

TIP Tour 2011 rolling through Kent County April 9

Take a ride on the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization's annual TIP Tour and learn about transportation projects in central Delaware. The annual bus tour around Kent County will depart at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 9 from Camden Town Hall, near U.S. 13.

The free tour visits sites around the county that are in, or have been submitted to, the MPO's Transporta-

tion Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP represents the first four years of the MPO's long-range Regional Transportation Plan. Look out the window from the comfort of a cozy bus and see the various transportation projects included in the MPO's fiscal 2011-2014 TIP.

Last year's tour visited Carter Road and downtown Smyrna, the overpass at Del. 1 and Del. 9, and the site of the Dover Transit Center. This

year's tour will visit come of the same sites, plus a few more, including the newly refurbished S. Governor's Avenue in Dover, Wyoming Mill Road.

Seating will be limited, so reserve your seat by calling (302) 387-6026, or send an e-mail to kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org. The reservation deadline is April 2. See you on the bus!

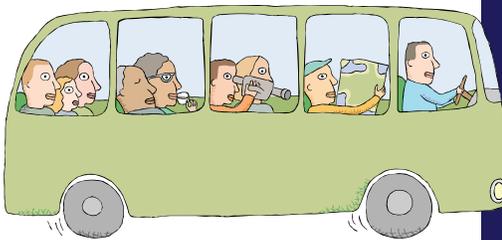
If you go:

When: 9 a.m. Saturday, April 9

Where: Bus boards at Camden Town Hall parking lot, off of Voshell's Mill Road and U.S. 13 and across the highway from B&B Music.

Tour sites include: The new Dover Transit Center, S. Governor's Avenue, the new Frederica overpass, and Wyoming Mill Road.

Seating will be limited. Call (302) 387-6026 or e-mail: kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org. Reservation deadline is April 2.



New Dover Transit Center opens

It has 500-foot canopies, new benches, a bike rack and information kiosks. DART riders have a new station in Dover.

On Dec. 10, Carolann Wicks, then secretary for the Delaware Department of Transportation, Sen. Thomas R. Carper, (D-Del.), the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization and local officials celebrated the opening of the new Dover Transit Center. The Dover/Kent County MPO had input in the various stages of the center's design.

The new transit hub is located at the corner of Queen and Water streets,

just a few blocks from the former Water Street hub.

"Providing a safe environment for Delawareans to catch a bus to their destination is so important," Sen. Carper said. "This project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is a great example of a shovel-ready project that came in on time and on budget and helped create jobs in our community."

The transit center site is 4.5 acres. DART First State fixed route buses enter and exit the center every 30 minutes. DART's paratransit service and private inter-city bus operations, such as

Greyhound and taxis also will use the center.

The large canopies provide passengers with protection from the sun, rain and snow. New benches provide a place for passengers to rest while waiting for their bus.

The center's bicycle rack complements racks that are located on the front of DART buses.

New bus lanes and their accompanying features are the first phase of the transit



Carolann Wicks, then secretary for the Delaware Department of Transportation, left, and Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Delaware), announce the opening of the new Dover Transit Center located at the corner of Queen and Water streets near downtown.

center project. Construction of the \$4.4 million project provided 38 local jobs. Phase Two will include a 30,000-square-foot office building, created through a public-private partnership.

(See DTC, Pg. 3)

DelDOT Secretary Wicks resigns post, effective March 18 Cauley to temporarily head department

On Feb. 18, Delaware Department of Transportation Secretary Carolann Wicks resigned her position, effective March 18. In March, Cleon L. Cauley, Sr., who was the department's deputy secretary, was named acting secretary, effective March 21. "This has been a difficult decision, but one that has been made with a clear conscience and the best interest of the department at heart," Wicks said of her resignation. "I have



Wicks

greatly enjoyed the many years I have served the State of Delaware, from an engineer just out of college to my position of leadership in one of the most hard-working agencies in the State of Delaware. The opportunities I have experienced in my years at DelDOT will always be looked upon with sincere gratitude. But, as with many other retirees, I will now move on to the next chapter in my life, including spending more time with my family."

Wicks is the eighth Secretary of the Department of Transportation. She began her career at DelDOT more

than 28 years ago as a civil engineer. She served in several leadership roles including the chief engineer for the department and Director of Transportation Solutions. As Secretary, she was responsible for the capital program, managing statewide transit services, motor vehicle services, and the maintenance and operation of 90 percent of Delaware's transportation system. DelDOT employs more than 2,600 transportation professionals.

"My only regret is that I am leaving a great organization with the most hardworking, dedicated state em-

ployees. The citizens of Delaware are being well-served by these many individuals, all with the goal of making Delaware's transportation system the best and safest for all who travel throughout our State," Wicks said.

Wicks served on several national and regional boards and committees, including the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Advisory Commission.

Recently, the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials ap-

Neighborhood Plan moving toward adoption



located at the corner of Queen and Water streets, could

viewed a draft of the plan, which should be finalized this spring. The plan came

established a vision for the area, it shopped the plan around to local community groups, city committees gaining endorsement. The group additionally created a 58-page design booklet that illustrates how the vision can create a downtown worthy of the First State capital.

A vision to enliven the Dover Transit Center neighborhood is inching closer to becoming a development plan for Delaware's capital city.

Dover City Council on Feb. 14 endorsed The Dover Transit Center Neighborhood Plan and design guidebook, a product of the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization, private consultants and the Downtown Dover Partnership, which is affiliated with the City of Dover.

The Plan demonstrates how the neighborhood surrounding the new hub, lo-



develop. Federal funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act paid for the \$4.9 million hub, which opened last December. City and MPO committees have

together during a five-day charrette, held last fall. Once a working group, comprised of hired consultants, MPO staff, members of the Downtown Dover Partnership and the public, es-

The vision calls for a livelier Dover with more people living near the transit center, more services, and space for walking and bicycles. The plan boundary lines are Loockerman, State, West and South streets, and would capitalize upon area landmarks such as Bayhealth-Kent General Hospital, downtown retail, Wesley College and Legislative Mall to entice new development in the area.

MPO Council welcomes new member, Cleon L. Cauley

Cleon L. Cauley, Sr., acting secretary for the Delaware Department of Transportation, is the new DelDOT representative on the MPO Council.



Cauley

Cauley replaces Ralph Reeb, former DelDOT director of

planning, who served on the panel as DelDOT's representative for several years after then DelDOT Secretary Anne Canby left in 2000.

Before joining DelDOT, Cauley served as Deputy Legal Counsel to Delaware Gov. Jack Markell where he was an advisor on legal and policy issues concerning the governor and the various executive branches of the governor's office.

Prior to that, he served as the state's first economic development ombudsman, where he coordinated activities regarding economic development issues.

As an attorney, Cauley worked for WolfBlock LLP's Real Estate, Environmental and Land Use Practice Groups, as Assistant County Attorney and Land Use Attorney for New Castle County, and as a deputy

attorney general for the State of Delaware Department of Justice, in which he prosecuted criminal cases in the Superior Court, Family Court, Court of Common Pleas and the Justice of the Peace Courts.

Cauley holds a law degree from Howard University and degrees in Psychology and Business from Immaculata University.



Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey, Sr., speaks at the opening of the Dover Transit Center, located at the corner of Water and Queen streets.



State and local officials celebrate at a ribbon cutting for the new Dover Transit Center. From left, Dover City Councilman Dave Bonar, Rep. Brian Bennett (D-Dover), Sen. Thomas R. Carper, Dover Mayor Carleton E. Carey Sr., Letitia Thompson of the Federal Transit Administration, Dover City Councilman Eugene Ruane, DelDOT Secretary Carolann Wicks, and Delaware Transit Corporation director, Stephen Kingsberry.



The new Dover Transit Center is larger and has more amenities than the old station two blocks away. The new station is equipped with news kiosks, vending machines and bicycle racks.

DTC, Continued

The new building will feature a passenger waiting area, and house the EZ-Pass Customer Service Center and a number of other agencies, including the Dover/Kent County MPO.

MPO 2009 data booklet available

Do you know what traffic Level of Service means, or how many passengers DART buses have carried in the last few years? Did you know that there are nearly 400 miles of concrete sidewalks in Kent County?

This information and more is in the Dover/Kent County MPO's latest edition of its annual Transportation Information Booklet, which is now available. The 40-page booklet is chock-full of transportation data for Kent County and throughout Delaware, as well as about MPO programs. Most of the information is from 2009, but some is from 2010, as the information became available during the publication's creation.

Copies are available for view at the MPO office at 1783 Friends Way, Camden, DE 19934, at Kent County area libraries.

To request a copy of the booklet, call (302) 387-6030, or e-mail MPO Public Liaison Kate Layton at: kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org.



DMV unveils Next of Kin Registry

Thanks to the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) residents can make sure their loved ones are notified in an emergency.

Delaware's Next of Kin Registry, which launched Feb. 14, is the second of its kind in the nation. Ohio has a similar program. Participation is voluntary and free of charge to anyone with a state-issued ID or driver's license. Only law enforcement officials have access to the provided information, unless it is necessary to share it with other emergency personnel. "A n y

tool that allows the Delaware law enforcement community to better respond to the needs and concerns of victims and their families is something that we welcome and support," said Safety and Homeland Security Secretary Lewis D. Schiliro.

The creation of the Next of Kin Registry is an effort among DelDOT, the DMV, the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DelJIS), the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the Delaware State Police, and the Delaware Department of

Technology and Information (DTI). The Delaware Department of State's Government Information Center (GIC) played an integral role in the project by fully funding the \$50,000 cost to create and implement the program.

For more information or to sign up for the Next of Kin Registry, please visit citizen.dmv.de.gov/mydmv.ejs?command=MyDMVHome and click on "Next of Kin/Emergency Contact Enrollment" or call 302-760-2080.

The registry allows participants to provide a primary and a secondary emergency contact by their name, address, and up to

three telephone numbers. Signing up for the program is fast, easy, and convenient through three different methods:

Online: Go online to dmv.de.gov. visitors are prompted to create a MyDMV online account. There, they can manage their information in the database and take advantage of the other online services. **In-Person:** Sign up at any of our four DMV branch offices.

By Mail: Download a form from dmv.de.gov or pick one up at any of our four DMV branch offices, and mail it in to the address on the form.

In-Person: Sign up at any

Census: Smyrna, Dover top in Delaware growth; Kent leads in county growth

Smyrna and Dover made Delaware's top five list for growth, according to the 2010 Census, and Kent County leads the state for growth by county.

According to 2010 U. S. Census figures, Wilmington, Dover, Newark, Middletown and Smyrna are the First State's five most populous incorporated places. Wilmington, with 70,851 residents, topped the list,

with Dover in second place with 36,047 residents. Newark, with 31,454 residents took third place, Middletown was fourth with 18,871 residents and Smyrna took fifth place with 10,023. Although fourth and fifth on the list, Middletown



and Smyrna showed the most growth by percentage in the census. Middletown grew by 206 percent and Smyrna grew by 76.5 percent. Dover's population grew by 12.2 percent, while Wilmington's population decreased by 2.5 per-

cent. New Castle County remains the largest of Delaware's three counties with 538,479. Its population grew 7.6 percent since 2000. Yet Kent County led the way in county growth with 162,310 residents — a 28 percent increase. Sussex County has 197,145 residents, but came in second in population growth with a near 26-percent increase.

Small area projections have big influence in planning

Over the last six months, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization has worked on small area population projections, and recently began developing employment projections for central Delaware.

A small area is a mapping designation that represents local population and employment, and is used to predict travel demand. Each area is determined by population, not by mileage. The data assigned to each small area is developed using county-level figures developed by the Delaware Population Consortium.

Central Delaware's small areas are intended for key planning uses. In a larger sense, small area projections will help state, county and municipal officials budget for road maintenance and construction. Moreover, the projections could aid in land use zoning, to predict where infrastructure and services will be needed, and what types of business to attract.

Staff from the Delaware Department of Transportation will integrate the population and employment projections when it creates land use planning and travel models, and local planners will use the projections for population, household and employment forecasts.

To develop these forecasts, MPO staff used existing population data and trends to create three preliminary scenarios referred to as the high end, low end and control estimates. After formulating these scenarios, an MPO population projection team created a fourth, and final, scenario, which distills the other three other scenarios and puts housing and employment trends in the mix.

Members of the Dover/Kent County MPO's Data and Demographics Committee, a subcommittee of the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee, use local knowledge and expertise to refine the data in the small areas, also called modified grids. The MPO plans to annually update the data.

A population projection model for the MPO area was created to be consistent with projections from the Population Consortium and local, on-the-ground knowledge of MPO-area subdivision construction over the last decade. The MPO is working on employment figures that project to 2040, and toward approval of numbers for the fourth scenario from the TAC.



DelDOT, Dover complete South Governor's Avenue improvements

In December, the Delaware Department of Transportation and the City of Dover celebrated the completion of improvements to South Governor's Avenue.

The \$11 million reconstruction project was one of DelDOT's larger transportation endeavors in Dover. The two-year project stretched between Webbs Lane and Water Street.

"We have motorists, transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists that are all benefitting from the achievements that we are celebrating today," said Carolann Wicks, who was DelDOT Secretary at the time. "The recently completed South Governors Avenue project is a safer and more attractive roadway that will serve as a gateway for the City of Dover, well into the future."

The most significant elements of the project included the construction of a new bridge at the Puncheon Run creek and the underground placement of all utility services in the corridor. Improvements included the construction of 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of the road, drainage, a 14-foot center turn lane, 11-foot travel lanes and 5-foot shoulders.



Improvements to South Governor's Avenue in Dover are complete. The road sports sidewalks on both sides, better drainage and a center turn lane.



IN THE WORKS: A project to realign Wyoming Mill Road in Dover started in late February, closing one lane of the road that runs between Dover and the Town of Wyoming. By the time the project ends later this year, the road will intersect with the entrance to the Village of Westover subdivision at Hazletville Road instead of nearer to the intersection at Mifflin Road.

Report: Public transportation cuts congestion and saves fuel

Public transit provides low-cost transportation to millions of people every year.

Whether they know it or not, transit riders give something in return that should make non-transit riders cheer. Every person who rides public transportation reduces traffic gridlock that delays drivers, frays their nerves and sucks gasoline from car engines. In 2009, public transportation saved 785 million hours in traffic delays and 640

million gallons of fuel from idling cars.

Texas Transportation Institute's (TTI) 2010 Urban Mobility Report, released in January, overwhelmingly shows the importance of public transportation in relieving congestion.

The report looked at road congestion in 439 urban areas in the United States. Of those, the Philadelphia, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area ranked 7th out of 35 in top urban areas that had the highest savings in delay hours due to public transporta-

tion use in 2009. States in this region saved 26,377,522 hours in traffic delays and 18,954,700 gallons of fuel.

Public transportation offers other economic benefits by helping people commute to work. Nearly 60 percent of all trips on public transportation involve travel to and from work and every \$1 billion invested in public transportation creates and supports 36,000 jobs.



Senior Driver Days set for May

The Delaware Division of Motor vehicles will hold Senior Driver Days on May 14 and 21 in Wilmington and Georgetown. Representatives from the Delaware Aging Network, Delaware Office of Highway Safety, AAA Mid-Atlantic, and the University of Delaware will be on hand to provide older drivers with information about ways to stay safe on the road. DART will give information about its RideShare program, and the

DMV will open its vehicle inspection lanes and booths for registrations, drivers' licenses, and handicap placards. AARP of Delaware will give CarFit assessments and adjust car components for maximum driver comfort and safety. Members of the Sussex County Mobility Consortium will attend the Georgetown event. The Wilmington celebration will run from 9 a.m. to noon on May 14 at the New Castle County DMV branch at 2230 Hessler Blvd. The Georgetown celebration will run from 9 a.m. to noon on May 21 at the Sussex County DMV branch, 23737 DuPont Blvd.

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branch at 2230 Hessler Blvd. The Georgetown celebration will run from 9 a.m. to noon on May 21 at the Sussex County DMV branch, 23737 DuPont Blvd.

The DMV and its Senior Driver Task Force is the sponsor for both events. The task force's overall goal is to keep senior citizens driving safely for as long as possible.

Call to make Your CarFit appointment at (302) 744-2562.

For more information about these special events, visit: www.seniordriver.dmv.de.gov



Study explores health benefits of living near public transportation

Living near public transportation is actually good for you.

In August, the American Public Transportation Association released a report which found that people who live in communities with high-quality public transportation drive less, exercise more, live longer, and are generally healthier than residents of communities that lack quality public transportation.

The Transportation Association's findings are part of a study, "Evaluating Public Transportation Health Benefits," by Todd Litman of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute. Litman aggregated the findings of several

recent studies and concluded that people living in transit-oriented smart growth communities enjoy several health benefits, not seen in other communities.



These residents drive less, exposing them to a lower risk of fatal vehicle accidents. Such communities also have less pollution, because public transportation produces far fewer emissions per passenger mile than private automobiles.

In addition, people who live near quality public transit are more likely to undertake regular physical activity than residents of automobile-dependent communities.

APTA president William Millar said public transportation enhances the overall quality of life of an individual and a community. Use of public transit simply means people walk more, regardless of income, which increases fitness levels. More importantly, increasing use of public transit may be the most effective traffic safety countermeasure a community can employ. Litman also noted that the 10 U.S. counties with the smartest, most

transit-oriented growth have approximately a quarter of the traffic fatality rates as counties with the most sprawling development. The traffic fatality rate for the Bronx, N.Y. was approximately four per 100,000 residents. However, for Miami, Kan., the rate was much higher with 40 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Researchers for the APTA study concluded that a growing portion of households want to rely more on alternative modes and live in more accessible, multi-modal communities. Accommodating this demand would provide benefits to users and society, including significant health benefits.

Earth Day event will kick start AQP's 2011 Ozone Season

The Air Quality Partnership of Delaware will kick start its 2011 Ozone Season at noon on Saturday, April 16 during the Delaware Solid Waste Authority's annual Earth Day celebration at Killen's Pond state park in Felton. The fun-filled event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature organizations and vendors that each offer different

ways for people to be good stewards of the environment.

This year's Ozone Season kickoff will focus on the health aspects of air quality. The group has invited Dr. Karyl Rattay, director of the Delaware Division of Public



Health, to speak. Mark VanderHarr of Delmarva Broadcasting will be the Master of Ceremonies for the announcement.

The Air Quality Partnership of Delaware is a public/private partnership consisting of individuals,

businesses, and agencies working to improve air quality. On days when air quality is poor (action days) a program called Enviroflash sends email alerts to those requesting them so that measures can be taken to lessen the impacts of air quality. Admission and parking are free to the public. For more information, visit www.dswa.com.

Save the Date!

Bike Summit rides this fall



Come to Lewes this fall when the third annual Delaware Bike Summit will be held Oct. 14 at the University of Delaware's Viriden Center.

The event, which has drawn hundreds from around the state and the country, aims to make Delaware a more bicycle friendly state by providing information and sparking discussions on how municipalities can reach this goal.



ALMOST READY: A new overpass is under construction in Frederica at Del. 1 and Del. 12. The overpass is the second in a planned series of structures, also known as grade separated intersections, along Del. 1. The first in the series is located adjacent to Del. 9 near Dover Air Force Base. The overpasses are included in the Dover/Kent County MPO's Transportation Improvement Program, and are designed to promote safety and mitigate traffic congestion.

Summer 2010 drew thousands to the movies and MPO air quality ad

Summer 2010 drew thousands of people to the movies, where they re-

ceived a few tips about saving the air.

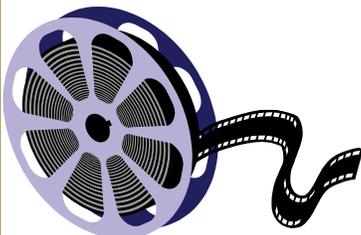
Between July 1 and Sept. 30, two downstate Delaware theaters — Atlantic Theaters' in Lewes, and Carmike Cinema 14 in Dover — played the Dover/Kent County MPO's advertisement for air quality season. The theaters sold a

combined 236,111 tickets in the months that the ads played.

Air quality advice included combining errands into one car trip, proper engine and tire maintenance and asking drivers to avoid topping their gasoline tanks. The MPO showed its ads with the help of a \$4,500 matching

grant from Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and its Community Environmental Project Fund.

Campaign costs totaled \$6,489.28, of which the grant covered 69 percent. The MPO paid the remaining 31 percent of the costs.



Find the Dover/Kent County MPO on Facebook!

Delaware State University launches transportation education program

Are you interested in a career in transportation? Delaware State University might have a place for you.

In December, DSU announced the creation of its Transportation Education Development Program. This program will establish courses in transportation support fields for students looking for in careers in surface transportation.

"This partnership benefits students and the state by preparing some of our

future transportation workers, whether they will become engineers, appraisers, surveyors or land planning specialists," Gov. Jack Markell said at the program's announcement. "It's in our interest and theirs to make sure they enter the workforce educated, trained, and prepared to succeed with a clear path forward."

DelDOT, the Delaware Department of Education (DOE), the Federal High-

way Administration (FHWA), and DSU are partners in this program to provide training in transportation support fields.

"It also fits right into our university's vision to assist the state with targeted needs — in this case the professionals and skills needed to fulfill the goals of Delaware's transportation blueprint," DSU President Dr. Harry L. Williams said.

The TED program will piggy-back on other trans-

portation education partnerships, such as one run through Delaware Technical and Community College, to recruit engineers.

DSU's new program supports an executive order by President Barack Obama to encourage relationships between federal agencies, state agencies that receive federal funds, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Dover/Kent County MPO is going Green



To save paper and postage, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization would like to deliver its newsletter, Journeys, via the Internet. Please contact the MPO at kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org, or at (302) 387-6026 and tell us if you prefer to receive Journeys via e-mail, or the U.S. Postal Service. Thanks for helping the MPO's efforts to be earth conscious. Go green!

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