



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

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

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

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## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2015

**Purpose:** Bi-Monthly Meeting

**Location:** Dover/Kent County MPO / 1783 Friends Way / Camden, DE / Town Council Chambers

**Date and Time:** April 8, 2015 - 10 AM – 12 NOON

### Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)

Mila Robinson, DelDOT Planning

Valerie Gray, DNREC

Joe Zilcosky, DE Economic Dev. Office

Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden

Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works

Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

Jennifer Vallee, Dover Air Force Base

Hans Medlarz, City of Milford

### Representatives not attending:

Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County Planning (Chair)

Ryan Long, Federal Transit Administration

Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern

Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District

Marc Dixon, Federal Highway Administration

Ann Marie Townshend, City of Dover, Planning & Insp.

Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture

Dave Hugg, Town of Smyrna

### Non-members attending:

Emmett Venett, Woodshaven Civic Assoc.

Rich Vetter, MPO Exec. Director

Kate Layton, MPO staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

Bill Geronimo, DelDOT Finance

James Galvin, MPO staff

Chris Kirby, MPO Staff

The meeting was called to order without a quorum.

Mr. Edgell announced that Michael Kirkpatrick, DelDOT's previous representative to the TAC, passed away suddenly. Mr. Edgell said that he had enjoyed Mike's humor, and asked for a moment of silence before the meeting. Ms. Robinson announced that there would be a Celebration of Life for Mike later in the warmer weather; she will pass on that information when she has it.

There was then a quorum and the meeting began.

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

Mr. Galvin asked that the agenda be amended by moving Item #9, Presentation on Route 1/NE Front Street up to be Item #4, and all other items moved down.

MOTION By Ms. Smith to amend the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Zilcosky. Motion carried.

MOTION By Ms. Gray to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Zilcosky. Motion carried.

- 4) ***ACTION ITEM:* Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2015**

Mr. Edgell noted that Item 6 of the minutes was very long, and he felt that it could be made shorter. Consensus was that this section could be summarized.



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MOTION By Mr. Chaffinch to shorten the Item 6 section of the February minutes. Seconded by Mr. Zilcosky. Motion carried.

MOTION By Ms. Gray to table approval of the February minutes until they are amended. Seconded by Mr. Zilcosky. Motion carried.

## 5) PRESENTATION: Route 1/NE Front Street Grade Separated Intersection – Emmet Venett, Woodshaven Civic Association

Mr. Venett gave a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated conditions at this intersection and the impact the problems are causing for residents in Woodshaven to access the highway. He reported that he has brought this issue up with the City of Milford, and DelDOT's former Secretary. He has been involved in advocating for this intersection for a couple of years, and believes that the accident/safety data has not been adequately reviewed. His information illustrated that the intersection has had more accidents, and more accidents with injuries, than the Thompsonville intersection. He felt it was obvious that the NE Front Street project should have come first. The City of Milford has issued a resolution supporting the NE Front Street project. Mr. Venett said he understood that the MPO was involved in prioritizing the Kent County area projects, and wanted to ask that the TAC consider moving this project ahead for funding sooner rather than later. Mr. Edgell thanked him for the presentation and said that the TAC appreciated hearing from a member of the community.

## 6) ACTION ITEM: FY 2015 - 2018 TIP Amendments - DelDOT Finance (enclosures) Route 1/N.E. Front Street Route 1 at Little Heaven

Mr. Geronimo reviewed the amendments, noting that the additional money was coming from the federal Section 164 (DUI) penalty funds for The Route 1/NE Front Street project. Under DelDOT's new secretary, Secretary Cohan, the safety ratings of the project was reviewed, and the priority was changed. The Little Heaven project has increased in cost due to additional work necessary to move the County pump station, add piles to the bridges, and add more fiber lines.

MOTION By Ms. Smith to recommend Council adopt both FY2015 TIP amendments. Seconded by Ms. Vallee. Motion carried.

## 7) ACTION ITEM: FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Rich Vetter (enclosures)

Mr. Vetter reviewed the projects in the FY2016 UPWP. He noted that the budget is about the same amount as last year, although the MPO will lose some funding due to the Salisbury Wicomico MPO. The Delaware portion of the Salisbury Wicomico MPO is being expanded. The funds for Delaware will now be split between WILMAPCO, the MPO and the Salisbury MPO. He does not expect that the amount will reduce the budget by any significant amount. In addition to the basic MPO tasks, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be updated this year, and new planning studies have been or will be added, such as assisting some of the smaller municipalities with Comprehensive Plans.

MOTION By Mr. Zilcosky to recommend Council approve the FY2016 UPWP. Seconded by Ms. V. Gray. Motion carried.

## 8) ACTION ITEM: FY 2016 - 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Jim Galvin (enclosures)

Mr. Galvin reported that the FY2016-2019 TIP is greatly reduced from previous years. The funding reduces over the four-year period: 2016 - \$64M / 2017 - \$39M / 2019 - \$16M. He noted that this is why there is another "push" for a revenue increase this year. Mr. Geronimo noted that there are two large projects in Kent County during this time-frame (West Dover Connector, Thompsonville and the Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersections) that have construction costs of about \$30M each. The Governor has proposed a revenue package to keep the Transportation Program funded.

Ms. Gray commented that the draft TIP that was sent to the TAC members is not the recently updated one that Mr. Galvin was referring to; staff will send out the latest draft after the meeting. Mr. Edgell noted that the changes were documented in an errata sheet. There was considerable discussion concerning the City of Dover's list of priority projects. Mr. Zilcosky thought that the Garrison Oak project should be the top project on the list. There was also discussion concerning the Lookerman



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Street Roundabout project, considering that the two projects (Garrison Oak and the Roundabout) should be “flipped” in priority.

MOTION By Mr. Zilcosky to amend the TIP to allow the MPO to switch the priority of the projects, swapping the Garrison Oak project with the Lookerman Street Roundabout. Seconded by Mr. Chaffinch.

Further discussion ensued. Ms. Robinson said that it was not as simple as changing out the position on the priority list. There was also concern that this change could hold up approval of the TIP, impacting the CTP in a similar manner to what happened with the South Frederica project last year. Mr. Medlarz noted that there is no funding in 2016 for the Roundabout, so Dover would have a chance next year to inform the MPO of their intentions. Mr. Geronimo agreed. Ms. Duca reported that although the Garrison Oak project is on the priority list, there has been no indication from the Mayor or Council that it should be “Number One.” TAC consensus was that they could not move this project up without input from the City of Dover leadership.

Mr. Chaffinch withdrew his “second” and the motion failed. Mr. Galvin suggested that the Interim Prioritization Working Group review all the projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that are not moving, and decide which are important for inclusion in the TIP.

MOTION By Mr. Medlarz to recommend Council approve the draft TIP as amended/updated by Mr. Galvin. Seconded By Ms. Duca. Motion carried with one abstention, Mr. Zilcosky.

Mr. Edgell assured Mr. Zilcosky that the TAC and MPO would continue working on moving the Garrison Oak project forward.

### 9) **ACTION ITEM: Reinstatement of Delaware Motor Transport Association to the TAC - MPO Staff**

Staff reported that DMTA was contacted regarding Council’s suggestion to become a voting member of the TAC. DMTA informed the MPO that they would prefer to be re-instated as a non-voting member.

MOTION By Valerie Gray to recommend to Council that the DMTA be re-instated as a non-voting member of the TAC. Seconded by Aaron Chaffinch. Motion carried.

### 10) **Member Agency Reports:**

**City of Dover: Public Works** - Ms. Duca reported that Dover is working with DNREC on Tar Ditch improvements from the old Public Works site up to State Street, and further into town to address other drainage issues in town.

**Milford** – Mr. Medlarz reported that the Milford City Council appointed him as the MPO TAC representative. Council has passed a resolution supporting the NE Front Street project. Milford is working with Bayhealth and DelDOT for a new Bayhealth Complex. There are challenges with utilities and entrances. The project is on Route 30 on the Sussex side of Milford, but not in the incorporated area of Milford.

**Camden** – Mr. Chaffinch reported that Camden is working with State Planning to amend their Comprehensive Plan.

**Dover Air Force Base** – Ms. Vallee reported that the runway project is adding a night shift due to weather issues, and they cannot go over the scheduled completion date. DAFB is recycling as much as possible.

**State of Delaware: DelDOT Planning** – Ms. Robinson reported that DelDOT is working on the Freight Plan, and she hopes to have a presentation for the MPO. The Freight Seminar will take place in Dover on June 24.

**DTC** – Ms. Smith reported that Statewide service changes will take place on May 17 in New Castle, and May 18<sup>th</sup> in Kent County; Resort service will be available on May 22. Kent County ridership has increased, the only county where that occurred. All other counties are down. The fixed-route fare increase brings the cost to \$1.75 per trip. The SEPTA rail service is doing well, and NCC Chamber of Commerce would like to have additional service. DTC is also working with Dover Downs and promoters on the upcoming music festivals, Firefly and Big Barrel as well as NASCAR.

**DNREC** – Ms. Gray reported that the Climate Summit will be held at DelTech Terry campus and will hear public comment regarding climate change impacts.

**Statewide Planning** – Mr. Edgell reported that the State Strategies update is ongoing.

**DEDO** – Mr. Zilcosky reported that Energizer is hiring 200 people; Bayhealth@ Kent General is hiring for 100 positions, mostly nursing, and Purdue is always hiring, they are doing very well with their organic chickens.



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### 11) Staff Report:

#### 11.1 Outreach Activities – Kate Layton

#### 11.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter (enclosures)

Ms. Layton reported that the MPO sent a condolence card to Michael Kirkpatrick's family, and a card of support to Ann Marie Townshend in regard to her husband's illness.

She also reported that the MPO will be participating in Milford's Bug and Bud Festival, Earth Day, Dover Days and the 55+ Expo at Dover Downs. The MPO is partnering with the Division of Motor Vehicles, DART and AAA Midatlantic. She continues to work with the Kent Kids Coalition, which is nearing the end of the grant funding from CMMI. The prevention of asthma triggers is an air quality issue, so Kent Kids will be incorporated into the Air Quality Partnership.

Ms. Layton noted that the PAC would be updating the Public Participation Plan this year.

Mr. Vetter reported that the Route 10 study (Brecknock Part to west of DAFB) is wrapping up. The Walkable/Bikable Summit will take place on May 7 @ Legislative Mall.

### 12) Next Meeting: June 10, 2015

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