



POB 383 / Dover, DE 19903 / <http://www.doverkentmpo.org> / (302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO COUNCIL
JULY 1, 2026 MINUTES

DOVER/KENT MPO COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

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

Stephanie Johnson, Dir. of Planning, for Secretary of the DE Dept. of Transportation, Vice-Chair

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:

Paul Hertz, Commissioner, for JoAnn Masten, President, Kent County Levy Court

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

Michelle Vinson, MPO Staff

Mike Ward, MPO Staff

Ted Foglietta, Wallace Montgomery

Matt Jordan, DAFB Planning

Helen Wiles, MPO Staff

Malcolm Jacob, MPO Staff

Drew Boyce, Kleinfelder

Bruce Allen, DelDOT Planning

Lilia Montoya, DTC

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS

Introduction of newest Council Member Lilia Montoya. She is the new Chief Executive Director of Delaware Transit Corporation, replacing John Sisson after his retirement.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda (enclosure)

MOTION By Mr. Faronea to approve the agenda. Second by Ms. Bryson.
Motion carried

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes May 6, 2026 (enclosure)

MOTION By Mr. Faronea to approve the minutes. Second by Mr. Sisson.
Motion carried

5. ACTION ITEM: Delaware's proposed functional classification revisions to FHWA / Bruce Allen, DELDOT Planning



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TAC recommend to approve

Mr. Allen shared Delaware's functional classification update. Functional classification is the process of classifying streets and highways to balance mobility and access to residential, business, and other land uses. The uniform classifications for all state routes are based on existing similar roadway classifications. The reclassification takes place every 10 years and coincides with new urban areas. It has now been seen by the TAC of both MPOs. In Sussex County, they are converting some median crossovers to grade-separated interchanges. Ms. Wiles asked if it takes into account left and right turns on roads. Mr. Allen said no; the overall road profile is considered, along with safety countermeasures.

MOTION By Mr. Sisson to approve. Second by Mr. Faronea.
Motion carried

6. **ACTION ITEM: Wheatley's Pond Road/Underwoods Corner Safety Study /**
<https://publicinput.com/Customer/File/Full/9c554401-b22a-420b-a9c1-8c5bbffe0bb5> / Drew
Boyce, Century Engineering, and Ted Foglietta, Wallace Montgomery

PAC & TAC recommend approve

Mr. Jacob introduced the study and provided background information. Mr. Foglietta explained that Wheatley's Pond Road functions as a minor arterial and carries approximately 13,000 vehicles per day, while Underwoods Corner Road functions as a minor collector and carries approximately 2,000 vehicles per day. Existing conditions include limited shoulders, limited pedestrian and bicycle facilities, poor sight distance, and peak-hour congestion, all of which create safety concerns. The intersection currently operates at failing levels during peak periods. Three corridor-widening options were initially presented, and a fourth was added after the first public outreach meeting. Outreach included direct mailings, communication with homeowners' associations, social media announcements, and postings by the MPO and the Town of Clayton. The Public Input page received strong participation. Of the three widening options, Option 2 was favored. Mr. Foglietta also presented four intersection options, with the roundabout option recommended for further evaluation. The goals are to improve multimodal safety and address increased traffic related to growth in the area. Two-way and all-way stop control do not meet the project's purpose and need. Mr. Allen asked whether a gap analysis is needed for the roundabout option, noting an apparent imbalance between the two roads. Mr. Boyce replied that this was considered as part of the process. Ms. Bryson asked whether a roundabout is needed if there have been no fatalities, noting that crashes may still occur and that the State sometimes moves too quickly toward a roundabout solution, which may be more appropriate as a long-term option. Mr. Boyce said crashes remain a concern with a new signal and that the team is planning for future traffic volumes. It was also noted that the intersection is challenging for school buses and may require routing changes. Mr. Sisson stated that once DelDOT improves an intersection, it generally does not return to make additional changes for some time.

Mr. Allen shared that there are backups every day since the new wing at the intermediate school; bad



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angles lead to a dangerous situation.

MOTION By Mr. Faronea to approve. Second by Mr. Sisson.
Motion carried

7. **DISCUSSION ITEM: Expanded Rail Corridor Land Use /**
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/603133f517314b909b5c2ae6c2c3029c>
/ Mike Ward

Mr. Ward shared the interactive web map of the Expanded Rail Study and explained how to navigate and search for information about the rail tiles. This study is different because it focuses less on grouping parcels and more on corridor preservation and including good and bad examples. Policy recommendations include financial incentives similar to Ag Preservation, expanding Ag Residential zoning to allow rail uses, etc. Mr. Sisson stated Towns would want passenger rail access along the rail if it had the right buffers in place.

8. *******MEMBER REPORTS*******

Mr. Sisson noted the DART customer survey is open to comments. Mr. Faronea noted that due to legislative action, Nobles Pond has been disannexed from the Town of Cheswold, making him ineligible to continue serving as Mayor. He will no longer be able to serve as the municipal rep on the MP Council.

9. **Staff Reports –**
9.1 Financial & Administration – M. Vinson
a. monthly DelDOT invoice and financial reports (enclosure)
9.2 Studies & Maps – M. Jacob, M. Ward

Mr. Jacob noted the school walk zone study is wrapping up.

9.3 Outreach and Environmental Justice/Title VI – H. Wiles

Ms. Wiles noted the TIP update is being prepared.

9.4 Executive Director – M. Smith

Ms. Smith shared that the MPO is finalizing FY26, finishing projects, and starting FY27 by getting consultant partners on board. The MPO is still having building issues; there is currently no AC in our Suite. The MPO is recruiting a Principal Planner.

- 9.5 Correspondence, Publications, Reports, Activities**
a. Administrative Modifications
b. Trapshooters Road/SR 1 letter from Senator Buckson

10. **ADJOURN:**



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NEXT MEETING: September 2, 2026 @ 3 pm

DRAFT