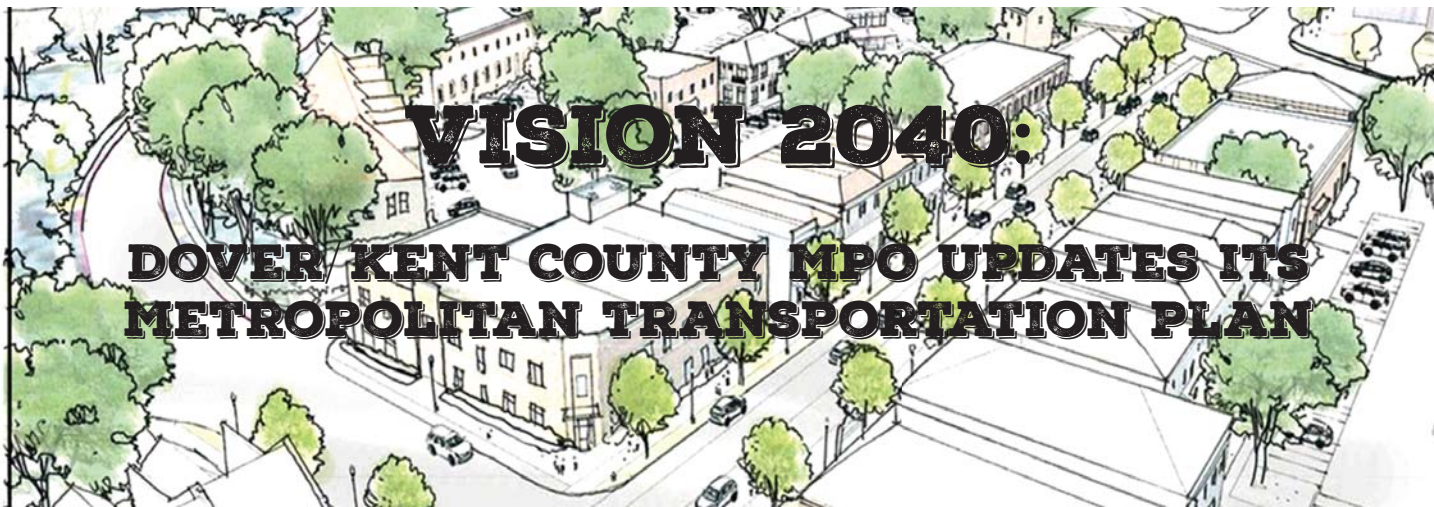


Journeys

The Newsletter of the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization



Do you live or work in Kent County? How's the traffic congestion in your area? What kinds of things do you think will be priorities for central Delaware over the next 10 to 20 years?

The Dover/Kent County MPO wants the public's answers to these questions as it pursues input for *Vision 2040*, the MPO's draft update to its long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP is one of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's core projects. The document looks toward how central Delaware's transportation network can and should take shape in the next 20 or more years, and sets measurable goals for the process.

The MTP's primary goals are to move people safely and efficiently, strengthen communities and promote economic development.

This is the fifth update to the MPO's long-range plan. Federal law requires MPO's to update their long-range plans every four years.

Although some of the local transportation projects in the draft *Vision 2040* plan will carry over from the existing MTP, there will be some differences too. A new federal transportation bill, enacted last December, provides additional funding for highways and transit, and requires more detailed performance measures for safety, bridges, pavement and other categories.

Per the new transportation bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation, highways and transit will receive 2 percent more money per year, starting in Fiscal Year 2017.

Kent County is projected to receive between \$800 million and \$900 million in state and federal funds between now and the year 2040, based upon historical trends. The draft *Vision 2040* document lists about 35 road projects and 12 walk and bicycle projects that are considered to be "financially reasonable." These projects include:

- The proposed Camden Bypass

- Improvements to Kenton Road
- The proposed widening of U.S. 13
- A grade-separated intersection at Rt. 1 and Northeast Front Street in the Milford area.

Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian projects include:

- More sidewalks along U.S. 13 in Dover
- The Proposed Senator Bikeway Project along Rt. 8
- A proposed bike trail along Route 10.

Vision 2040 will have more emphasis on freight — another carry over from the previous transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century. Last year, Delaware updated its freight plan, and became one of the first states to take freight planning a step further by joining with Maryland and Virginia to create a regional freight plan for the Delmarva Peninsula.

MTP, continued from Pg. 1

The MPO's campaign for public input will run through most of the summer. So far, MPO staff has attended a number of municipal meetings to talk about the MTP and collect some input. However, there are several ways in which the public can contribute opinions. Part of this initiative is a survey, which is available through the MPO's website, www.doverkentm-po.org.

Comments also are welcome via e-mail to Public Outreach Manager Kate Layton at kate.layton@doverkentmpo.org, and on the MPO's Facebook and Twitter pages. The comment period will end in August to give MPO staff time to incorporate the input into the draft document and then in to the MPO's approval process. If the MPO Council approves the draft MTP document in January 2017, the MTP will go to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for adoption. For more information, call the MPO office at (302) 387-6026.



Want to take the MTP survey? It just takes a few minutes. Go to www.doverkentmpo.org. You also can follow this link to go directly to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K95L9M7>

TIP Tour 2016 shows future project sites



The Dover/Kent County MPO would like to thank everyone who attended its bus tour of transportation improvement sites. The free, guided tour was held on April 20, and was open to the public. The tour sites were ones that are included in the MPO's long-range transportation plan, or the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and will be in the agency's FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. These sites included:

- The Crawford Carroll Avenue extension
- Kenton Road improvements
- The proposed roundabout at Forrest and Loockerman streets
- The proposed Camden Bypass
- The section of U.S. 13 slated for widening
- Remaining proposed grade-separated intersections on Route 1.

Special thanks also go to the Delaware Transit Corporation and the Delaware Department of Transportation for all their help to make this one of the MPO's more successful tours.

DART daily resort service returns

Visitors can take the bus to the beaches

Ahh, the beach. There's nothing like a day of sun, sand, and salt water. Memorial Day weekend is typically the start of beach season in Delaware.

That also was the start of DART First State's daily resort service. DART is now running seven bus routes serving Rehoboth Beach and the boardwalk, Lewes, Long Neck, Dewey Beach, Ruddertowne, Bethany Beach, South Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island and Ocean City, Md. The service operates seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. Daily resort service will run through Sept. 11.

For those who wanted to get a jump start to their beach weekends, DART started a limited weekend resort bus service three weeks early.

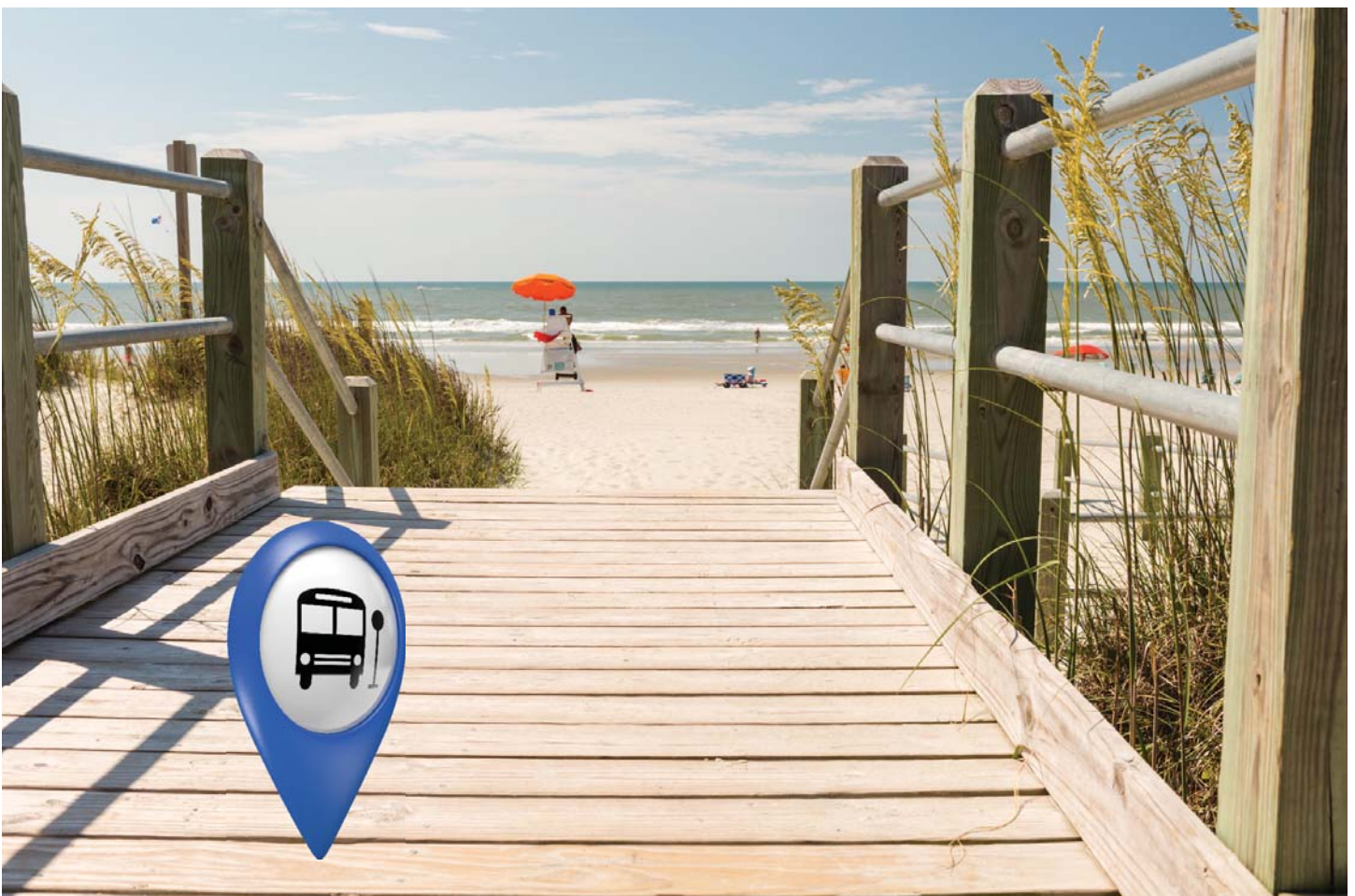
From May 7 to 22, DART operated a new Route 202 on Saturdays and Sundays between the Rehoboth Park & Ride, the Tanger Outlets, Midway Shopping Center and the Rehoboth Beach boardwalk.

Delaware Transit Corporation CEO John Sisson said that the weekend service came after several requests, and to help alleviate traffic conges-

tion along the resort area corridor. Route 202 will restart for a couple more weekends from Sept. 11 to 25. Buses for all the routes are air conditioned, ADA accessible and equipped with bicycle racks.

For the complete Route 202 schedule and bus stops, visit DartFirstState.com/Resort. Visitors and residents are encouraged to use DART's Park & Ride lot, located just off of Rt. 1 on Shuttle Road, just north of the entrance to Rehoboth Avenue. The parking rate is \$8 per car, per day, and includes up to four free daily passes. One way cash fares are \$2. Customers may also buy all-day passes for \$4.20.

The Delaware Transit Corporation, a subsidiary of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), operates DART First State. For information on fixed route bus services statewide, please call 1-800-652-DART or visit www.DartFirstState.com.





Let's be **A**ware of **Q**uality
ir

Air Quality Partnership of Delaware kicks off new season of air quality action season and ground-level ozone awareness

We'd all like to breathe a little easier. The Air Quality Partnership of Delaware works every day of the year to help that happen, and especially in the spring and summer.

On April 22, the AQP officially started Air Quality Action Season for 2016 at an Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration in Wilmington. At the event, AQP members, along with Wilmington city officials talked about the importance of good air quality.

"The persistent problem of unhealthy days of high ozone continues to be a struggle for Delawareans, especially for those with lung disease, like asthma or COPD," Deborah Brown, president and CEO of the American Lung Association of the mid-Atlantic said at the Earth Day celebration. "Reducing pollution will only become more challenging because warmer temperatures increase the risk for ozone and particle pollution, and make cleaning up the air harder in the future. We need stronger air quality standards to limit pollution and continued cleanup of the current sources of pollution both within and upwind of Delaware to protect the health of our citizens."

The American Lung Association gave Delaware a failing grade for ground-level ozone (smog) emissions in its State of the Air report this year. The same report gave

passing grades to Kent and Sussex counties for particle pollution (soot) emissions, while New Castle County failed in that category. Most of the Dover/Kent County MPO's jurisdiction is in Kent County, but includes small areas of New Castle County in Smyrna and Sussex County in Milford.

Ground-level ozone is created when heat and sunlight mix with nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide,

healthy adults to breathe. Delaware had several orange and red ozone-code days between the years 2012 and 2014.

Kara Coats, deputy secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), said Earth Day was an occasion to pause and celebrate our environmental successes and promote the continued protection of our planet.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Deb Brown, president and CEO of the American Lung Association of the mid-Atlantic, Herb White, urban forest administrator for the City of Wilmington, Jennifer Adkins, executive director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and Kara Coats, deputy secretary of DNREC, show it takes teamwork to improve air quality.

"Our future depends upon clean air and clean water, and I encourage all Delawareans to take meaningful actions that will help protect and conserve our natural resources and improve our quality of life," Coats said.

Coats also read a proclamation from Gov. Jack Markell, making May 2-6 Air Quality Awareness Week. The proclamation also urged Delawareans to do their share then, and throughout the year to combat air pollution.

which often are found in industrial and automobile emissions. Ozone levels of this type are higher on sunny, hot and humid days. Ozone levels are color coded, with green being the best to red and hotter colors on the spectrum being the worst. The higher the ozone level, the harder it can be to breathe, especially for children, older adults, asthmatics and others with health complications. Especially high ozone days, called air quality action days, can make it hard for

According to DNREC's Division of Air Quality walking or biking one mile instead of driving a car can eliminate nearly one pound of carbon dioxide emissions.

The Air Quality Partnership is a group of citizens, public agencies, and private corporations concerned about our region's air quality. For more information about the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware or to sign up for air quality email alerts, please visit www.wilmapco.org/AQP.

Put down some



Trees give us many things.

They provide shade and shelter, they are homes for our feathered and furry friends, and provide us with fruits, nuts and other goods.

Trees also help keep our air and water clean. A single tree can absorb 10 pounds of air pollutants per year, according to American Forests.org., which also said that the average healthy, mature tree produces roughly 260 pounds of oxygen annually. The average person consumes 386 pounds of oxygen per year, and two trees provide enough oxygen for one person per year. A tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, and can seize one ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old.

As for water, one large tree can lift up to 100 gallons of water out of the ground in one day and discharge it into the air, Forests.org said. For every five percent of tree cover added to a community, stormwater runoff is reduced by approximately two percent. Another site, TreePeople.org further says that shade from trees slows water evaporation from thirsty lawns. Most newly planted trees need only fifteen gallons of water a week. As trees grow, they increase atmospheric moisture. Further, trees reduce water runoff by breaking rainfall and allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This prevents storm water from carrying pollutants to the ocean. When mulched, trees act like a sponge that filters this water naturally and uses it to recharge groundwater supplies.

In Delaware, we need the natural defenses trees can provide.

“Here in Delaware, one of the biggest sources of toxic pollution like heavy metals to rivers comes from the air,” said Jennifer Adkins, of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, at an Earth Day event on April 22. “The air pollution from states to the west of us gets blown over Delaware, where it drops onto the ground and into waterways.”



The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a national estuary program, leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The Partnership is currently working with other organizations on a campaign called Clean Water, Delaware’s Clear Choice.

In the last 10 years, the Partnership, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, has protected and restored more than 43,000 acres mostly of wetlands and stream areas, and many of those areas have trees and forests, Adkins said.

Despite that progress, many waterways are still challenged by pollution, Adkins said.

“Water pollution affects us all, from swimming and boating, to fishing and drinking, and our economy,” Adkins said.

Adkins encouraged everyone at the event to plant trees and take other steps to keep our air and water clean.

DelDOT, Dover donate to Interfaith Mission

In April, the Dover Interfaith Mission received a donation of bicycle safety gear during a meeting of Dover City Council's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. The bicycle helmets, safety lights and reflectors came courtesy of Sussex Cycling, the Delaware Bike Council, the Delaware Department of Transportation and the City of Dover, as many of the Mission's residents use bicycles for transportation. Pictured from left to right: Robert White of the Interfaith Mission, DelDOT Bicycle Coordinator John Fiori, Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee Chairman Jim Hutchison, Jeanine Kleimo of the Interfaith Mission and Paul Adamson, also of the Interfaith Mission.



Kent County cuts ribbon on Hunn recreation property



In April, Kent County officials held the grand opening of the county's Hunn Recreation & Conservation Area. This piece of recreational space is located near Sorghum Mill Road, off of Delaware Route 10 in Camden near Dover Air Force Base. On the day of the opening, volunteers also helped to plant trees and work on trails, as they have for the past several years. Pictured from left to right: Jeremy Sheppard of Kent County Parks and Recreation, Doug Hunn (Son of Shirley Hunn, for whom the property is named), Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Brad Eaby, Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Terry Pepper, Alana D. Turner (Daughter of Shirley Hunn), Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Jodi Sweeney, Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Glen Howell, and Keith Mumford of Kent County Parks and Recreation.

Photo courtesy of Kent County Parks and Recreation

DNREC looks into fueling the future



Delaware has its sights on the future, and it's a green one.

Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control held Fueling the Future: Clean Transportation for a Greener Delaware on May 24 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino.

This event brought more than 170 transportation professionals from across Delaware and neighboring states to take part.



The purpose of Fueling the Future was to teach people about alternative fuels that are available for passenger sedans, school buses and heavy-duty trucks, as well as how to save money on vehicle maintenance and how businesses can reduce their vehicle fleet's carbon footprint. DNREC's ride-and-drive demonstration let people get behind the wheel to experience electric, propane and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles in action.

Other features of the day included information about clean transportation in Delaware, panels of experts to talk about electric, propane and CNG vehicles, and other topics.

Gov. Jack Markell joined DNREC Secretary David Small at the event to announce the recipients of the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Grants, which will fund seven projects to help grow alternative fuel infrastructure across the state. The grants – totaling than \$1million – are part of Delaware's Clean Transportation Incentive Program, funded



Dr. Willet Kempton of the University of Delaware gets a demonstration of an electric vehicle charging station at the Fueling the Future event.

through Delaware's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap-and-trade program. Grant awards ranged from \$8,000 to \$500,000, depending on the scope and technology needs of each project. The grant recipients are:

- Chesapeake Utilities – \$500,000, for a public CNG fast-fill refueling station at their new headquarters in Dover.
- The Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation – \$55,962, to install two D.C. Fast Charging Stations at Blue Ball Barn in Wilmington and Indian River Marina.
- Royal Farms – \$349,902, to install 10 D.C. Fast Charging Stations at five Delaware stores in Smyrna, Dover, Milford, Georgetown and Laurel.
- The University of Delaware – \$8,846, to install three Level 3 Charging Stations on the University of Delaware Campus, including one public charging station.
- Sharp Energy – \$86,375, to install propane fueling stations at three Delaware school yards in Red Clay, Sutton Bus and School Mule.

“Delaware has been a leader in reducing emissions while still remaining dedicated to economic growth as well as promoting the health of our residents and our environment,” Gov. Markell said. “Through our



Energize Delaware was one of the Delaware companies to attend Fueling the Future event on May 24. The company brought along and demonstrated a natural gas-fueled vehicle for the Ride and Drive portion of the day.

participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Delaware Clean Transportation Incentive Program, we've been able to secure funding that helps us reduce our environmental footprint and combat climate change by promoting the use of alternative fuels and supporting alternative fuel infrastructure throughout the state.”

Thank you, Carol!

MPO wishes PAC member Carol Giesecke the best in her retirement

The Dover/Kent County MPO bids a fond farewell to PAC member Carol Giesecke.

Giesecke, whom the Delaware Transit Corporation’s appointed last year to be its representative on the MPO’s Public Advisory Committee, is leaving this post to move on to the next phase of her life.

Giesecke, is retired from Delaware State University. Her responsibilities there included directing the Dietetics program in the Human Ecology Department and working

as the program leader in Family and Consumer Sciences for the university’s Cooperative Extension.

Giesecke also was the principal investigator for several grants. She additionally provided nutrition education to youth in Title I schools in Delaware and performed regional food systems work through a five-year grant with Pennsylvania State University.

Giesecke has worked in the nutrition and food safety education fields for more than 30 years at

Ohio University, Penn State University, the University of Maine, Lincoln University in Missouri and Del State. Giesecke loves biking and riding Amtrak to Boston.



Carol Giesecke

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