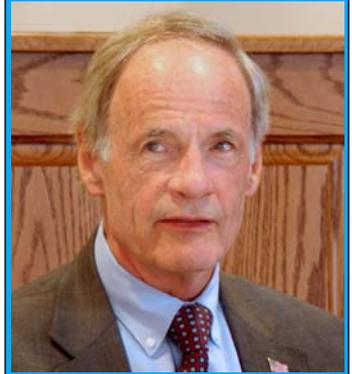
The bill provides \$199 million in contract authority from the Mass Transit Account of the HTF in FY 2017 for positive train control (PTC) implementation grants and is subject to the obligation limitation for that year in 2017. In order to make room for the PTC grants, transit formula grants will have to be decreased by \$199 million in FY 2017.

The conference agreement also authorizes appropriations from the general fund of the Treasury — \$12 billion over five years for mass transit and \$10 billion over five years for Amtrak and other passenger rail programs. These authorizations are subject to the annual appropriations process and may or may not materialize.

The conference agreement will provide an immediate 5 percent increase to highways in 2016 (\$2.1 billion more than in 2015) and an 8 percent increase to transit in 2016 (\$753 million more than in 2015). Highway spending would grow by 2.1 percent to 2.4 percent per year after 2016, while mass transit spending would grow at about 2.1 percent per year.

The conference report transfers \$70 billion from the general fund to the Trust Fund immediately - \$51.9 billion to the Highway Account and \$18.1 billion to the Mass Transit Account.

Sen. Carper visits the MPO



U.S. Sen. Thomas R. Carper paid a visit to the Dover/Kent County MPO Council on Jan. 6. There, he talked to the Council members about the newly approved Federal Transportation Bill, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Carper said that he would have liked to have seen a rule in the new bill that would have required businesses and industries to help pay for transportation costs.

Carper also took questions and comments about the bill from Council members and MPO staff, and asked about the progress of various local transportation plans and projects.

Delaware receives funding to combat chronic disease

MPO will participate with partners on Plan4Health grant

Thanks to a generous grant, various Delaware agencies will start work this year to help Delawareans eat better and become more physically active.

The Delaware Coalition for Healthy Eating and Active Living has received a \$135,000 grant from the American Planning Association toward its Plan4Health program to combat two determinants of chronic disease — lack of physical activity and lack of access to nutritious foods.

Funding for this national program is implemented in partnership between the American Planning Association and the American Public Health Association (APHA). This represents a major new collaboration between planners and public health professionals. Funding for Plan4Health also was provided through an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“The funding provides fuel to address existing health concerns to create communities of lasting value that are equitable and healthy for all,” said Anna Ricklin, AICP, manager of APA’s Planning

and Community Health Center, which manages the Plan4Health program.

The Delaware Academy of Medicine /Delaware Public Health Association is one of the partners that helped apply for the grant and will help fulfill the Plan4Health.

“We are very pleased to be working at both national and local levels with our colleagues in the American Planning Association,” said Timothy Gibbs, executive director of the Delaware Academy of Medicine. “The intersection of planning and public health is an ideal place to focus our attention on effective change.”

The Delaware Coalition for Healthy Eating and Active Living seeks to change the approach in which comprehensive plans are updated to include considerations for health and equity. Using feedback from the community, the Coalition will create land use, design and policy guidelines for planners and public health professionals seeking to improve the physical environment of where residents live, work and play in order to increase access to healthy food and build spaces that encourage active living.

The Dover/Kent County MPO also was one of the agencies that participated in the grant’s application and will participate in its execution.

Since comprehensive plan updates for the City of Dover and Kent County are scheduled for 2018/2019, the process in updating these plans will be underway by early 2017, coinciding with the Plan4Health grant period. “Kent County is very excited about the opportunity to engage with the citizens of the County on how the built environment affects public health and identify potential policy changes that will improve the quality of life for our citizens,” said Mary Ellen Gray, AICP Assistant Director for Kent County Planning Services.

For more information about the Plan4Health program, visit www.plan4health.us or follow the hashtag #Plan4Health on Twitter. For the Delaware initiative, visit www.deplan4health.org or follow @deplan4health on Twitter.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities.

MPO Council and Technical Advisory Committee hold annual elections

The Dover/Kent County MPO’s Council and Technical Advisory Committee will keep most of its leaders for another year. In November, the Council and TAC held their annual elections.

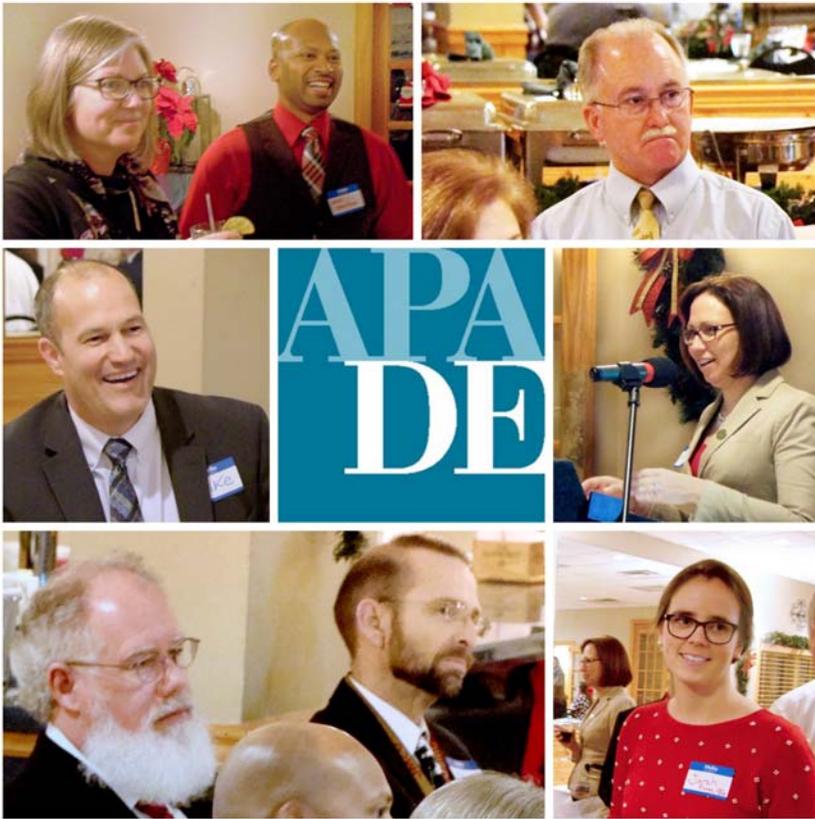
Levy Court Commissioner Brad Eaby was re-elected as the MPO Council’s chairman, while Dover Mayor Robin R. Christiansen was elected as the council’s vice chairman.

TAC members re-elected Kent County Assistant Planner Mary Ellen Gray as its chairperson, while David

Edgell of the Office of State Planning Coordination will remain the TAC’s vice chairman.



APA of Delaware holds annual meeting



The Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association held its annual meeting on Dec. 8 at Frazier’s Restaurant in Dover. This year’s speakers were Sarah M. Pragg, Policy Specialist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware, and Mr. Lewis D. Schiliro, J.D., former Secretary, Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Ms. Pragg spoke about the Delaware Complete Communities Planning Toolbox. Mr. Schiliro’s topic was called 'Planning for Large Events'.

Pictured clockwise, left to right: Susan Love, section lead for the Delaware Division of Climate and Sustainability; Mike Tholstrup of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, John Kennel of DNREC, Mike Fortner of the City of Newark; Ann Marie Townshend, head of planning and parks and recreation for the City of Dover; James Sullivan of DNREC, James Galvin, principal planner for the Dover/Kent County MPO and Sarah Pragg of U.D.

Delmarva Goods Movement Task Force holds winter meeting

Jeff Tietbohl, vice president of Eastern Shore Natural Gas, speaks at the Delmarva Goods Movement Task Force winter meeting about the transmission of natural gas from connections with major interstate pipelines down the Delmarva Peninsula and to local distribution points and direct customers. Tietbohl touched on some of ESNG’s operating assets, and how they manage growth and new demand for capacity amid recent changes (slowdowns) in the Federal regulatory review process.

The Goods Movement Task Force meeting took place Dec. 15 at the Duncan Center in Dover. This taskforce is comprised of departments of transportation on the Delmarva Peninsula, economic development groups, private sector representatives, county officials, ports, and members of the public. It is charged with overseeing and helping implement future actions and policy recommendations that result from the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) Freight and Goods Movement Analysis.



Freight and Goods Movement Analysis.

MPO 2016 COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

The following meeting schedule is for the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Council and committees. Dates are occasionally subject to change. MPO Council and Technical Advisory Committee Meetings are held in the council chambers of Camden Town Hall, 1783 Friends Way. The PAC meetings are held at the Kent County Levy Court Administrative Complex.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) 10 a.m. to Noon Second Wednesday, even months	Public Advisory Committee (PAC) 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, two weeks following the TAC meeting	MPO Council 3 to 5 p.m. First or second Wednesday, odd months
		Jan. 6, 2016
Feb. 10, 2016	Feb. 23, 2016	March 2, 2016
April 13, 2016	April 26, 2016	May 4, 2016
June 8, 2016	June 21, 2016 Annual PAC Workshop	July 6, 2016
Aug. 10, 2016	Aug. 23, 2016	Sept. 7, 2016
Oct. 12, 2016	Oct. 25, 2016	Nov. 2, 2016
Dec. 14, 2016	December 2016, Date to be determined	Jan. 4, 2016

Find us on Facebook and Twitter!



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:

- Bradley S. Eaby, **Chairman**
(for President Brooks Banta)
Kent County Levy Court
- Mayor Robin R. Christiansen, **Vice Chairman**
City of Dover
- Mayor Don Tinari, Town of Cheswold
(for Kent County municipalities)
- John Sisson, for the
Delaware Transit Corporation
- Drew Boyce, for Sec. Jennifer Cohan
Delaware Department of Transportation
- Terry Pepper (for Governor Jack Markell)

MPO Staff:

- Executive Director: Rich Vetter
- Principal Planner: Jim Galvin
- Public Liaison: Kate Layton
- Executive Secretary: Catherine Samardza

Journeys Editing and Layout
 Kate Layton

Get Journeys the 'green' way

The Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization mostly publishes its newsletter, Journeys, via e-mail and the Internet. To join the Journeys e-mail list, write to kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org, or call the office at (302) 387-6026, or visit the MPO's website at www.doverkentmpo.org. Thanks for helping the MPO's efforts to be earth conscious.

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.