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**DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2025**

**DOVER/KENT MPO COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:**

**Robin R. Christiansen, Mayor, City of Dover, Chair**

**Jody Sweeney, Commissioner, for JoAnn Masten, President, Kent County Levy Court, Vice-Chair**

**Cathy Smith for John Sisson, Chief Executive Officer, Delaware Transit Corporation**

**Sharon Bryson, Dir. DE Office of Hwy Safety DSHS, for Governor, State of DE**

**Santo Faronea, Mayor, Town of Cheswold**

**MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING:**

**Stephanie Johnson, Dir. of Planning, for Secretary of the DE Dept. of Transportation,**

**Camille Otto, for Division Administrator, Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA)(NV)**

**Terry Garcia Crewes, Regional Administrator, Region III, Federal Transit Admin. (FTA)(NV)**

**NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:**

**Marilyn J. Smith, MPO Staff**

**Helen Wiles, MPO Staff,**

**Malcolm Jacob, MPO Staff,**

**Tremica Cherry-Walls, WRA**

**Michael Petit de Mange, MPO Staff**

**Michelle Vinson, MPO Staff,**

**Mike Ward, MPO Staff**

**1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

**3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda (enclosure)**

MOTION By Mr. Sweeney to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Faronea  
Motion carried.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes September 3, 2025 (enclosure)**

MOTION By Mr. Sweeney to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Faronea.  
Motion carried.

**5. ACTION ITEM: Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair**

Mayor Christiansen opened the floor for nominees for Council Chair.

Motion By Ms. Bryson to nominate Mayor Christiansen. Seconded by Mr. Faronea.

No other nominations.

Mayor Christiansen is Council Chair.



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Mayor Christiansen opened the floor for nominees for Council Vice-Chair.  
Motion By Ms. Bryson to nominate Mr. Sweeney. Seconded by Mr. Christiansen.  
No other nominations.  
Mr. Sweeney is Council Vice-Chair.

**6. What the MPO learned at AMPO / H. Wiles, M. Smith, T. Cherry-Wall**

- Ms. Wiles highlighted sessions focused on bike and pedestrian project evaluation, using AI for modeling and conducting inventories, lending libraries for temporary facility improvements, innovative outreach techniques such as cameos and trading cards, and using qualitative data such as human stories. Mr. Rothwell shared that the Town of Smyrna recently used an AI tool (Vortex AI Street mapping) attached to street sweepers to gather asphalt measurements.
- Ms. Cherry-Wall highlighted sessions focused on transit resiliency, BRT (bus rapid transit), and on-demand micro transit.
- Ms. Smith highlighted sessions focused on flood adaptation for historic buildings and a design guide for elevating existing and new construction, local government network with an MPO liaison for each municipality, the need to approach housing and transportation as a combined system, the role of trees in cities, quick build approaches to getting small projects done, and using a value capital approach in developing rail corridors for economic development and passenger rail.

**7. ACTION ITEM: Bylaws change (enclosure)**

Ms. Bryson asked whether Dover has a strike-through, as they always have someone on Council. Ms. M. Smith answered yes.

MOTION By Mr. Sweeney to approve the bylaws change. Seconded by Mr. Faronea.  
Motion carried.

**8. ACTION ITEM: Approval of 2026 Meeting Calendar/M. Smith (enclosure)**

MOTION By Mr. Sweeney to approve the bylaws change. Seconded by Ms. C. Smith  
Motion carried.

**9. ACTION ITEM: Reappointment of Darin Dell, Katie Macklin, and new members Richard Wieland and Bill Webb to PAC/M. Smith (enclosure)**

MOTION By Mr. Sweeney to approve reappointments. Seconded by Mr. Faronea.  
Motion carried.

**10. \*\*\*\*\*MEMBER REPORTS\*\*\*\*\***

- Ms. C. Smith shared that DART has a service change effective November 17, 2025, in Kent County. Information can be found on <https://dartfirststate.com/>. Route 102 is eliminated and merged into 101.
- Ms. Bryson shared with Ms. C. Smith a recent incident she witnessed, in which a person in dark clothing, at



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night, ran across the street in front of a DART Bus, and the driver expertly maneuvered to avoid striking the person and other vehicles around him.

## **11. Staff Reports –**

### **11.1 Financial & Administration– M. Smith & M. Vinson**

#### **a. monthly DelDOT invoice and financial reports (enclosure)**

Ms. M. Smith shared that the MPO has a new intern working on the School Walk Zones analysis. The MPO has also begun the Audit process.

### **11.2 Studies & Maps – M. Jacob, M. Petit de Mange, M. Ward**

- Mr. Jacob shared the progress of the Airport Road study being done in Milford with the Rossi consultant group. They have conducted public outreach and an online survey. A Public workshop will be scheduled in 2026.
- Mr. Petit deMange spoke about the Underwoods Corner project being done in Smyrna with the Century Engineering consultant group. A public workshop is scheduled at the Clayton Firehall. On December 10, 2025. He also shared that the MPO is working on Hickory Ridge Road in Smyrna. There has been significant development in the area. The MPO is planning for a workshop in mid-January 2026.
- Mr. Ward shared he is working on the Expanded Rail maps, with some portions already being reviewed.

### **11.3 Outreach and Environmental Justice/Title VI – H. Wiles**

Ms. Wiles shared that she was recently on the Jim Weller show, and he is an advocate for roundabouts. The MPO is also running a Safety Ad Campaign on social media. Users who like and share will be entered into a drawing to be held in January. Ms. Wiles also shared that she is now doing a weekly video to show where construction and road closures may affect your drive to and from work/home/shopping.

### **11.4 Correspondence, Publications, Reports, Activities**

## **12. ADJOURN:**

MOTION By Mr. Sweeney to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Faronea.  
Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING: January 7, 2026 @ 3 PM** *(once calendar is approved)*