



Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

(302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2013

Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Jason Berry for Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County Planning (Chair)	David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)
Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District	Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden
Ann Marie Townshend, City of Dover, Planning & Insp.	Michael Kirkpatrick, DelDOT Planning
Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works	Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation	Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture
Jason Halpin, Dover Air Force Base	Marc Dixon, Federal Highway Administration

Members not attending:

Joe Zilcosky, DE Economic Dev. Office	City of Milford
Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern	Ryan Long, Federal Transit Admin.
Dave Hugg, Town of Smyrna	

Non-members attending:

Rich Vetter, MPO Executive Director	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 (enclosure)**

MOTION By Ms. Townshend to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick. Motion carried.

- 4) **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2013 (enclosure)**

MOTION By Mr. Kirkpatrick to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Riley. Motion carried.

- 5) **ACTION ITEM: Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments (MTP) – J. Galvin (enclosure)**

Mr. Galvin reviewed the materials sent to the committee members. The projects being proposed must be incorporated into the MTP in order for DelDOT to include them in the Capital Transportation Program (CTP). Two large projects in the MTP are being broken down into smaller components: Route 8 and North Dover/Route 13. Other projects are the Camden Bypass, at the request of the Town of Camden, and widening of Route 13 from Puncheon Run to Woodside, at the request of DelDOT.

Mr. Galvin reported that he went through the scoring process with these projects, then presented his suggestions to the Prioritization Working Group, which concurred with the scores. The projects are now being presented to the TAC, PAC and Council for review and recommendations. He noted that some projects have dropped lower on the funding list, some moving entirely to the “aspirations” list.

There was discussion concerning all the projects. TAC members were concerned because there were no details concerning the US 13 widening project, except to note that it is considered a safety project due to the number of accidents reported along that corridor. Mr. Galvin noted that the project falls far down on the funding list, yet DelDOT has included it in the draft CTP, with money proposed for design and construction. He asked the TAC if they would like to leave the project where it is on the list, or rescore it. Mr. Vetter suggested the TAC look at the project in more detail. Mr. Edgell asked that DelDOT staff make a presentation to the committee to justify the need for the project. It was noted that this is an MTP amendment, and that there is no immediate urgency to push it through at this time.

Mr. Edgell asked if the committee wanted to table the entire item, or to make a recommendation that Council approve the amendment without the US13 widening project. It was noted that DelDOT must use the MTP to select projects, and they cannot move forward on this one until it is amended into the Plan.

There was further discussion concerning the cost of this project and questions as to why DelDOT moved this ahead of other



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projects. Members also discussed how the Highway Safety Improvement Program projects are identified.

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the Town of Camden will incorporate the Bypass project into the Town's comprehensive plan. The first reading will be January 6, 2014, with adoption in February.

MOTION By Mr. Wheeler to remove the Route 13 widening project from the list pending a presentation by DelDOT, and recommend Council adopt the remaining projects on the list. Seconded by Ms. Townshend.
Motion carried.

Mr. Vetter said that he would contact DelDOT for a presentation at the February TAC meeting.

6) Discussion Item: Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Updates (current and proposed) – R. Vetter (enclosure)

Mr. Vetter reviewed the status of projects that have been discussed at prior meetings. Of particular note: the route planned for the Capital Bike Trail Project along Silver Lake/Park Drive is in a flood plain and a permit is needed for this project. Ms. Townshend thanked Mr. Vetter for taking the lead on these projects.

7) Discussion Item: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) – R. Vetter (enclosure)

Mr. Vetter reported that he is on the committee for this new federal program. Available funding will be \$30,000 each year for two years, with a 20% match required. It is specifically for transportation projects adjacent to federal lands and national monuments. Mr. Edgell mentioned Route 9 to Bombay Hook, and eco tourism; Ms. Townshend thought that the City of Dover might have a project for the sidewalks along the Green.

8) Member Agency Reports:

City of Dover: Planning – Ms. Townshend reported that the City of Dover received an honorable mention as a bicycle friendly community from the League of American Bicyclists. The report from the League will be reviewed next week. Construction on the new Dover High School is moving forward; Capital School District and DelDOT are working out design flaws in the West entrance that must be fixed. There will be an east entrance that will access Cannon Mills. The pedestrian –operated traffic light (HAWK system) has been designed. She also reported that Capital School District and local legislators met with DelDOT; the district's position is that DelDOT has caused them to go over budget. Ms. Townshend felt that DelDOT did an excellent job of explaining what had actually occurred. She noted that although the district repeatedly received letters warning them that they were proceeding at their own risk, the district feels that the City and DelDOT are to blame for the resulting problems. Everyone involved is now meeting monthly. Ms. Duca said that the district began with no solid set of plans, that everything was presented piecemeal. Ms. Townshend also reported that Dover is working with DelDOT on a Transportation Improvement District along US13, which will involve stretching out the City boundary. That will require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Further discussion on the high school; the old school is scheduled to be demolished, but the Kent Community School is scheduled for renovations, and is planning to go into the old high school for the duration. Ms. Duca thought there might be problems with timing, concerning impact fees and credits.

Public Works – Ms. Duca reported that DelDOT and DNREC are supporting the City on the Capital Bike Trail project, assisting with the wording for the flood plain permit. South Street is scheduled for repaving as soon as the weather permits.

Kent County Planning – Mr. Berry noted that Dover has annexed a couple of properties; also that Willard's has rezoned eleven more acres as industrial. The property is along the rail lines in an industrial area and is accounted for in the Comprehensive Plan. He also reported that there are reports that 20 large chicken farms will be coming in to Kent County. Mr. Riley noted that the laws in Maryland have become difficult for the chicken farmers; Delaware got ahead of the laws with nutrient management standards that make it easier for the farmers to do business here. There was some further discussion as to whether or not this was agricultural (it is) or industrial zoning, and the issues of odor and truck traffic. Mr. Melendez said that "we need to look at where we put our houses." It was noted that agriculture is protected here, and that Kent County Conservation helps the farmers with ENS plans. It was also a concern that chicken farming on a large scale is not a family business, that the owner is over in Baltimore. Mr. Berry noted that it will bring jobs to the County.

Camden – Mr. Chaffinch reported that 4 streets were supposed to have been re-surfaced by November 30th; the utility work there has also been delayed, until the spring.

Dover Air Force Base – Mr. Halpin reported that the Base is working on improvements at Bergold Lane with DelDOT; the entrance to the Museum will be relocated slightly. He also reported that the Joint Use Agreement



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for the Civil Air Terminal is being reviewed at headquarters at the federal level.

Kent Conservation District – Mr. Riley reported that the stormwater management district ordinance is being reviewed by Kent County Levy Court and is expected to be approved soon.

State of Delaware: DelDOT Planning – Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that DelDOT is busy plowing snow, no other report. Mr. Wheeler asked about the freight seminar: Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that DelDOT and WILMAPCO are coordinating on a freight plan presentation. There was discussion concerning the Freight seminar, and Mr. Edgell thought a presentation for the TAC would be a good future agenda item.

Statewide Planning – Mr. Edgell reported that the annual report would be published on the website soon. He also reported that Milford is amending its Comprehensive Plan in regards to the NE Front Street interchange. It is less than what was originally planned, due to opposition by property owners.

DTC – Ms. Smith reported that the Title 6 program underwent extensive review, including work with a consultant. The program was reviewed by the federal agencies and sent back with corrections; once those corrections were made, the program was approved. Three hundred people have attended the public hearings concerning DTC's fixed route and paratransit service changes, and proposed fare increases. DTC will make a presentation to Kent County Levy Court in January. Mr. Vetter noted that the US13 corridor study is partnering with the Wicomico MPO; transit in that area needs to cross state boundaries. It was reported that Greenwood, DE is interested in service, but transit needs density. For crossing state lines, there are discussions concerning transfers between the transit systems.

DNREC – Mr. Wheeler reported that Secretary O'Mara signed the California Low Emission Vehicle regulation. It will be in the State Register this month, and will affect 2015 and newer vehicle models. DNREC did not adopt the "Zero" emission vehicle. There were a lot of negative comments at public hearings against the regulation, but the Secretary signed it anyway. The regulation can be appealed until December 20, 2013.

9) Staff Report:

9.1 Outreach Activities – K. Layton

9.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – R. Vetter (enclosure)

Ms. Layton reported that she is working on the winter newsletter. She also noted that Council approved Jonathan Street for PAC membership; TAC concerns regarding conflict of interest were discussed, but Council did not see that there was any real conflict. Raymond Enterprises is working on developing an air quality mascot for the Air Quality Partnership. The mascot's nose will change color to reflect air quality alerts. The MPO is updating the virtual TIP Tour videos, to reflect project status and they are completed.

Mr. Vetter reported that the MPO has completed the DE State University pedestrian counts. Observation indicates that pedestrian crosswalk compliance is better near the Best Buy intersection; north of that intersection, there is less compliance. Senator Bushweller has contributed funding for the sidewalks needed between the Sheraton and the DSU main campus. The updated MPO bylaws were adopted by Council at the November meeting. Mr. Galvin is working with WILMAPCO and DelDOT on the functional classification road map. He invited TAC members to join him to work on that project.

10) Next Meeting: February 12, 2014

MOTION By Ms. Duca to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Riley. Motion carried.