



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 JUNE 11, 2014

Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County Planning (Chair)
Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District
Mark Eastburn for M. Kirkpatrick, DelDOT Planning
Ann Marie Townshend, City of Dover, Planning & Insp.
Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture
Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden

David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)
Valerie Gray, DNREC
Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation
Joe Zilcosky, DE Economic Dev. Office
Marc Dixon, Federal Highway Administration

Members not attending:

Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works
Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern
City of Milford

Dave Hugg, Town of Smyrna
Ryan Long, Federal Transit Admin.
Jason Halpin, Dover Air Force Base

Non-members attending:

Ashton Brown, DE State News
James Galvin, MPO Staff
Kate Layton, MPO Staff

Rich Vetter, MPO Staff
Chris Kirby, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

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

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

- 4) **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2014**

MOTION By Mr. Edgell to approve the minutes of April 9, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Chaffinch. Motion carried.

- 5) **ACTION ITEM: FY 2014 -2017 TIP Amendments (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, On The Job Training, Section 154 Penalty Transfer Program) - Rich Vetter (enclosure)**

Mr. Vetter reviewed the 3 amendments to the FY2014-2017 TIP. More funding became available on the federal side for these projects. They are statewide projects, and will be included in the WILMAPCO and Sussex County TIPs.

MOTION By Ms. Townshend to recommend Council adopt the 3 amendments. Seconded by Ms. Gray. Motion carried.

- 6) **Discussion Item: Draft FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Rich Vetter/Jim Galvin**

Mr. Vetter reported that despite discussing the Draft FY2015-2018 TIP at three separate meetings (5/7, 5/28 and 6/14), Council did not take final action on the TIP. All motions were a draw of 2 in favor, 2 against and 2 abstaining. The issue is the South Frederica grade-separated intersection project and where it falls on the priority list after DelDOT re-prioritized. Some Council members objected to re-prioritizing after an approved TIP was in place, and using a process, DecisionLens, that had no input from the MPO. There was considerable discussion concerning the TIP process; it was noted that the MPO is supposed to approve a TIP, then it should be incorporated into the State's plan. Instead, the State sends the MPO their Capital Transportation Program and the MPO has been creating a TIP that agrees with the CTP. Mr. Vetter noted that WILMAPCO "pushes back" and until now, the MPO has not. It was noted that the MPO process allows for disagreement, although the federal agencies would prefer that there is full agreement. Mr. Edgell noted that the Council meetings included an in-depth discussion of DecisionLens, and that the MPO needs access to the program. Economic development is only 8 percent of the ranking system, and only what DelDOT can measure, such as freight traffic. Mr. Vetter reported that DelDOT would be providing the MPO with a license, and a meeting has been set up with Drew Boyce from DelDOT for a demonstration of DecisionLens. There was considerable discussion concerning the TIP process, that DelDOT had changed an approved TIP



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using a new priority process without notifying the MPO, and that changing a priority system after a project is scheduled for construction is not the way to do. Further comment noted that the rankings DelDOT set for DecisionLens are skewed towards transportation; transit and economic development are not given the weight that MPO members felt they should have.

Consensus was that the TIP process should be started earlier next year. Mr. Galvin noted that FHWA has agreed to let the MPO move forward with the FY2014-2017 TIP while the rest of the State moves forward with FY15. It may require more amendments, but things would not “grind to a halt.”

7) Discussion Item: City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update - Rich Vetter

Mr. Vetter reviewed the progress of the update of the City of Dover’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. He noted that there would be a public workshop for the plan on June 26th at the Dover Public Library. An inventory of sidewalks and bike lanes and bicycle crash data are both included in the update, along with three pedestrian accidents that occurred along South State Street at Bayhealth. There will be another workshop in the fall, with final recommendations, and a final report by the end of 2014.

8) Member Agency Reports:

City of Dover: Planning – Ms. Townshend reported that the special mayoral election was coming up. It was also noted that WT Smithers is closing; there are multiple violations with the City of Dover, the State Alcohol Board and with food handling.

State of Delaware: DelDOT Planning -

DTC – Ms. Smith reported that fixed-route service changes would begin on June 15; the new schedules will take effect in Kent County on June 16th. She also noted that provisions to support the Firefly Music Festival were in place, and the new arrangements should make things easier for traffic in the area. There will be a temporary ParknRide at Christiana Mall, to support additional transit ridership with the I-495 bridge closure. Ms. Smith also announced that Lisa Smith, her TAC alternate, was hospitalized 6 weeks ago after a major stroke. She is now in a rehabilitation facility in Pennsylvania. It may be a year before she is able to return to work. Ms. Smith noted that DTC’s new director, John Sisson, is interested in doing an origin/destination study for the Dover/Kent County MPO area.

Statewide Planning – Mr. Edgell reported that legislation was passed creating a downtown development district. The bill has two parts: 1) create a program establishing the district and 2) funding. Seven million dollars in funding has been proposed. Towns would designate a downtown area, and submit an application for need. Local governments would have to propose incentives for the project; DEDO and DNREC would provide incentives as well. There is no minimum or maximum size for the project area. Public comments on the applications will be open in July. There was some discussion concerning this subject with TAC members.

DEDO - Mr. Zilcosky reported that the Kent Economic Summit would be held on September 23, 2014 at DelTech. There is also a new project coming to Kent County – a push on the farm to restaurant industry. He also reported that an RFP went out for the ramp construction at the Civil Air Terminal. He felt it was a strong plan and would bring in jobs, but expansion of use at the terminal depends on an MOU with the Air Force.

9) Staff Report:

9.1 Outreach Activities – Kate Layton

Ms. Layton reported on MPO outreach activities. She also reported that the Air Quality Partnership mascot, Tropo, is ready for special appearances and will be at the State Fair in July. She also noted that the PAC annual workshop would be held on June 24th at Dover Downs Festival Buffet.

9.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter

Mr. Vetter reported that there would be about \$80,000 in carryover funds from FY2014 available for FY2015. Mr. Zilcosky asked what projects the money would be used for; Mr. Vetter responded that it would go to Planning Studies. Mr. Zilcosky mentioned traffic counts at Thompsonville Road; Mr. Edgell noted that DelDOT has already done this. Ms. Townshend noted there are complaints regarding McKee and College Roads, that Westminster Village has requested a signal. DelDOT responded that a signal wouldn’t stop the accidents.

10) Next Meeting: August 13, 2014

MOTION By Mr. Chaffinch to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Zilcosky. Motion carried.