



# Rail Corridor Land Use Study

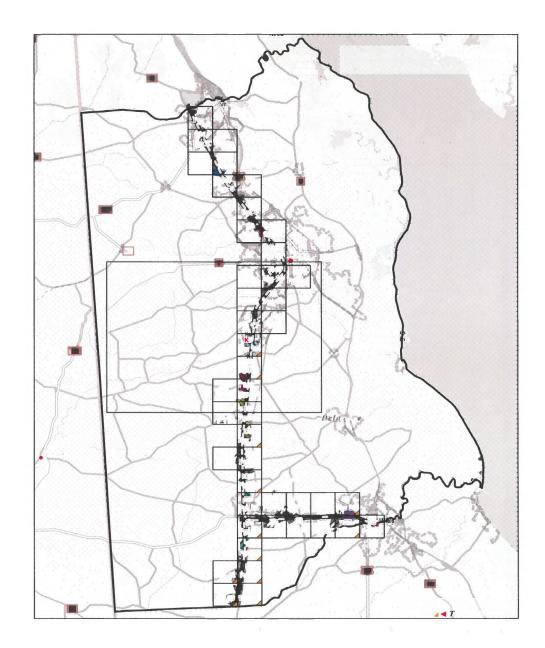
June 9, 2022 - MPO PAC June 14, 2022 - MPO TAC July 6, 2022 - MPO Council





## **Rail Corridor Land Use Study**

- Introduction
- Study Area
- Review of November 2018 MPO Rail/Freight Zoning Study
- Comprehensive Plans Review
- Process Used to Screen Parcels for Inclusion/Exclusion
- Detailed Examination by Municipality
- Summary
- Appendices





### AGENDA

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- September 2018, Rockport Study recommended warehousing, distribution and logistics as a key sector to target for Kent County economic development
- June 2021, KEP requested a study to identify appropriate available land adjacent to rail corridors which could be designated and preserved for industrial use
- Focus of the MPO study is an inventory and analysis of available parcels that have rail access that could attract small- to medium-sized manufacturing/industrial businesses

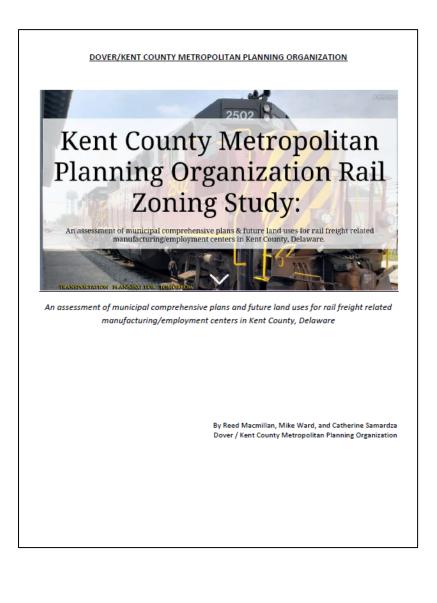
#### **STUDY AREA**

- Norfolk Southern (NS) Railway Company operates approximately 19,3000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia
- Delmarva Central Railroad is one of 261 Short Line Railroads operating on NS tracks
- Delmarva Central Railroad operates on the Norfolk Southern tracks that serve the Delmarva Peninsula, specifically in Kent County
- Study focus is the portion of the DCR operating from Clayton at the New Castle border to the Sussex County border south of Farmington, as well as the line that diverges in Harrington and traverses the southern portion of Kent County to Milford



### NOVEMBER 2018 Rail/Freight Zoning Study (MPO)

- Identified five recommendations
- To date, none of those recommendations have been fully implemented
- Those recommendations are still valid and should continue to be pursued







- In Delaware, municipalities must review adopted comp plans every five years, and revise, update and amend as necessary and readopt every ten years
- 14 comprehensive plans, 13 municipalities and Kent County, were reviewed for this study
- Purpose of the review was to ascertain if rail freight-related uses or proposed future uses were being considered, identify future land use zoning map changes regarding industrial zoning, identify potential areas where rail freight-related uses might be supported by rail spur lines
- 11 of the plans do not specifically highlight rail uses
- Clayton, Felton and Harrington do highlight rail uses
- Kent County, Clayton, Dover and Harrington provided information regarding future investments into freight and passenger rail
- None contained rail freight data and use in their Economic Development Chapters

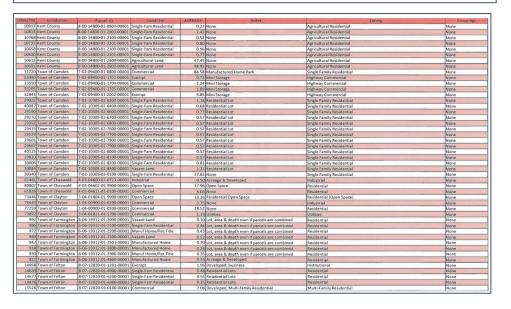
The Office of State Planning Coordination maintains the most current certified comprehensive plans on its website (<u>https://stateplanning.delaware.gov/lup/comprehensive-plan.shtml</u>)



### PROCESS USED TO SCREEN PARCLES FOR INCLUSION/EXCLUSION FROM THE STUDY

- Dover Kent MPO applied the following principles to exclude certain parcels from the study
  - Highly impacted with wetlands or other environmental concerns
  - Parcels in the Ag-Land Preservation program
  - Parcel configuration and lack of frontage along the rail
  - Residential "Open Space" and various stand-alone residential properties
- Parcels contained within the study list are parcels of large acreage with applicable frontage
- Other parcels were selected for inclusion as they had the potential of being grouped into one larger parcel
- All parcels contained within the study may or may not require zoning changes

1613 Ker 1376 Ker 81467 Ker 1350 Ker 1512 Ker 1145 Ker 1220 Ker	ent County ent County ent County ent County ent County ent County ent County	6-00-18700-01-3500-00001 6-00-18700-01-4300-00001 6-00-18700-01-4400-00001 6-00-18700-01-4500-00001	Vacant Land Single-Fam Residential Manufactured Home		None	Limited Industrial	Harrington South (1
1376 Ker 81467 Ker 1350 Ker 1512 Ker 1145 Ker 1220 Ker 1224 Ker	ent County ent County ent County	6-00-18700-01-4400-00001		23.36			
81467 Ker 1350 Ker 1512 Ker 1145 Ker 1220 Ker 1224 Ker	ent County ent County		Manufactured Nome		None	Agricultural Residential	Harrington South (
1350 Ker 1512 Ker 1145 Ker 1220 Ker 1224 Ker	ent County	6-00-18700-01-4500-00001		4.77	None	General Industrial	Farmington North
1512 Ker 1145 Ker 1220 Ker 1224 Ker			Single-Fam Residential	85.60	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
1145 Ker 1220 Ker 1224 Ker	ent County	6-00-18700-01-4600-00001	Agricultural-Land	19.65	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
1220 Ker 1224 Ker		6-00-18700-01-5200-00001	Agricultural-Land	27.50	None	Agricultural Residential	Harrington South (
1224 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1000-00001	Agricultural-Land	13.94	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1200-00001	Agricultural-Residential	5.98	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
80449 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1200-00001	Agricultural-Residential	15.05	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1202-00001	Agricultural-Residential	10.95	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
1162 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1214-00001	Single-Fam Residential	13.01	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
1116 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1400-00001	Single-Fam Residential	24.17	None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1600-00001			Adjacent to Farmington	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
1012 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1700-00001	Miscellaneous Imps.		Adjacent to Farmington	Agricultural Residential	Farmington North
1010 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1800-00001	Vacant Land		Acreage and Configuration	Agricultural Residential	None
1032 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-1900-00001	Vacant Land		Acreage and Configuration	Agricultural Residential	None
1021 Ker	ent County	6-00-19300-01-2000-00001	Manufactured Home		Developed	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-4300-00001	Single-Fam Residential		None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-4800-00001	Industrial		None	General Industrial	Farmington South
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-4801-00001	Industrial		None	General Industrial	Farmington South
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-4900-00001	Single-Fam Residential		Adjacent to Farmington	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
83041 Ker		6-00-19300-01-5600-00001	Agricultural-Land		None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-5602-00001	Single-Fam Residential		None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-5604-00001			None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
	ent County	6-00-19300-01-5800-00001	Vacant Land		None	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
	ent County				Acreage & Developed	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	6-00-19312-02-1900-00001	Vacant Land		Adjacent to Farmington	Agricultural Residential	Farmington South
38788 Ker		6-00-19900-01-1900-00001	Industrial		None	General Industrial & Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	6-00-19900-01-1900-00001	Commercial		Wetlands	Agricultural Residential	None
83043 Ker		6-00-19900-01-2200-00001	Single-Fam Residential		None	Agricultural Residential	None
82953 Ker		6-00-19900-01-3300-00001	Agricultural-Residential	204.72		Agricultural Residential	None
80159 Ker		6-00-19900-01-3400-00001	Single-Fam Residential		None	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	6-00-19900-01-3501-00001	Agricultural-Residential		Wetlands	Agricultural Residential	None
38787 Ker		6-00-19900-01-4700-00001	Agricultural-Land		None	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	6-00-19900-01-4701-00001	Agricultural-Residential		None	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County		Agricultural-Land		None		Sussex Line
	ent County	6-00-19900-01-4704-00001			None	Agricultural Residential	Sussex Line
	ent County ent County	6-00-19900-01-4800-00001	Single-Fam Residential			Agricultural Residential	
	ent County ent County	6-00-19900-01-4900-00001 6-00-19900-01-5100-00001	Agricultural-Residential		None	Agricultural Residential	Sussex Line
						Agricultural Residential	Sussex Line
	ent County	7-00-10200-02-3700-00001			None	Agricultural Conservation	None
28650 Ker		7-00-10200-02-3704-00001			None	Agricultural Conservation	None
	ent County	7-00-10300-01-0100-00001			Adjacent to Camden	Single Family Residential	None
26869 Ker		7-00-10300-01-5004-00001			None	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	7-00-10300-01-5013-00001			None	Agricultural Residential	None
	ent County	7-00-10300-01-5014-00001			None	Agricultural Residential	None
27439 Ker 27101 Ker		7-00-10300-01-5018-00001 7-00-10300-01-5019-00001			None	Agricultural Residential Agricultural Residential	None

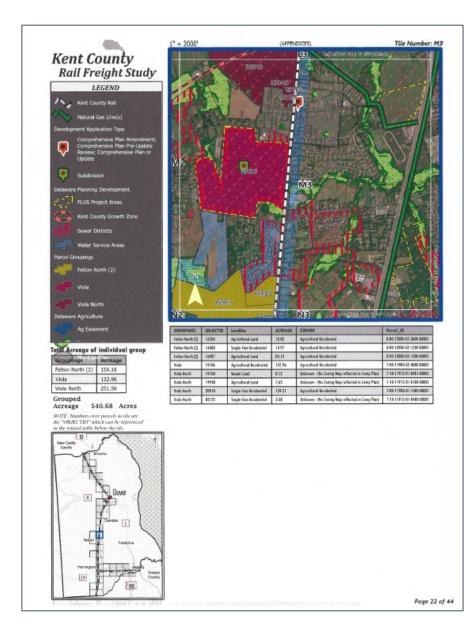




### DETAILED EXAMINATION BY MUNICIPALITY -

### MAPS OF PARCEL GROUPINGS - (Mike Ward)

- Once parcels were identified, an effort was made to group parcels in such a was as to identify possible configurations that could attract small- to medium-sized industrial businesses that specifically require rail access
- By grouping multiple smaller acreage parcels, larger sites could possibly be considered
- Groupings are presented in the Map Series Tiles, which runs along the rail corridor from north to south, west to east
- Each tile is dynamic, meaning the information available on each tile differs depending on the specific characteristics of the location depicted on each individual tile
- The following information is available on each tile, as specifically appropriate
  - Utility coverage (natural gas, power, sewer, water)
  - Kent County Growth Zone
  - PLUS Project Areas
  - Parcel groupings with total acreage
  - Individual parcels within grouping(s), including current land use, acreage, zoning and parcel ID for each parcel
- A dynamic web-based map can be found at: <u>https://dkcmpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6215</u> 2bdabad24416aaa3d19819abf4fe





### **SUMMARY**

- The purpose of the rail is to move freight
- Residential uses along the rail can cause interruptions
- Adjacent properties should accommodate rail and at best provide a place for those enterprises that need rail access
- Based on the Comprehensive Plan review, several zoning changes and other actions are recommended
- If a municipality wants to encourage preservation of parcels along the rail for future commercial and industrial use, a process must be implemented to achieve that goal
- Appendix D includes resources and guidance that may be helpful

### NEXT STEPS – Presentations

- MPO PAC, TAC and Council
- KEP Board August 16
- Regional Planning Commission and Kent County Levy Court September

