



DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2014

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS attending:

Dwight Meyer, Chair	Chris Asay	Dr. Carlton Cannon
Earle Dempsey	Jonathan Street	James Webster
Jeremy Tucker		

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS not attending:

Edmund Maron, Vice Chair	Michael Gumrot	Phyllis B. Collins
Dr. Daniel Houghtaling	Prameela Kaza	Jayce Lesniewski
Kevin Yingling, alternate		

NON-MEMBERS attending:

Gene Donaldson, DeIDOT Traffic Management Center	Rich Vetter, MPO Staff
Kate Layton, MPO Staff	James Galvin, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff	

1. PRESENTATION: Tour of Traffic Management Control Center – G. Donaldson, DeIDOT

Mr. Donaldson reviewed the history of the TMC and described how it works to monitor and manage traffic throughout the state. The PAC toured the main control room and met some of the staff on duty.

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

MOTION By Mr. Webster to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dr. Cannon. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes, June 24, 2014

MOTION By Mr. Tucker to approve the minutes of June 24, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Street. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEM: Annual PAC officer election (chairman, vice chairman)

Mr. Meyer stepped down and Ms. Layton ran the meeting for the annual elections.

MOTION By Mr. Dempsey nominating Mr. Meyer as Chair.

Mr. Meyer declined the nomination, stating that he would be stepping down from the PAC as soon as he found a replacement to recommend to Kent County Levy Court.

MOTION By Mr. Webster to nominate Mr. Gumrot as Chair. Seconded by Mr. Asay. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Meyer to close nominations. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

Mr. Gumrot was elected Chair by acclamation.

MOTION By Mr. Tucker nominating Mr. Maron as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Dempsey to close nominations. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.



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Mr. Maron was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

7. ACTION ITEM: FY 2014 -2017 TIP Amendment (Scenic Byways Program) - Rich Vetter

Mr. Vetter explained that the amendment was necessary to take advantage of additional federal monies that have been allocated to the program. The Scenic Byways program funds are used for wayfinding signs, parking improvements, easements and similar projects to enhance the route.

MOTION By Mr. Dempsey recommending Council adopt the FY2014-2017 TIP amendment. Seconded by Mr. Meyer.
Motion carried.

8. ACTION ITEM: FY 2015 Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects - Rich Vetter

Mr. Vetter explained that these are the projects DelDOT is recommending for the federal monies allocated for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality. He noted that the projects are statewide, and that the TAC members – particularly DNREC – had questions concerning whether or not the air quality benefits had been quantified. The TAC also noted that the amount of money does not seem to add up correctly to the total, and tabled this item, asking for further information from DelDOT. Mr. Webster felt the PAC should follow the TAC's lead on this.

MOTION By Mr. Webster to table this item pending more information from DelDOT. Seconded by Mr. Dempsey.
Motion carried.

9. ACTION ITEM: 2013 Delaware Population Consortium Projections Distribution - Jim Galvin

Mr. Galvin reviewed the purpose of the Data and Demographics Subcommittee. Mr. Galvin also reviewed the methodology used to update the projections in accordance with the DE Population Consortium numbers, which control numbers the MPO is required by law to use. He reviewed the materials distributed, and noted the changes in employment categories, which allowed for a more detailed designation of job types.

There was some discussion concerning the figures and how the DPC gets the control totals, and how the employment and population numbers change in future years. Mr. Asay said that, as he was new to the MPO process, he wanted to know why the MPO did this. He was told that the information is used for planning purposes, that the DelDOT modelers use it for transportation modeling, and the counties use it for development and traffic analysis. Mr. Galvin explained that the information used to determine the control totals is gathered from many different sources, including labor data, the census and from the counties and larger municipalities.

There was further discussion as to how the data is collected and incorporated into the projections. Mr. Galvin informed the PAC members that this information is required by law and this task is performed by MPOs across the country.

Mr. Galvin reported that the subcommittee felt the methodology and resulting projections were sound, and recommended that the PAC forward the projections to Council for approval.

MOTION By Mr. Webster to recommend Council approve the updated projections. Seconded by Mr. Tucker.
Motion carried.

10. ACTION ITEM: Draft FY 2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program - Jim Galvin

Mr. Galvin reported that the Council had issues with the previous draft FY2015-2018 TIP and did not adopt that document. He also reported that the approved MPO FY2014-2017 TIP is still in place until a new TIP is adopted.

Mr. Galvin noted that the previous draft was based on DelDOT's Capital Transportation Program of \$228M, which funds were based in part on an increased gas tax that was not approved. DelDOT's original estimated budget was \$128M; due to increased borrowing authority and an increase in SR1 tolls, the new CTP and TIP are based on \$168M. Much of the additional funding is going to pavement projects and communities through the legislators municipal aid funds.

The problem is that the Thompsonville grade-separated interchange project is still ahead of the South Frederica project, and Council is unlikely to pass this draft TIP either. Mr. Vetter noted that the most significant changes were the removal of the



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Camden bypass and the Garrison Oak connector – the projects are “placeholders” with only some design funding allocated. He reported that the TAC asked for design for the Garrison Oak Connector Road be added to the draft FY2015-2018 TIP.

Mr. Galvin said that DelDOT has trouble with projecting economic development benefits, and does not want to implement the Garrison Oak project until a traffic generator is in place.

There was further discussion concerning the changes between the first draft TIP and this second one. There were questions concerning the scheduling of projects. Mr. Vetter noted that the TAC had questions as well, but that scheduling is not something the MPO has any input on.

MOTION By Mr. Tucker to recommend Council approve the draft TIP as amended by the TAC. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried with 4 approving, 2 against and one abstention.

Mr. Dempsey noted that, as a County appointee, he voted “no” because he felt that the South Frederica project had not been analyzed correctly, and he felt his vote should represent the County in this. Mr. Street said that his “no” vote was based in part on the South Frederica project and because he felt that more should be done to improve the current infrastructure than to build more roads to maintain.

There was some further discussion concerning maintenance funding, which is a mix of state and federal monies.

11. **ACTION ITEM: Conversion of Data & Demographics Subcommittee to a Working Group - Jim Galvin**

Mr. Galvin explained that future work of the subcommittee would probably only take a few meetings a year, and the subcommittee felt that this could be done as a working group. A working group would not require a quorum, which was sometimes problematic for the subcommittee. Staff also explained that a working group that did not need a quorum, could move forward with the work even if only a few people could attend a scheduled meeting, and could add or subtract members as desired or necessary. A working group would also allow some leeway with public notice, and would still be open to the public.

MOTION By Mr. Tucker to recommend Council allow the Data and Demographics Subcommittee to become a Working Group. Seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Motion carried.

12. ***** MEMBER REPORTS *****

Mr. Dempsey announced that he has been appointed to the Caesar Rodney School District Citizen Oversight Budget Committee. Ms. Layton asked if there was a transportation element to this committee; Mr. Dempsey said he did not know yet. He further reported that each district is now required to establish a 5-person oversight committee to review the budget.

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. Tucker to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.

Next meeting, October 21, 2014, Kent County Levy Court Building

***** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING LOCATION WAS CHANGED AFTER THIS MEETING TO CAMDEN TOWN HALL. PLEASE CHECK THE MEETING NOTICE. *****