



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903  
http://www.doverkentmpo.org

(302) 760-2713 FAX: (302) 739-6340

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## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 12/11/07

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### Public Advisory Committee Members attending:

Horace Cook, Vice Chair  
Richard Ornauer

Dwight Meyer  
James Webster

William Saunders

### Members not attending:

Dr. Daniel Houghtaling  
James Brown  
Arley Cooper, Jr.

Peter Schaeffer  
Prameela Kaza

Diana Welch  
Chandra Aleong

### Non-members attending:

Sarah Keifer, Kent County Planning  
Miranda Marquez, DOL/DVR  
Juanita Wiczoreck, MPO Staff  
Joshua Waltz, MPO Staff

Bobbie Geier, DelDOT Planning  
Mike Gumrot, AARP  
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

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

Ms. Wiczoreck asked that Item 8 be moved forward to Item 5 on the agenda as Ms. Keifer was scheduled for another meeting during the evening. Mr. Ornauer asked that Item 7A be added as a non-action item to discuss West and North Streets and Norfolk South rail car parking on New Burton Road.

MOTION By Mr. Ornauer to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Meyer. Motion carried.

4. ***ACTION ITEM:*** Approval of Minutes / October 23, 2007

MOTION By Mr. Ornauer to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Saunders. Motion carried.

5. (8) ***PRESENTATION:*** Long Range Regional Transportation Plan/  
Kent County Comprehensive Plan Update

#### 5.1 Land Use Plan Update – Sarah Keifer, Kent County Planning Department

Ms. Keifer gave a Powerpoint presentation reviewing the work done to date on the Kent County Comprehensive Plan. She reviewed elements of the plan and the public outreach that had been undertaken to get public feedback. Mr. Cook asked if the County worked with all the municipalities, and Ms. Keifer said that they did. There were questions about the Eden Hill and Kesselring Farms, but Ms. Keifer noted that they were within City of Dover limits and not under County jurisdiction. Mr. Ornauer asked if Ms. Keifer could return to the PAC with a final draft of the Comprehensive Plan, and she agreed. There was some discussion



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concerning corridor capacity and purchase of right-of-way; Ms. Wieczoreck informed the PAC that the Legislature must approve corridor capacity preservation roads and then DelDOT could purchase right-of-way.

## 5.2 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan Update– Bobbie Geier, DelDOT Planning

A Powerpoint presentation was shown illustrating work on the RTP update that is also being used for the mobility element for the County Comprehensive Plan. These findings were developed using the employment and population projection data. DelDOT ran the TRANPLAN travel demand model to compare a scenario based on the population distribution recently adopted by the MPO Council to a scenario in which more population is shifted to the town areas in the County's proposed land use map. Ms. Geier noted that the scenario was predicated on the County adopting new zoning regulations. She also noted that the modeling shows a slight improvement in emissions.

## 6. ACTION ITEM: Draft DE 8 Concept Plan and Operations Study – J. Wieczoreck

Ms. Wieczoreck reviewed the history of the project and its goals. She then noted the highlights of the report, which had been sent to the committee members for review. She noted that SHPO had questions concerning the cultural resource inventory and impact section, and that the consultant was working with them to make clarifications. There was some general discussion concerning Saulsbury Road and the new High School on Route 8.

MOTION By Mr. Meyer to recommend that Council adopt the draft DE 8 Concept Plan. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

Mr. Gumrot asked for a copy of the Plan and was given one after the meeting.

## 7. ACTION ITEM: Draft FY 2009-2012 Capital Transportation Program (CTP) – J. Wieczoreck/DelDOT

- 7A. 1) West and North Streets and  
2) Norfolk Southern rail car parking on New Burton Road.

Ms. Wieczoreck reviewed the list of projects for the 2009-2012 CTP. She explained that the MPO Council approves the list of projects for inclusion in the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), but DelDOT makes the final decision as to what is included and funded in the State CTP. Mr. Waltz reviewed the list, noting changes from the FY08 CTP. Mr. Ornauer asked about congestion on North and West Streets from the new medical center, and requested the MPO tell DelDOT to look at the intersection. Mr. Cook thought that DelDOT probably was monitoring the situation. Ms. Wieczoreck noted that the medical center at Eden Hill did not complete a Traffic Impact Study (TIS). There was some discussion concerning the West Dover Connector and Wyoming Mill Road. Mr. Ornauer noted that because planning for the area is still ongoing, the PAC could ask Council to incorporate a study of the West and North Streets intersection into that planning.

MOTION By Mr. Ornauer that the PAC suggest to Council that the intersection at West and North Streets be studied by DelDOT and possibly included in the Eden Hill property planning. Seconded by Mr. Saunders. Motion carried.



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Mr. Ornauer then talked about the Norfolk Southern freight cars stored at New Burton Road. He was extremely concerned about possible safety issues for the residents at Crossgates and Mayfair if toxic chemicals were being kept there. He felt that the new development at the Eden Hill and Kesselring farms would put even more people at risk, citing the Cheswold/Reichold Chemical incident last year. He stated that the tank cars are a hazard and cited Mr. Eugene Ruane's article in the Delaware State News calling for the tank cars to be moved elsewhere. He felt that the PAC should suggest to Council that they endorse this position. Mr. Cook felt that it was unlikely that there were any chemicals in the area from the Kraft plant, but Mr. Ornauer insisted they were carrying chemicals and fertilizers. He also said that he felt the tank cars should not be in Harrington either. He felt that DelDOT should be encouraged in their discussions with Norfolk Southern to remove the hazard from New Burton Road and recommended that Council expedite a solution between Norfolk Southern and DelDOT to prohibit assembly of hazardous freight cars on the New Burton Road siding.

Mr. Cook suggested that the PAC invite Norfolk Southern and DelDOT to come to the next meeting to discuss this with the MPO. Ms. Wiczoreck said that she would issue the invitation. Mr. Gumrot said that we should clarify that Kraft is not an issue, that what is in their tank cars should be defined.

Mr. Ornauer reiterated that he knows what the problem is; Mr. Cook counseled against making a recommendation without talking to the people involved first. Mr. Saunders agreed, stating that the PAC should know what it is talking about before asking Norfolk Southern to come to a meeting.

Mr. Ornauer then suggested the Mayfair and Crossgates residents be invited to a meeting to present their views at the same meeting Norfolk Southern is invited. He felt the MPO could facilitate a discussion on this dangerous situation. There was discussion concerning this; many of the PAC members felt that this was too adversarial a suggestion.

**MOTION** By Mr. Ornauer that the MPO invite a representative of Norfolk South to make a presentation to the PAC concerning the storage of chemical freight cars on the track at New Burton Road in proximity to the existing residences and future homes. He further requested that representatives from Crossgates and Mayfair be in attendance at this meeting.

There was no second to this motion.

There was further discussion concerning this issue. Ms. Wiczoreck suggested inviting a representative from DelDOT to discuss this issue. She further noted that part of the problem is in comprehensive plans that continue to approve residential development next to railroad facilities.

**MOTION** By Mr. Ornauer to invite a representative from DelDOT to make a presentation on how residents are protected from the hazard of chemical tank cars being parked next to their communities. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

Ms. Wiczoreck reminded the PAC that action was still necessary to move forward with the TIP program and the TIP Bus Tour.

**MOTION** By Mr. Ornauer to recommend Council adopt the list of projects in draft CTP as the MPO TIP project list. Seconded by Mr. Meyer. Motion carried.

Ms. Wiczoreck announced that the TIP Tour would take place in early March, the exact date to be



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determined.

## 8. ***ACTION ITEM: Elections: Chairman***

### **TABLED DUE TO LOW ATTENDANCE**

## 9. ***STAFF REPORTS – Juanita Wieczoreck***

**9.1 Financial Reports (enclosure)**

**9.2 Correspondence & Publications/Reports – MPO Newsletter**

Ms. Wieczoreck reported that Mr. DiPasquale had resigned from the PAC and distributed his letter to the members.

She also reported that Mr. Ornauer had resigned as Chairman due to a potential conflict of interest. While Mr. McNulty is out on medical leave, Mr. Ornauer has been hired as a contractor to help the MPO staff.

## 10. ***DISCUSSION ITEMS - Next Meeting: February 26, 2008***

**MOTION** By Mr. Ornauer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:20 PM. Seconded by Mr. Webster.

Motion carried.