



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 MPO COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2013

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

Carleton E. Carey, Sr., Mayor, City of Dover, Chairman

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

Cathy Smith for Kennard Potts for Lauren Skiver, Executive Director, Delaware Transit Corporation

Terry Pepper, Safety & Homeland Security, for Governor Jack Markell, State of Delaware

Drew Boyce, for Shailen Bhatt, Secretary, Delaware Dept. of Transportation

Members not attending

Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator, Region III, Federal Transit Admin. (FTA)

Marc Dixon for Gregory Murrill, Acting Division Administrator, Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA)

Non-members attending:

Rich Vetter, MPO Exec. Director

James Galvin, MPO Staff

Kate Layton, MPO Staff

Chris Kirby, MPO Staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

1. Introduction of Members & Guests

Mr. Pepper announced that Elizabeth Olsen was no longer with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and that he was now representing the Governor on the Council. Mr. Drew Boyce introduced himself, he is now Secretary Bhatt's representative to the Council.

2. Public Comments

3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Pepper. Motion carried.

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes / November 7, 2012

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to approve the minutes of November 7, 2012. Seconded by Ms. Smith. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEM: Public Participation Plan adoption – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reviewed the changes in the final draft, which had also been discussed at previous Council meetings. She explained that she had worked with Marc Dixon of FHWA for language updates to be consistent with MAP 21. She reported that the public comment period ends on January 15th and that to date there had been no comments.

MOTION By Ms. Smith to adopt the Public Participation Plan as presented pending any comment through the end of the public comment period on January 15th, 2013. Seconded by Mr. Eaby. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEM: 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – J. Galvin & R. Vetter (enclosures via e-mail)

6.1 Project Prioritization

6.2 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)



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Mr. Galvin reported that the MPO had solicited projects from all member agencies and municipalities. The only response was from Kent County, which submitted several projects. The prioritization process for the TIP and the MTP are slightly different, so the projects were prioritized using the previously adopted MTP process and incorporated into the existing MTP list. That list was also updated to remove any projects that have been completed. It was noted that although the MPO had been working with DelDOT to develop a new prioritization process based on “problems” rather than “projects,” that work was not complete and could not be used for this cycle of the MTP. Mr. Galvin informed Council that the new projects are shaded in gray in the list for identification purposes. Large studies containing multiple projects are grouped together on the list, and unfunded projects are on the “aspirations” list. There was discussion concerning the projects on the list and the likelihood of them being funded by the State. There was also discussion concerning DNREC’s comments regarding VMT, and that reduction of VMT is difficult because of development. Council also discussed the necessary population density required to make transit cost-effective, race track traffic and the joint use agreement with Dover Air Force Base. Mr. Boyce noted that Secretary Bhatt is fiscally conservative, and transportation funding is going to be reduced from \$200M to about \$123M on the State end for FY2014. Staff reviewed changes recommended by the TAC, and Ms. Smith noted some typographical corrections. Staff answered questions concerning the status of projects on the list.

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to adopt the Metropolitan Transportation Plan with the changes discussed and to forward the document to FHWA and FTA for approval. Seconded by Mr. Pepper.
Motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM: US Route 13 Corridor Study, Town of Smyrna – R. Vetter

Mr. Vetter reported that the Smyrna US13 study is scheduled to go to the Smyrna Town Council in February, then incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. The Town is working with the Economic Development Office to look for funding opportunities for the \$7M needed for sidewalks, lighting and landscaping.

8. DISCUSSION ITEM: Road Functional Re-classifications – J. Galvin (enclosure)

Mr. Galvin reviewed the materials sent to Council. He noted that the road functional reclassifications is reviewed every 10 years. The areas are defined by census and cannot be reduced, but can be added to. He noted that this is a joint effort between the MPO, WILMAPCO and DelDOT. Although there is no deadline for this project, all involved want to work on this as soon as possible. He summarized the Data and Demographic Subcommittee’s (D&D) work in “smoothing the defined areas so that there were no “sawtooth” boundaries. Mr. Galvin said that he thought only a few roads in Kent County would change classification. Mr. Blevins of WILMAPCO is working with criteria developed by Chester County, PA to develop Delaware-specific guidelines.

9. DISCUSSION ITEM: MPO Bylaws & Agreements – MPO Staff

Staff reviewed the questions sent to Council and asked for direction on updating the bylaws. Changes included language to reflect current practices and calendar events. Staff will send the amended draft for review at the March meeting.

10. MUNICIPALITIES/KENT COUNTY REPORTS: Mayor Carey, Mayor Tinari, Comm. Eaby

Mayor Carey reported that the North Street improvements in Dover are complete. Loockerman Way will be complete when the lighting is installed. He also reported that there are 4-5 traffic cameras on North and West Streets and Loockerman Plaza, and another 15 more cameras throughout town. By March, there will be a total of 35 cameras in Dover.

Mr. Eaby reported that the County has approved an asphalt plant by Dover Air Force Base. DelDOT will widen



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the acceleration lane, which currently narrows at the entrance. Mr. Boyce said he would have a status report on this project at the next Council meeting. Mr. Eaby also reported that the County is continuing to work with the Home Owners' Associations.

Mr. Pepper reported that Highway Safety data shows a 37% increase in pedestrian fatalities in 2012 as well as more bicycle fatalities. He said that the Governor is concerned, and has asked Highway Safety to address the issue, and added that Mr. Vetter will be added to the discussions. Mr. Boyce said that the safety people at DelDOT should be involved as well, and noted that the MPO is doing a lot of bicycle and pedestrian work, and needs the latest information.

11. TAC Report – R. Vetter

Mr. Vetter reported that the TAC worked from the same agenda as Council in December. Their comments on the MTP and recommendation to Council were discussed during that agenda item.

12. PAC Report – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that Ali Mizrakahalili from DNREC attended the December PAC meeting, leading to an informal discussion concerning Air Quality issues. Their agenda was also similar to the Council agenda, and the PAC also recommended approval of the MTP.

Ms. Layton said that the PAC membership now has 2 County vacancies and one vacancy from the Governor's office. Mr. Eaby and Mr. Pepper both said they had someone in mind. Ms. Layton also informed Council that another PAC member, had a less than 50% attendance due to health and other issues. It is also difficult to get in touch with him, because he has no e-mail and does not return phone calls. Mr. Eaby asked who this was, and if it were his appointee. Ms. Layton said she was not sure which commissioner had appointed Mr. James Brown; Mr. Eaby indicated he would look into this. There was also discussion concerning the PAC and how to make it a more interesting and vital committee. Mr. Eaby suggested that the Council initiate more interaction with the committee.

13. Staff Report –

13.1 Outreach Activities – K. Layton

13.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – R. Vetter

13.3 Other MPO Projects & Updates – R. Vetter

Next Meeting: March 4, 2013

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Smith. Motion carried.