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Clayton to Marydel Rail Trail Study

February 2025

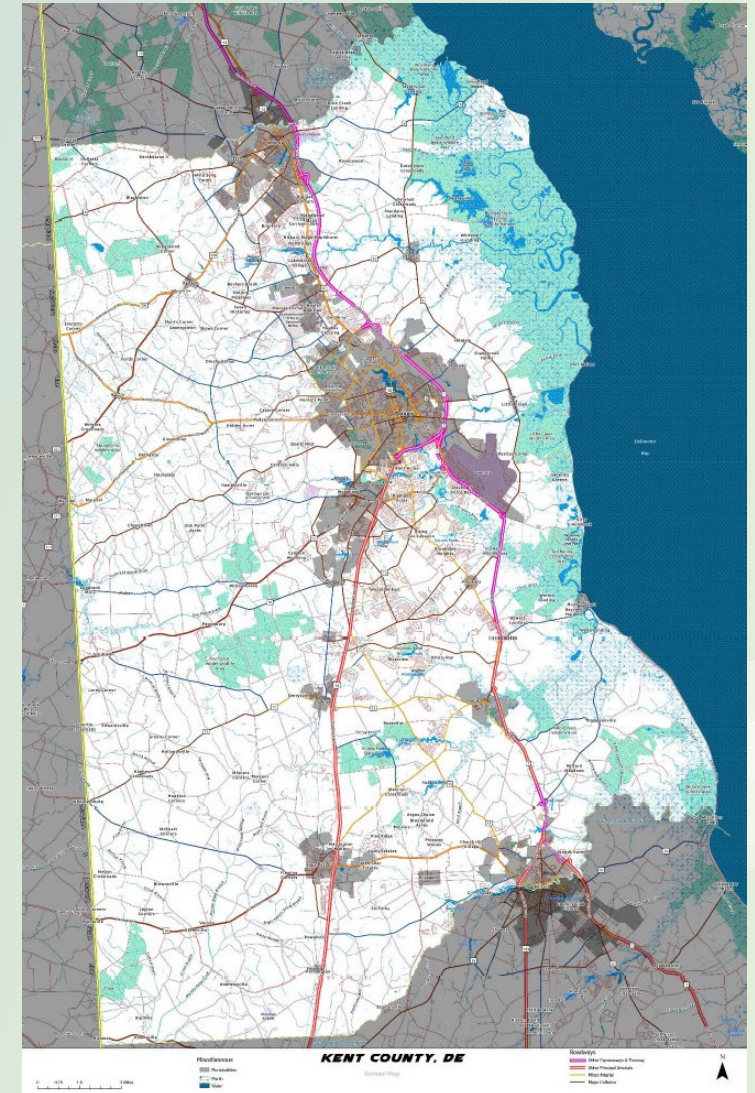
What is an MPO?

(Metropolitan Planning Organization)

- MPOs are federally mandated and mostly federally funded (80% federal, 20% state and local)
- All urban areas over 50,000 in population are required to have an MPO if federal funds will be spent on transportation improvements
- Transportation planning and policy-making organizations
 - We're all about infrastructure, safety, and connectivity
 - Everything that needs to be in place to get you from point A to point B, regardless of which mode of transportation you're using
 - Which projects are coming up that need federal funding
- Coordinate with DelDOT, DART and municipalities to prioritize projects and set spending levels for federal funds designated for transportation projects
- Work with partners on issues such as air quality, environmental justice, safety, economic growth, public mobility
- **Focused on public input and participation**
- **D/KC MPO is your transportation planning partner**

Dover / Kent County MPO

- Dover/Kent County MPO has existed since 1992
- Encompasses Kent County – 586 square miles, 3 cities and 17 towns
- Population – 189,789, 6.0% increase since 2020 (comparable to statewide average of 6.6%)
- Long-range plan or MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan)
 - What Kent County will need over the next 25 years
 - “Innovations 2050” adopted January 2025 – <https://doverkentmpo.delaware.gov/innovations2050/>
 - Use the MTP to create a TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) – goals and priorities for the immediate four years
 - Must match DeDOT priorities/plan
 - Amended as new projects are studied and recommendations are made



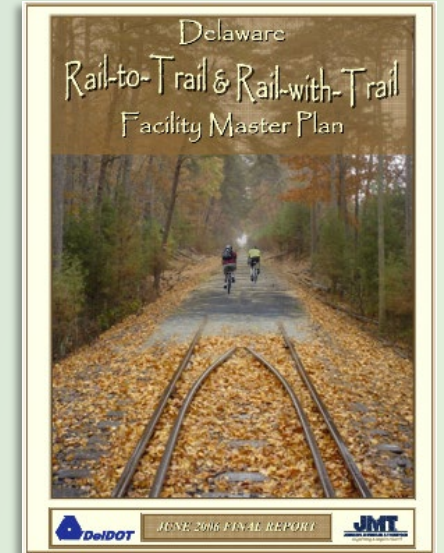
History and Current Status of Corridor

- 13 miles between Clayton and Marydel
- Completed in mid-19th century, used for passenger and freight purposes
- Currently owned by MDOT
- Rail line is abandoned, many obstructions along corridor
- Discussions between DeIDOT and MDOT currently taking place
- MDOT required to maintain right-of-way; rail-banked via the Surface Transportation Board



Study Outline

- Project Background - history, benefits of rails-to-trails
- Project Scope - partners, regional context
- Alignment - land acquisition, organization/ownership
- Segment Analysis - results of GIS and fieldwork
- Public Input - workshops, surveys, municipal meetings
- Appendices - maps, resources, funding, trail examples



2006 report







Clayton Trail Connections

- Concepts being studied in two phases
- Phase 1: connect Greens Branch Trail to Duck Creek Parkway Trail, end at John M. Pridemore Park
 - FY2025 Bikeway Innovation Grant
- Phase 2: connect park to Clayton-Marydel northern terminus (School Lane)



Hartly Municipal Park

- 13.5 acres along abandoned rail
- Privately owned, town looking to acquire for conversion into park (seeking the appropriate funding)
- Potential to tie into Clayton-Marydel trail (4 miles from state line)



Study Timeline

- Fall 2024: preliminary research
- Winter 2025: coordination with stakeholders, further conversation with DelDOT and MDOT
- Spring-Summer 2025: public engagement, continued analysis of corridor, continued stakeholder coordination
- Late 2025-Early 2026: completion of study, adoption by MPO Council



Questions?

Send us an email:

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Thank you!