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DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 2019

Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District
Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden
Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation
David Edgell, Office of State Plng (Vice-chair – late arrival)

Nathan Attard, DelDOT Planning
Valerie Gray, DNREC
Rob Pierce, City of Milford

Members not attending:

Kris Connelly, Kent County Planning, Chair
Lindsay Donnellon, Federal Highway Admin.
Lee Derickson, DE Motor Transport Assoc.
Patty Cannon, DE Div. Small Business
Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works
Matt Jordan, Dover Air Force Base

City of Dover, Planning & Insp.
Cliff Gunstra, Delmarva Central Railroad
Ryan Long, Federal Transit Administration
Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture
George DiBenedictis, Town of Smyrna

Non-members attending:

Reed Macmillan, MPO Exec. Director
Helen Wiles, MPO Staff

Mike Ward, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

The meeting began without a quorum and without a chair or vice-chair. Mr. Macmillan facilitated the meeting. It was agreed that consensus would be used in place of formal action where necessary to forward recommendations to Council.

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS
3. *ACTION ITEM:* Approval of Agenda (enclosure)
4. *ACTION ITEM:* Approval of Minutes April 2019 - TABLED
5. *ACTION ITEM:* Public Participation Plan / H. Wiles (enclosure)

Ms. Wiles reported that the Plan has been out for public comments since June 14, 2019. She has only received two comments from the public, but neither was relevant to the Plan. The PAC recommended that Council approve the Plan as presented. However, Mr. Attard distributed a two-page letter (attached to file) detailing his comments on the Plan, which he reviewed. Consensus was to recommend Council approve the Plan, pending staff consideration of the comments. Mr. Macmillan said that Ms. Wiles will review the comments and, as the point person, make recommendations to the Council at the September meeting.



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6. ACTION ITEM: TIP Amendment / AQ Conformity Update (enclosure)

Mr. Macmillan reviewed the history leading to the amendment. When the TIP was adopted, the Air Quality analysis for three regionally significant projects (discussed at previous meetings) was not yet completed. This was required due to the lawsuit against the EPA regarding the 1997 Standards. An appendix was inserted as a placeholder. Now that the analysis and report are complete, it must be incorporated into the TIP. There are no changes to the main section of the TIP, this is an addition to the Air Quality appendix. The EPA required some changes to the Conformity Analysis, noting a difference in the region that the MPO is considered part of (Wilmington Philadelphia Atlantic City as opposed to Wilmington Philadelphia Trenton). There was some discussion regarding the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update, and the conformity analysis that would be required for the projects included in the Plan; however, it is still unclear if that will be for the 1997 or 2008 standards.

Consensus was to recommend Council amend the TIP with the recommended language changes in the Air Quality appendix.

7. * MEMBER REPORTS *****

DTC - Ms. Smith reported that DTC service change public hearings are scheduled for September 10, 11 and 12th. Kent County's hearing will be at the Dover Library. DTC will be eliminating the #106 bus to Dover Air Force Base. It has been a poor performer all along. The Base will be serviced by the #105 bus that will have an alignment change to the DAFB Visitor's Gate, if approved.. She said that people have options such as Uber now, and the #106 has not been attracting riders.

DNREC - Ms. Gray reported that the Volkswagen settlement for Delaware will be \$9.6M between 2017-2027. The Work Plan for the funds will be in 3 phases and will include working with the Department of Education to replace the fleet with propane buses; an RFP to fund Waste Management transfer to CNG; and a future RFP for remaining monies to replace diesel vehicles with hybrid vehicles.

There was discussion concerning a waiver of disposal regulations needed for diesel engines – 46 states are working towards electric bus fleets. Ms. Smith noted that the engines must be destroyed, but other components can be salvaged. It was also noted that DNREC would like to see electric chargers at state and municipal buildings.

Milford – Mr. Pierce noted that DelDOT and Milford are developing a Transportation Improvement District in the area of the new hospital. There will be public participation hearings. Mr. Attard reported that Sara Coakley at DelDOT is working on traffic counts. He also said that the project should be added to the MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

There was discussion concerning the MPO's Strategic Planning Contract (in place for another 4 years),



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the 10% match for requested projects that could increase to 20%, and the 8 categories in the MPO's UPWP for those projects.

Mr. Pierce also reported that Milford received a grant from DelDOT for a Bicycle Master Plan. He would be reaching out to Ms. Wiles for assistance in public participation.

Kent Conservation District – Mr. Riley reported that KCD has a new home on the highway. He also said that although they have been housed with USDA Farm Program since 1943, the organization chose not to relocate with KCD. Mr. Riley invited everyone to come visit and tour the building and suggested a future TAC meeting be held in the new conference room.

DelDOT – Mr. Attard reported that DelDOT is working on its Long Range Plan. DelDOT supports the Kent County Master Plan Efforts and has a plan to manage new projects in the area separate from the County efforts. There will be a public workshop soon. The Capital Transportation Plan (and TIP) workshops will be held in September. New projects will be prioritized in the draft presented at the workshops.

Camden – Mr. Chaffinch reported that a WaWa and a liquor store will be going in next to the Grotto's Pizza.

Office of State Planning – Mr. Edgell reported that the Annual Report will be out in October. It will include trends in building permits and a summary of planning projects in all three counties. The 2020 update of the State Policies and Strategies in Spending will be drafted this fall for an early 2020 adoption.

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. Galvin is the project manager for four of the five studies the MPO has contracted for: Dover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update; Air Cargo Ramp Freight Access Study; Kent County's East/West Freight Corridor Study; and the Harrington Intermodal Freight Study. He reported that "kick'off" meetings have taken place or are scheduled for the transportation studies with the consultants and the municipalities. Dover's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update is expected to take 6-9 months; The Air Cargo Ramp Freight study 1-9 months and the other two studies will be longer, with the East-West corridor study taking 14-18 months.

Ms. Wiles is the project manager for Magnolia's Intersection Study.

Ms. Wiles reported that the MPO's "MAPITT" is up and running, and asked everyone to use the



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program.

There was discussion concerning DelDOT's change-over to a two-year CTP cycle. Mr. Attard said that DelDOT would be changing prioritization for new projects, adding new factors such as social/health factors and economic impact. Mr. Macmillan noted that this information would be important for the MPO to have to include in the MPO DecisionLens criteria. Ms. Smith had concerns about language in that was deleted from the CTP last year that DTC needs to be reinstated. Mr. Attard said he would have give Finance her name to contact her.

9. ADJOURN

Consensus was to adjourn the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: October 15, 2019