



# 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 JUNE 24, 2014 ANNUAL WORKSHOP

### PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS attending:

Michael Gumrot, Vice Chair  
Chris Asay  
James Webster

Earle Dempsey  
Jonathan Street

Jayce Lesniewski  
Phyllis B. Collins

### PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS not attending:

Dwight Meyer, Chair  
Dr. Daniel Houghtaling

Edmund Maron  
Prameela Kaza

Dr. Carlton Cannon  
Jeremy Tucker/Kevin Yingling (alternate)

### NON-MEMBERS attending:

Cathy Smith, DTC  
James Galvin, MPO Staff

Rich Vetter, MPO Staff  
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

Kate Layton, MPO Staff

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Gumrot took this opportunity to comment on the issue of the Regional Sports Complex and where it fell in DelDOT's proposed FY 2015-2018 Capital Transportation Program. He reported on the extensive discussions held at the May Council meeting and 2 subsequent additional meetings. He noted that Council members did not agree and did not approve the MPO's proposed FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program with DelDOT's rankings. He felt that it was up to those at a higher level in State government to make a decision.

### 3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Vetter apologized, but asked if Item #10 could be moved up to Item 9, because he had to leave early.

MOTION By Mr. Webster to approve the agenda with the above amendment. Seconded by Mr. Street.  
Motion carried.

### 4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes, April 22 meeting

MOTION By Ms. Collins to approve the April 2014 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Street. Motion carried.

### 5. ACTION ITEM: FY 2014 -2017 TIP Amendments (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, On The Job Training, Section 154 Penalty Transfer Program) - Rich Vetter (enclosure)

These three amendments to the TIP are required because additional federal monies were made available for the programs. Mr. Vetter reported that the TAC voted to recommend Council adopt all three of these amendments.

MOTION By Mr. Dempsey to recommend Council adopt all three amendments to the FY2014-2017 TIP.  
Seconded by Mr. Webster. Motion carried.



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### **6. PRESENTATION: Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC), DART changes**

Ms. Smith's presentation was based on DTC's need to rethink how DART does transit. DTC has been researching comparable fares in surrounding areas, and is holding workshops in all three counties. In particular, there are issues with the paratransit service. Delaware does more than comply with ADA regulations; for years, service has been provided far outside the required, has been "door-to-door," and fares have stayed the same for 25 years. Now, however, there is an increased demand for services and funding is not keeping pace.

There was some discussion concerning why the service was so all-encompassing. Ms. Smith said that the service area was not defined in Delaware's legislation, and political concerns were also involved. Now, DTC is trying to align paratransit service with ridership, and coordinate with fixed-route service to fill in any gaps. Meetings with transit users, policy makers and operations are ongoing. Public comment is being solicited through workshops and on-line surveys.

Ms. Smith reported that statewide, 37% of paratransit trips are outside the ADA-mandated service area; these trips cost approximately \$50 one-way. Fixed-route service fares are \$5-6, and heavily subsidized. She also reported that other state paratransit services do not travel outside of their service areas. DTC would like to delineate the service area. She noted that advocates for people with disabilities have not responded favorably.

Ms. Smith's presentation summarized DTC's ideas for redefining transit service, which includes priority trips for paratransit (medical trips vs. shopping trips) and linking service with fixed route connections. DTC has received approval for a 3-year increase in fares. Paratransit fares will be \$2-3 inside the service area, \$5-6 outside the service area.

Discussion with PAC members included a suggestion to pattern service after that in cities like New York and Baltimore, where bus routes follow major roadways such as US13, with transfers at major intersections. Ms. Smith said that the industry felt that the "pulse" system was antiquated, but that DTC would have to look at it. There was also discussion concerning the cost of transit and paratransit, particularly noting that a \$5 fare for a trip that actually costs \$100 did not seem too much money. PAC members also felt that night service was a desirable program to implement. There was also a brief discussion for passenger train service; however, studies have shown that to be too expensive to implement, and with no large ridership base.

Ms. Smith asked everyone to watch for information in the next legislative information session in September. The next changes in transit schedules and fares would be in January 2015.

### **7. DISCUSSION: Draft FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – R. Vetter/J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reported that the previous draft TIP of \$228M was no longer being considered, that the next proposed TIP will be based on \$128M. Although in the past there have been escheat monies available for the TIP, that was not the case this year. The MPO has not seen a new draft TIP. Mr. Gumrot said that, until June is over, it is just speculation.

### **8. DISCUSSION: City of Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update – Chris Asay (enclosure)**

Mr. Asay reviewed the history progress of the update of the City of Dover's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. There would be a public workshop for the plan on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Dover Public Library. There was a discussion concerning funding: Mr. Asay said that Dover would develop the plan, then hand off the projects to the MPO and State to find funding. Mr. Galvin noted that money was going to be limited due to both DelDOT's situation and the national one. He felt that the City would have to do some of this, and DelDOT would be passing some projects off to developers. Mr. Asay said that since funds are limited, it would be important to identify the top priorities, because otherwise a lot of money could be spent on projects no one will use – like the US 13 bike lanes.



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There was further discussion concerning setting priorities, and expecting them to get done rather than something DelDOT chooses. It was also noted that the center of Dover has the biggest problems for bicycle riders, but that so far there are no solutions for the area. Mr. Gumrot said that establishing priorities and finding monies was important, but the Plan needed to be done first.

**9. \*\*\* MEMBER REPORTS \*\*\* - NONE**

**10. Staff Reports –**

**10.1 Progress & Financial Reports (enclosures)**

**10.2 Other Project Updates/Activities**

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

Ms. Layton noted that MPO staff would assist the City of Dover in the Dover Bicycle Plan Update workshop. She also told PAC members that she needed a group photo for the newsletter. The MPO participated in the Safe Summer Day event on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Layton listed a number of other summer events that the MPO would be attending. She also reported that “Tropo,” the Air Quality Partnership mascot, would be making his debut at the Delaware State Fair.

Ms. Layton informed the PAC that she was working with the State to explore the possibility of publishing MPO studies and reports in e-book format, and asked if PAC members were interested in that, or was publishing on the website enough? PAC members did not make many comments, only noting that they would support it if it did not cost the MPO anything.

Ms. Layton also reported that she has sent “get well” cards to Dwight Meyer, PAC chair, after his surgery and to Lisa Collins of DTC, who had a stroke.

Mr. Dempsey thanked Ms. Layton for participating in the Safe Summer Day event.

**11. ADJOURN**

MOTION By Ms. Collins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: Aug. 26, 2014, DEMA Building, Smyrna for tour and meeting**