



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903  
http://www.doverkentmpo.org

(302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2014

### PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS attending:

Michael Gumrot, Chairman	Chris Asay	Dwight Meyer
Dr. Carlton Cannon	Phyllis B. Collins	Earle Dempsey
Jayce Lesniewski	Anne Priestly	Jonathan Street

### MEMBERS not attending:

Edmund Maron, Vice Chair	Prameela Kaza	Dr. Daniel Houghtaling
James Webster	Jeremy Tucker/Kevin Yingling	

### NON-MEMBERS attending:

Matt Bittle, DE State News	Rich Vetter, MPO Staff	Kate Layton, MPO Staff
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff		

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS
3. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda**

MOTION By Mr. Meyer to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Asay. Motion carried.

4. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes, Aug. 26, 2014**

MOTION By Mr. Dempsey to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Street. Motion carried.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEM: FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program update - Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reported that Council still has not approved or adopted an FY2015-2018 TIP. The contention is still the South Frederica grade-separated interchange project. There will be a presentation to Council at the November 5 meeting from DeIDOT regarding the prioritization process. If Council does not pass an FY2015-2018 TIP, there will be a lot of amendments to the FY2014-2017 TIP. Federal money will be impacted for Kent County projects.

Mr. Gumrot noted that he had attended one of the Council meetings held to discuss this issue, and he felt that DeIDOT did a good job of putting things in order.

Mr. Vetter said that DeIDOT has met with Kent County Levy Court and the Sports Complex developer to discuss a temporary entrance. To date, there has been no formal site plan submitted. The goal is to open the Complex by 2017.

Mr. Vetter also said that, in theory, DeIDOT is supposed to create a Capital Transportation Program that matches the MPO TIP; in practice, the MPO has been creating a TIP to match the CTP.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEM: City of Dover Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update – Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reported that the City of Dover plan is about 98% complete. In addition to MPO Staff working with the City of Dover, Mr. Asay and Mr. Lesniewski are also on this committee. The plan has identified sidewalk gaps on College, Kenton and Mifflin Roads, West Street and on DE 8 near in the vicinity of the new high school. Unfortunately, funding is limited. The multi-use path on North Street by Proctor and Gamble and Schutte Park has been recommended for maintenance and improvements. Pedestrian counts have been done to see if pedestrian signals are warranted at several intersections along US13.

None of the recommended projects are in DeIDOT's CTP except Kenton Road. The City of Dover wants sidewalks on the south side of Route 8 for the high school – this is one of the top two priorities for the City. Other recommendations include



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bike lanes or paths and alternate routes to make it safer to use bicycles in downtown Dover.

Mr. Gumrot noted that on his recent trip to Europe, he saw a parking lot with 5,210 spaces for bicycles in Amsterdam, and it was completely full.

Mr. Vetter also reported that in September the MPO performed pedestrian counts across from the new Dover High School. It was found that the students are using the new pedestrian signal correctly; only 3 students were seen to cross mid-block. There is driver confusion regarding the signal, which continues blinking red after the students are gone. The blinking red light is to be treated as any flashing red light; traffic is allowed to proceed when the way is clear.

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft FY2016-2021 Capital Transportation Program – Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reviewed the summary page distributed to PAC members. Ms. Collins remarked that the project for widening US13 was not at the top of this list – she asked if it was because of public comments about the project. Mr. Vetter said that funding was taken up by projects already in progress, but that there is money in design for the US13 widening project. There was further discussion concerning this project, which is a massive undertaking and will cover multiple years. Mr. Gumrot asked which project would be in jeopardy if there is no FY2015 TIP; Mr. Vetter responded that there are no projects in danger where money has already been allocated.

## **8. DISCUSSION ITEM: FY 2015 Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects - Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reported that, since DelDOT had responded to questions the TAC had on this issue, Council voted to concur with DelDOT's use of CMAQ funding even though the TAC and PAC had tabled the issue at their August meeting. Council held a special meeting on September 12 to address action items that were tabled from the September 3 meeting, including the CMAQ funding.

## **9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Date for December PAC meeting**

There was a brief discussion concerning alternate dates for the December PAC meeting.

MOTION By Ms. Collins to schedule the meeting for December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Street.  
Motion carried.

The meeting will be at 6:00 PM as usual, and Ms. Layton will try to reserve a conference room at the Kent County Levy Court Administration Building.

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

Mr. Dempsey reported that he was elected first vice president for the Kent County Volunteer Firefighters Association; he will hold this position for a year, and next year he will move up to president. He also reported that, travelling north on US13 where drivers take a left-hand turn onto Martin Luther King Boulevard by the Royal Farms, the turn lanes don't seem to connect properly. When you get to US113, there are 3 lanes: the left lane turns left, the middle lane goes left or straight, and the right lane goes straight. Most people turning left off US113 are going into town, but the turn lanes off of US113 don't do that, 2/3 of the traffic goes back around and 1/3 goes straight; so on US113 there are two turn lanes, one is almost empty and one is backed up. Many cars don't get through the traffic signal in one cycle. Mr. Lesniewski noted that a lot of people "drift" over the lines there. It was suggested that this was a simple striping issue and changing the lines could fix the back-up issue. Mr. Vetter said he would check with DelDOT Traffic.

Mr. Meyer reported that there are signal issues at Woodleytown Road and South State Street Extended. There is a synchronization issue that he thinks was caused by a power outage that re-set the lights to a default setting. Traffic on Plain Dealing Road is getting preference even when there is no traffic. Mr. Vetter said he will check on this as well, noting that DelDOT has been good about fixing problems that the MPO brings to them.



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## 11. Staff Reports –

- 11.1 Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter
- 11.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – MPO Staff
- 11.3 Correspondence, Publications/Reports/Outreach – K. Layton

Ms. Layton announced that she was working on the next newsletter, and invited PAC members to e-mail her with anything they would like to add. She also reported that she would be representing the MPO at the AMPO conference in Atlanta. The association has added more seminars for public relations people.

Ms. Layton announced that Mr. Edmund Maron had contacted her and informed the MPO that he would have to resign from the PAC due to family concerns. The MPO is waiting for a formal letter of resignation from him before a new member can be appointed. There was also discussion concerning Dr. Houghtaling, who has been unable to attend PAC meetings due to health issues. The MPO sent Dr. Houghtaling a card, and has been in touch with his wife. Dr. Houghtaling's term expired in June 2014; he was a DelDOT/DTC appointee. DTC has now appointed Ms. Priestly, and DelDOT has informed Mr. Gumrot that they would be re-appointing him as their representative. The MPO has not yet received formal word of Mr. Gumrot's re-appointment.

## 12. ADJOURN

**MOTION** By Mr. Dempsey to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Collins. Motion carried.