



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

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

## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014

### PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Dwight Meyer, Chair	Michael Gumrot, Vice Chair	Dr. Carlton Cannon
Phyllis B. Collins	James Webster	Jeremy Tucker
Jayce Lesniewski	Earle Dempsey	

### MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING:

Dr. Daniel Houghtaling	Prameela Kaza	Edmund Maron
Jonathan Street		

### NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:

William DeCoursey, University of DE, IPA	Marcia Scott, University of DE, IPA
Neil Kirschling, University of DE, IPA	Lorraine Dion, DE Tourism Office
Linda Parkowski, DE Tourism Office	Liz Purcell, DE Tourism Office
Mark Luszcz, DeDOT	Rich Vetter, MPO Staff
Kate Layton, MPO Staff	James Galvin, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff	

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS
3. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda (enclosure)*

MOTION By Ms. Collins to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Motion carried.

4. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes, Dec. 17 meeting*

MOTION By Mr. Lesniewski to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

5. **PRESENTATION: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), U.S. 13 Widening**  
– Mark Luszcz, DeDOT

Mr. Luszcz gave a power point presentation detailing the history of this proposed project coming out of DeDOT's HSIP program. The project area is from Puncheon Run south to the Woodside traffic signal. He reported that there are no more "small" projects or improvements that can fix this stretch of US13. Crashes per mile, time of day and traffic volume were reviewed; these accidents are higher than both Kent County and statewide averages. PAC members had questions about specific sections of the project area. Seventy percent of the accidents are rear-end collisions and are congestion-related. A map of the project area was reviewed, and the area falls within the State's Strategies for Investment Level One designation for investment. Dr. Cannon noted that this would be a long-term project, and new businesses and developments could be added to the area. Mr. Dempsey asked how the three lanes would terminate after the Woodside traffic signal; Mr. Luszcz said there would be three lanes through the signal for at least 1,000 feet. Mr. Dempsey also asked if this project was run through the DecisionLens software; Mr. Luszcz said that it was. Mr. Vetter noted that this project was ranked high by DecisionLens. There was discussion concerning how the West Dover Connector would affect this project. PAC members also suggested some other improvements, most of which have already been incorporated into the segment or were not within federal guidelines. Mr. Galvin informed the PAC members that this project would be on the April agenda as an action item as an amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, for adoption by the Council in May.



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### 6. **PRESENTATION: University of Delaware presentation /DelDOT Traffic Application – B. DeCoursey**

PAC members had been sent a link to this application to review. Discussion was led by Mr. DeCoursey and Ms. Scott; it was noted that this was the last focus group being held to review this application. Most of those who tried the application felt there were problems. Staff members of the Delaware Tourism Office felt that it wasn't necessary, since DelDOT already has a real-time traffic application. It was also noted that the application doesn't recognize alternate routes, and that it should be about traffic alerts only, a news feature wasn't needed. Some felt that the name of the application doesn't fit what it actually provides. Out of date alerts stay on, but should be dropped. Big alerts for big events (like NASCAR, Firefly) should be provided. The app's Twitter account was not kept current. It should pull in the feed or have a link, it should be social media or an application, not switch back and forth. Traffic conditions reported on the app were not current, always an hour or two old. Ms. Collins felt the "congestion" application was good, she used it. Ms. Parkowski said that the app took a long time to load, which brought up concerns about phone battery issues. Many of those present felt that the application fostered unsafe driving, since phones needed to be physically handled to get information, and Delaware law prohibits drivers from using hand-held cell phones when driving. Because of that, Ms. Collins suggested the application be voice-activated. There were additional comments that the audience needed to be defined to define the application, the purpose was not clear. It was felt that it should focus on being a traffic application, it couldn't be everything. Other comments agreed that the application wasn't defined enough, that it might be trying to be too many things; i.e., do drivers really need to know where traffic cameras are? They should be obeying traffic laws and signals regardless of where there are cameras. Mr. Webster thought this could be a revenue opportunity, charging commercial businesses to be included in the application. Ms. Parkowski felt that this was an informational tool, not GPS, and those businesses were included in GPS systems. She asked if an application was really needed. Many things that were or suggested for inclusion, already have applications available (weather, GPS). It was felt that visitors to Delaware might download and use the application while in the state, and delete it when they leave.

### 7. **DISCUSSION ITEM: Proposed UPWP FY2015 Transportation Studies, - R. Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reviewed a new project added to the list of transportation studies. The project is to develop a master plan for Milford at Route 1 and DE14. A large shopping center is proposed for the southeast corner. The complete UPWP will be presented in April as an action item.

### 8. **DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reviewed the materials noting the changes in DelDOT's proposed Capital Transportation Program (CTP) that would be incorporated into the MPO TIP. Ms. Collins asked if the Delaware Airpark runway expansion was still included; Mr. Galvin said that the project was included. He informed the PAC members that the FY15-18 TIP would be on the April agenda as an action item.

### 9. **\*\*\* MEMBER REPORTS \*\*\***

Ms. Collins reported that she was now the chair of the Planning & Zoning Committee for the Town of Wyoming. She said she is learning about land use and comprehensive plans.

Mr. Dempsey asked about the elimination of acceleration lanes at intersections. He asked if it had to do with the bicycle lanes, and noted that merging was bad before, but is even more difficult. He mentioned the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard travelling south to Bay Road, and South State Street and Carroll's Corner. Mr. Vetter said that he would contact Mark Luszcz and ask him about this.

Mr. Dempsey announced that he was now the second vice-president of the Kent County Volunteer Firefighters



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Association, and would be president in 2016. He also announced that the Magnolia Fire Company would be holding a “Santa Run” to celebrate the holidays.

## **10. Staff Reports –**

**10.1 Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter**

**10.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – MPO Staff**

**10.3 Correspondence, Publications/Reports/Outreach – K. Layton**

Ms. Layton announced that “tabling season” was beginning. The MPO is scheduled to participate in the 55+ Expo, Dover Days and the Milford’s Bug and Bud Festival. She asked everyone to go to the MPO’s FaceBook page and hit “like” so that she could get feedback on the page. She also asked that PAC members e-mail her with ideas for the page.

Ms. Layton also announced that the 2014 Bike Summit is now “Heels and Wheels” and will include information about walking as well as bicycling. It will be held on March 21 at University of Delaware’s Clayton Hall. Registration is free, and lunch will be included.

## **11. ADJOURN**

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Motion Carried.

Next meeting: April 22, 2014, Kent County Levy Court Building