



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
ANNUAL WORKSHOP
MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2013

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Dwight Meyer, Chair	Michael Gumrot, Vice Chair	Jeremy Tucker, for Kevin Yingling
Prameela Kaza	Edmund Maron	James Webster
Jayce Lesniewski	Earle Dempsey	

MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING:

Phyllis B. Collins	Dr. Daniel Houghtaling	Dr. Carlton Cannon
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NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Victor Santos, DE State University	Amir Mohammadi, DE State University
Cathy Smith, DTC, D/KC MPO TAC	Cindy Maron, public
Rich Vetter, MPO Staff	James Galvin, MPO Staff
Kate Layton, MPO Staff	Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS

Ms. Layton introduced Victor Santos and Amir Mohammadi of Delaware State University. They were invited to the PAC Workshop to give a presentation on the University's future plans.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

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

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes April 23, 2013

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013. Seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEM: U.S. 13 Corridor Plan — Town of Smyrna – R. Vetter

Mr. Vetter gave a presentation regarding Smyrna's US13 corridor project. He noted that this project was similar to the Neighborhood Transit Center project, which was adopted by the MPO Council in 2011. The report will go to Smyrna Town Council to implement recommendations from the corridor project. Mr. Vetter gave an overview of the charrette process and public participation that was involved in creating the Plan. There were some questions and discussion concerning some of the recommendations and the public participation process. Mr. Vetter reported that the TAC recommended that Council approve the plan.

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to recommend Council approve the Smyrna US 13 Corridor Plan. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

6. PRESENTATION: Guest Speakers: Amir Mohammadi, executive vice president and treasurer of Delaware State University (DSU) and Vic Santos, governmental liaison for DSU

The presentation noted that with enrollment growing, the safety of students crossing US13 is a concern. The university approached their Delaware Senator Brian Bushweller, as well as DelDOT and the MPO, which resulted in the pedestrian study beginning in September 2012. The study included a public meeting on the campus. The study recommended improvements, including shrubbery and chain link fencing to discourage students from crossing outside of the crosswalks, pedestrian crossings on College Road, median enhancement. The improvements are planned in phases. The university is also interested in a pedestrian bridge over US 13.



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The university just signed a 15-year lease for the Sheraton Dover Hotel. It will be used for conferences and hospitality facilities, dormitories and classes. The conference and hospitality facilities will also be available for rental. There is one section between the hotel and DSU that is missing sidewalk, and that is an issue for student safety. The University is also talking to the City of Dover for reactive lighting in the area.

There are concerns that once the new high school is open, there will be additional through traffic on College Road. In addition, DSU expects enrollment to be 5,000 students within the next five years.

DE State University recently received a score of 14 out of 14 for accreditation. Strategic planning must accommodate class and dormitory space for 5,000 students, as well as the maintenance the facilities will require. Modernization of older classrooms and dormitories is planned, particularly for three residence halls that have group showers and no air conditioning. The decision to rebuild or renovate will be based on cost-effectiveness. Class times are being extended, to begin at 7 AM and run through 10 PM.

The university has partnerships with schools in China, India and Malaysia. These programs are being funded by outside investors. Partnerships are also being developed in Vietnam and Namibia. Students will spend one year overseas, and three years in Delaware. There are currently 500-1,000 international students attending DSU.

The university has obtained the Army Reserve building on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington for a facility in northern Delaware. International students will be accommodated at the Kirkwood campus.

The university has been approved for an early admissions high school student program, and is partnering with 11 high schools. The program will admit high school juniors and seniors, who will earn 60 college credits upon high school graduation. Only 60 more credits will be needed to graduate college.

PAC members asked questions after the presentation, leading to some discussion concerning the access roads and trails along the back of the Dover campus connecting to Lowes and other commercial properties. PAC members thanked Mr. Mohammadi and Mr. Santos for their presentation, and Ms. Layton presented them each with a small gift from the MPO.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM: Dover High School Pedestrian Study – R. Vetter

Mr. Vetter reported that there are two sections in design for sidewalks between the new Dover High School and Mifflin Road. Both pieces are expected to be constructed in the summer of 2014. The pedestrian-activated signal is in design and almost completed, that will also be constructed next summer.

8. DISCUSSION ITEM: Camden Comprehensive Plan Amendment – R. Vetter

The MPO is assisting Camden with its Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The amendment will incorporate the 2009 truck bypass concept that DelDOT developed in 2009. The Camden Redner's has constructed one section of that bypass plan. The MPO will be assisting with mapping. Mr. Meyer asked about an undeveloped farm in the area; Mr. Maron asked about the Cracker Barrel restaurant said to be coming to the area; Mr. Vetter had not heard anything about either issue.

9. DISCUSSION ITEM: Airport Road Planning Study – R. Vetter

The City of Milford has asked the MPO to assist with a study for Airport Road. Milford is interested in improvements in the area, where there is now a Boys and Girls Club. The MPO will be developing a plan and cost estimate for the improvements. The study is expected to go from July until late fall 2013.

10. DISCUSSION ITEM: Project Prioritization Working Group – J. Galvin

Mr. Galvin reviewed the history of the working group, noting that it had not met while waiting for DelDOT to make a decision on prioritization software. The new projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan were prioritized according to the old process, so that the projects would be ranked with the same criteria as the existing ones in the plan. The working group has begun meeting again, to develop the process that was discussed last year. That process will identify problems, not projects, which will be forwarded to DelDOT for a solution. That solution/project will then be returned to the MPO for ranking. Karen



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Brittingham of DelDOT has been reviewing all the projects; 43 are fundable, 34 are on the “aspirations” list. This new process will review the projects in the RTP every four years, and communities will be given the chance to resubmit any that have not been funded.

Mr. Galvin noted that last year Mr. Gumrot was a member of the working group; he extended the invitation to anyone on the PAC that might be interested in being a member of the working group. He asked that they notify the MPO of their interest so that they could be included in the meeting notifications.

11. DISCUSSION ITEM: Kent Kids – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that the MPO is part of Kent Kids Partnership, an ad hoc committee looking at ways to tackle asthma triggers such as VOCs and ozone. She spoke about the history of the partnership, which includes Nemours, and announced that this year, she was elected president of the group. She reported that there would be an event at the Biggs Museum on August 10th, “Healthy in Delaware.”

12. * MEMBER REPORTS *****

13. Staff Reports –

13.1 Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter

13.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – MPO Staff

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

14. ADJOURN

MOTION By Mr. Gumrot to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kaza. Motion carried.

As the members were leaving, Ms. Layton distributed “thank you” gifts to the PAC members.

Next meeting: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013, Kent County Administrative Complex