



Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

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

<http://www.doverkentmpo.org>

DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2013

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Dwight Meyer, Chair	Michael Gumrot, Vice Chair
Phyllis B. Collins	Dr. Daniel Houghtaling
Edmund Maron	Jeremy Tucker for Kevin Yingling
Jayce Lesniewski	Earle Dempsey

MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING:

Dr. Carlton Cannon
Prameela Kaza
James Webster

NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Michael Kudlick, Student, DelTech
Rich Vetter, MPO Executive Director
James Galvin, MPO Staff

Will Garfinkel, Bicentennial Village Civic Association
Kate Layton, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The two new PAC members, Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Lesniewski, were introduced and told the PAC members something about themselves.

Mr. Will Garfinkel, president of the Bicentennial Village Civic Association, introduced himself and said he was in attendance to talk about the DE 8 recommendations, and how Bicentennial Village homeowners would be affected. He also talked about the new Redners market going in where Superfresh used to be in the Greentree Shopping Center. Mr. Garfinkel said that the homeowners were not happy that Independence Boulevard being used as an alternate route from Walker Road to Route 8, and they would like the road closed. He also said that they were concerned about the traffic Redners would generate. He said the homeowners spoke to the City of Dover over a year ago, and more recently to DelDOT. Although he could not remember the name of the person he spoke to at DelDOT, he said he was unhappy with the response he received and thought the City was the Civic Association's best bet. He also said that the local Crimewatch was "on our side." Mr. Vetter explained that the DE 8 recommendations were not new, and were part of a 40 year plan. He also said that the MPO can pass on his comments and make recommendations, but that the final decision would be made by others.

Mr. Maron noted that there were potential problems at the Eden Hill/North Street traffic light, where Royal Farms is putting in a new store where Roadway used to be. He was concerned about people running the light, which has a short cycle, and no right lane. Discussion noted that it was a City of Dover project, but to be approved by DelDOT Royal Farms would be required to do some intersection improvements. Mr. Galvin said that there are no plans as yet.

3. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda*

MOTION By Dr. Houghtaling to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Gumrot. Motion carried.



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4. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes Dec. 18, 2012**

MOTION By Dr. Houghtaling to approve the December minutes. Seconded by Mr. Gumrot. Motion carried.

5. **ACTION ITEM: Amendments to the FY13 UPWP - West Street Traffic Study – R. Vetter - Dover High School Pedestrian Circulation Study**

Mr. Vetter reported that these two projects were being added to the FY13 UPWP at the request of the City of Dover. He reviewed both projects:

The West Street Traffic Study will examine the roadway from Eden Hill to Queen Street. It will include a sidewalk inventory. Although this area has been discussed for years, no study has been done to date. The West Dover Connector is scheduled for FY15-17, and will have an impact on the traffic here. Mr. Maron asked about the new Royal Farms going in at the former Roadway property at the intersection of Salisbury Road. Mr. Maron is a resident in the area, and cited short traffic signals, no right-hand turn lane and traffic back-up from North Street in the morning as current problems; he felt the Royal Farms would increase the traffic issues. Mr. Galvin said that he believed the North Street entrance would be blocked off, and that there would be intersection improvements as well.

The Dover High School Pedestrian Study will look at sidewalk efficiencies and gaps in the system. The state requires that students within a two-mile radius of a school walk to school if the sidewalk system will support it. Otherwise, extra money must be found for six extra buses to transport students to the high school. There are concerns about students who will have to cross DE8 to get to the school, the lack of a signal at the east entrance to the high school. Century Engineering has been contracted to look at the costs, including right-of-way, drainage, and utilities. Mr. Vetter noted that in one instance, the property owner opposes a sidewalk in front of his home. Mr. Maron asked about a pedestrian trail connecting west Dover to the Village of Cannon Mills; Mr. Vetter said that yes, there would be a stub connector. Mr. Gumrot asked how many students are in the two-mile radius; Mr. Vetter said that the MPO is waiting for that information from the school district. Mr. Gumrot also asked about the life-expectancy of the school, that 20 years out, the situation may be very different, a lot of apartments are going up in the area.

Mr. Vetter noted that there is money in the budget for these two projects, no extra funding is required.

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to recommend Council adopt both projects amending the FY13 UPWP. Seconded by Dr. Houghtaling. Motion carried.

6. **Discussion Item: Draft FY 2014 Unified Planning work Program (UPWP) – R. Vetter**

Mr. Vetter discussed the one-page summary of the proposed FY 14 UPWP. He said that the first six tasks of the UPWP are essentially the same from year to year. He noted that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was recently completed and won't need to be updated for another four years. Mr. Vetter said that he has solicited some ideas for future transportation studies from MPO staff and DelDOT reps, and presented those to the TAC. He said that there are some suggestions for new projects, including development trends on DE Route 8 and pedestrian counts on U.S. 13 for DE State University. He also said that he expected to see a 10% budget cut for FY14. He noted the UPWP schedule, indicating that the draft UPWP will be sent to the PAC in March and presented as an action item in April, for Council adoption in May.

7. **Discussion Item: Draft FY 2014- 2017 Transportation Improvement Program – J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin provided the TAC with handouts that included a map of the proposed DelDOT Capital Transportation Program projects from 2014 – 2019, as well as a description of the differences between the 2013-2018 CTP and the 2014-2019 draft CTP. He noted that the map had several projects in light gray text. These projects are either not funded in the FY 2014-2019 CTP or there are no federal funds allocated in that time period.

Mr. Galvin reported on DelDOT's FY14 budget based on revenue, and the overall financial outlook. Secretary Bhatt has said that there will be no borrowing this year, as the Department continues to reduce its debt service. In the long-term, expenditures will stay steady.



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Mr. Galvin also noted that projects have been pushed out to other years, and some have been dropped. Significant changes include the Route 8/Hazletville Road connector, the U.S. 13 (Court Street to Loockerman Street) pedestrian improvements, and Barratt's Chapel Road improvements. The improvements on Barratt's Chapel Road had depended on developer participation. However, with the change in the economy, there has been no developer activity in the area. The Clarence Street Extension has no money for construction.

The TIP will be an action item in April.

8. MEMBER REPORTS

Dr. Houghtaling noted that there is a new light at the Camden Redner's Market.

Mr. Meyer reported that improvements have been completed at the South State Street/Sorghum Mill Road intersection near the elementary school (????).

Mr. Galvin reported that there would be a PLUS meeting on 2/27 regarding the new DSP barracks for Troop 3. The new building will be on Golden Oak Road (off South State Street). In the South State Street Study, Golden Oak Road was not mentioned, although the proposed new barracks for Troop 3 was noted. Mr. Galvin said the site is 5 acres, was part of a subdivided property, and will be coordinated through the PLUS system. DSP expects to have construction completed in 3-4 years.

Ms. Collins noted the unexpected demise of Kelly Crumpley, who was a member of the Wyoming Planning & Zoning Commission as well as an employee of Kent County Planning. Ms. Layton reported that the MPO had sent condolences to both Mrs. Crumpley and Kent County.

9. Staff Reports –

9.1 Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter

9.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – MPO Staff

9.3 Correspondence, Publications/Reports/Outreach – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that the newsletter would be going out to the PAC members via e-mail; the hard-copy mailing through the US Postal Service had been delayed due to changes in the bulk mail requirements. The MPO will no longer send the newsletter out as a bulk mailing. Hard copies will be provided if requested, and to hand out at the events the MPO participates in.

Ms. Layton informed the PAC that Mr. James Brown has sent in his resignation letter to the county and the MPO. There are now two PAC vacancies; one county and one from the governor's office. The governor's office is working on filling their position. Ms. Layton asked PAC members to contact her if they knew anyone at would be interested in serving as a county member.

The MPO sent condolences to Michael Tholstrup on the death of his mother. Mr. Tholstrup works for the Town of Smyrna and was an MPO Intern in 2011.

The TIP Tour this year will be a virtual video tour. Staff is working on this now, and it will be posted on the MPO website. Ms. Layton hopes that this will increase the audience for the TIP Tour, because it is now more convenient. The Virtual Tour will include the ability to click on map locations to view a video link of the project, and Spanish subtitles. April is the target date for having this completed.

Staff noted that an actual TIP Tour could be initiated if/when there are new projects in the region. Mr. Meyer thought this was a great idea; the Tour was expensive considering how few people participated, and he felt that the virtual tour could reach more people.

Ms. Layton reported that the MPO would be participating in the 55+ Expo, with a large booth co-sponsored by DMV, DART and AAA Mid-Atlantic. The MPO would also be part of Earth Day, the Bug and Bud Festival, and Dover Days.

Ms. Layton said that the April agenda would include a discussion of the June workshop, and asked that if anyone had any ideas



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for speakers or locations, to let her know.

Mr. Vetter reported that the Capital City Bike Trail was scheduled for April construction

10. ADJOURN

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Houghtaling. Motion carried.

Next meeting – April 23, 2013, Kent County Administrative Complex, 555 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901