**DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2019**

**Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:**

**Kris Connelly, Kent County Planning, Chair David Edgell, Office of State Plng (Vice-chair)**

**George DiBenedictis, Town of Smyrna Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation**

**Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture Ed Diaz, City of Dover, Planning & Insp.**

**Jenn Cinehi-Miller for N. Attard, DelDOT Planning Jolyon Shelton, DNREC**

**Amanda Marlow for Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden Rob Pierce, City of Milford**

**Lindsay Donnellon, Federal Highway Admin.**

**Members not attending:**

**Matt Jordan, Dover Air Force Base Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works**

**Patty Cannon, DE Div. Small Business Cliff Gunstra, Delmarva Central Railroad**

**Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District**

**Lee Derickson, DE Motor Transport Assoc. Ryan Long, Federal Transit Administration**

**Non-members attending:**

**Mike DuRoss, DelDOT Planning Jonathan Abner, WRA (via telephone)**

**Reed Macmillan, MPO Exec. Director James Galvin, MPO Staff**

**Helen Wiles, MPO Staff Mike Ward, MPO Staff**

**Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff**

**1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**3. *ACTION ITEM:* Approval of Agenda**

MOTION By Mr. Pierce to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Shelton. Motion carried.

**4. *ACTION ITEM:* Approval of Minutes, February 12, 2019**

MOTION By Mr. Pierce to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Edgell. Motion carried.

**5. *ACTION ITEM:* Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (enclosure) / R. Macmillan**

Mr. Macmillan gave a presentation that gave some history as to why the AQ analysis was required. Copies of the presentation were provided to the PAC members so that the notes could be more easily read. Due to a reversion from the 2008 to the 1997 Air Quality standards as a result of a lawsuit against the EPA, the MPO (along with 81 other MPOs) was no longer in attainment mobile emissions/air quality. FHWA guidance required a new conformity analysis in conjunction with the FY20 TIP. Analysis was done including three non-exempt projects in the TIP (FHWA guidelines include a list of exempt categories). The MPO was only in non-conformity with regard to ozone and contracted with Whitman Requardt Associates to perform a new air quality analysis (with participation by Interagency AQ Conformity Working Group, DelDOT and DNREC). The new conformity analysis indicates the MPO region is in conformity with the 1997 standards. The report is available on the MPO website and will be adopted by Council in support of the 2020 TIP at its May meeting.

It was noted that the three non-exempt projects involved are the Route 13 Widening Phase I, Phase II, and the US13 Connector Road (Scarborough Road to Leipsic Road).

There was discussion concerning the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update scheduled to begin in January 2020, because another analysis would have to be done analyze all the projects in the MTP. It was noted that the MPO is still in compliance with the 2008 standards. Mr. DuRoss reported that the same Travel Demand Model used in the air quality analysis is the same used to support the MPO for MTP and the TIP as well as for New Castle and Sussex counties/ He noted that it is not just one thing, it is four separate things evaluating mobile emissions down to a level of “parts per million” monitored over periods of one and eight hours, and involving sunlight, temperature and travel distance. Population and the age of the vehicle fleet, engine type and size are also taken into consideration. Transportation planning activities are linked to transportation funding processes and inspections, and the Department of Motor Vehicles inspections have been an important tool in reducing emissions.

Mr. Macmillan reported that there are notes included in the meeting material provided, and that the PAC received this same information last week.

Mr. Connelly asked if the PAC had questions about this, and Mr. Macmillan reported that there were questions concerning exceedances and the effect of pollution from outside of Delaware and the effect of summer beach traffic on Delaware’s air quality. In particular, the PAC wanted to know if outside emissions could be identified and if the EPA was looking at that. Mr. Macmillan noted that by performing the air quality analysis now for the FY20 TIP, funding for projects using federal monies would not be delayed.

MOTION By Mr. Pierce recommending that Council accept the Air Quality Analysis Report.

Seconded by Mr. Edgell. Motion carried.

**6. *ACTION ITEM:* FY20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (enclosure) / J. Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reviewed projects in the TIP. He noted that in the four years covered by the MPO’s TIP, there are only 2 new Kent County projects in DelDOT’s Capital Transportation Program (CTP) – Canterbury Road and Route 13 to Route 12. The projects will include complete streets components such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes and drainage.. There are other Kent County projects in the CTP, but they are in future years not included in the 2020 TIP. He reported that there are some projects that are finishing up and are not in the 2020 TIP, such as the SR1 grade-separated intersections at Little Heaven, South Frederica and Thompsonville Road. The DE14/SR1 grade-separated intersection is included in the FY2020 TIP. There are also Highway Safety/Hazard Elimination projects in the TIP. The list includes an HSIP project at the DE14 and US113 intersection. Mr. Attard said that the project was a study to develop solutions to the problems at the intersection. The US13 widening project is a Hazard Elimination Project, in 2 phases and estimated to cost approximately $60M. Although safety projects are usually exempt from requiring air quality conformity analysis, the AQ Conformity Working Group (aka WILMAPCO’s AQ Subcommittee) felt that this project is too large to be considered exempt. He also reported that a number of large projects that have been in the TIP in the past are finishing up and are not being replaced by new large projects. He reviewed the differences in cost, noting for example that the FY17-20 TIP had a $140M budget for roads, but the FY20 TIP budget is $100M. There was some discussion regarding ongoing projects.

MOTION By Mr. Edgell to recommend Council adopt the FY20 TIP. Seconded by Ms. Cinehi-

Miller. Motion carried.

**7. \*\*\* MEMBER REPORTS \*\*\***

**City of Dover/Briefing on Comprehensive Plan update:** Mr. Diaz referenced the transportation chapter of the draft City of Dover Comprehensive update, which had been sent out to the TAC. He reviewed the information the City is including in the chapter and asked for any feedback from TAC member agencies. Ms. Cinehi-Miller suggested he talk to Sarah Coakley, DelDOT’s TID principal planner. Mr. Diaz said he was looking for info in the next couple of weeks, and that a public workshop is planned but no date is set yet. Ms. Cinehi-Miller asked if they would be addressing the alleys, and Mr. Diaz said that Dover’s alleys fall under public works, which is aware of problems with the alleys and could add that to the Comprehensive Plan.

**Kent County**: Mr. Connelly reported that although Kent County has delineated an employment zone northwest of the Air Base, the Joint Use Agreement does not reference the new employment zone. Kent County is in discussions with DelDOT regarding the east side of Horsepond Road and Little Creek. Mr. Edell noted that the City and County need to work together on this, and that referencing the employment zone in the Comprehensive plans would be a good idea, even if only as a place holder. He also thought the economic development chapter should have more information regarding transportation impacts. There was mention of the Garrison Oak connector, but it is not in the State’s Capital Transportation Program and is not expected to be included for several years. There was also some discussion concerning consistency in language and maps for the City and County comprehensive plans, and Mr. Galvin noted that the City and County both have property along Horsepond Road. Mr. Diaz noted that truck routes southeast of Dover are more rural in character than the roads on the west side, and will need improvements to service the employment zone. Mr. Attard thought the landuse designation rather than DelDOT’s functional classification of roadway would be the deciding factor.

**Office of State Planning & Coordination:** Mr. Edgell reported that the 5-year update of the State Strategies for Policies and Spending has not changed in methodology while updating data. Public meetings are planned. Governor Carney has initiated a Government Efficiency and Account Review (GEAR). OSP has submitted proposals to the General Assembly related to data and GIS; a bill was submitted late last year to formalize the Population Consortium as a body, because the data developed and adopted by the Consortium is used by all State agencies and the three counties.

There was some discussion concerning how different entities (State agencies, school districts, counties) use the information in future planning. There was also discussion concerning the various websites and applications/platforms for reporting issues throughout the road network. It was suggested that a shared-access drive could be useful.

**DTC:** Ms. Smith reported that summer service changes would be implemented on May 19 in New Castle and Sussex counties and on May 20th in Kent County. She said the changes in Kent County are minor. She also noted that 2 of the 6 electric buses intended for service in Dover were delivered last week and should be in service soon. There is a charging station at the Dover Transit Center for the buses. Ms. Smith said there will be a new logo on the buses, showing a leaf and an electric cord.

**8. Staff Reports –**

**8.1 Progress & Financial Reports – MPO Staff (enclosure)**

**8.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – MPO Staff**

**8.3 Correspondence, Publications/Reports/Outreach**

Mr. Macmillan noted that for the first time, the MPO partners will be providing 10% cash match for transportation studies costs. He noted that projects include:

1. Freight Air Cargo study for DelDOT (Century Engineering)
2. E-W Freight Route Feasibility study for Kent County (WRA)
3. Intermodal Freight Terminal study for Harrington (WRA)
4. Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update (WRA)
5. Magnolia Intersection study

Mr. Galvin reported that the Dover Bank Lane Bicycle Path study is finishing up and will go to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee before being presented to City Council. Money was reserved in the contract for the consultant to make a formal presentation to the City. The DE State University Pedestrian Counts were finished last month.

Ms. Wiles informed the TAC that the “Studies” page on the MPO website has been reorganized and is updated constantly. You can now search by either year or type of study. The Public Participation Plan is being updated this year and will come to the TAC for review at its next meeting. The MPO will now videotape the Committee and Council meetings and be posted online for the public. The recordings will be edited to the action items only. She reported that both the PAC and Council were satisfied with the process as described. Consensus was that if the Council approved the process, the TAC was in agreement.

Mr. Pierce asked some questions about staff evaluations and it was noted that staff would forward him the adopted Personnel Policy.

**9. ADJOURN**

MOTION By Ms. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Cinehi-Miller. Motion carried.