



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
800 BAY ROAD
P.O. BOX 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

JENNIFER COHAN
SECRETARY

COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020, at 3:00pm
DeIDOT Administration Building, Dover Conference Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ted Williams (Chairman), John Gilbert, Lee Beetschen, Pam Scott, Martin Lessner, and Tom Holmes

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Fifer

DELDOT STAFF PRESENT ON RECORD:

Jennifer Cohan, Secretary; Nicole Majeski, Deputy Secretary; Ken Feaster, DOJ/DeIDOT; Lanie Thornton, Director of Finance; Art Jenkins, Assistant Director of Finance; Amanda Giuttari, Finance; Melanie Carlson, Finance; Drew Boyce, Director of Planning; Marc Coté, Planning; Anson Gock, Planning; Mike DuRoss, Planning; C.R. McLeod, Director of Community Relations

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES ON RECORD:

Ben Lykens, OMB; Ken Grant, AAA; Doug Atkin, FHWA; DJ Hughes, DBF; Kathleen Baker, Citizen; Dan Deboissiere, Citizen; Jay Tomlinson, Citizen; James Johnson Jr., Wallace Montgomery; Mary Roth, Delaware Greenways; Julie Fedele, Controller General's Office

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order and opened with congratulations to Drew Boyce on his retirement from DeIDOT and on behalf the Council, thanked him for his many years of service. He then recognized and congratulated Marc Coté on being selected as Drew's replacement as Planning Director.

Chairman Williams proceeded with approval of the Council on Transportation (COT) meeting Agenda for February 24, 2020, Councilwoman Scott made the motion to approve, Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, the agenda was unanimously approved. Next motion, the review and approval of the COT December 16, 2019 meeting minutes. Councilwoman Scott made motion to approve the minutes, Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Secretary Cohan proceeded with Department updates. Delaware's first new Autonomous Shuttles are operational and now running on DelDOT's campus. There is a tentative date for a press event for Lewes and potentially planning one at the Riverfront. Eventually the vehicles will be deployed throughout the state. An innovative technology section was recently created within the Delaware Transit Cooperation to focus on technology. DelDOT's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) hearing went well. The Bond Bill Hearing will be March 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. We recently launched the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIIF) which has one application so far.

Mike DuRoss provided an overview of all the changes in the Enhanced Project Prioritization Process. A handout was provided to summarize the proposed changes to the existing criteria. He discussed the US 301 Economic Impact, in response to the Council request at last December meeting. Staff applied TREDIS to Westown TID just south of Middletown, Delaware. He outlined the land use changes and transportation improvements in the area and provided an estimated economic impact of the Amazon Distribution Center. Mike also explained the difference among the planning assumptions, TREDIS estimated job impacts, and the actual Amazon job increase.

Chairman Williams proceeded with a vote to approve the Updated Enhanced Project Prioritization Process. Councilman Gilbert made motion to approve, Councilwoman Scott seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Drew Boyce outlined Review and Approval of Proposed FY21 to FY26 CTP. He presented the summary of changes from December 2019 based on projects' progression, funding availabilities, and public inputs. The draft FY21 – FY26 CTP Implementation Plan was presented to the COT. Only the new FY21 projects were ranked according to the Enhanced Project Prioritization method while the projects were ranked based on the old method.

Chairman Williams called on Council to vote to approve the modifications to the current FY21 – FY26 Capitol Plan based upon the protection of things related to, when Right-of-Way acquisition and project development were occurring. Chairwomen Scott made motion to approve, Chairman Lessner seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

Chairman Williams then opened the floor to public comment.

Jay Tomlinson a resident of Lewes appealed to the group to review the US 9 and Kings Highway project and asked for consideration to expedite. Chairman Williams replied, the council's responsibility is, in conjunction with the Prioritization Process as adopted in 2012, the Department provides all the quantitative analysis and then gives the rankings to Council. The Council does not vote on moving projects and has no input into the scores themselves. Drew Boyce replied, the previously approved CTP that was approved by the Council had preliminary engineering for this project starting in FY23.

Mary Roth, Chair of Historic Lewes Bi-Way, added in following up on Mr. Tomlinson concerns, and noted that while there is understanding that the prioritization process underlies the rankings, she noted there is a Master Plan for Kings Highway and Gills Neck Road. They are looking for the road to be completed within the context sensitive design of that Master Plan and to have road work completed prior to more development. Chairman William responded, as relates to when development can occur verses the road, is something she would have to discuss with Sussex County.

D.J. Hughes added additional comments in support of expediting the US 9 and Kings Highway project. He stated, there was a previous gap in the funding and that the construction funding in FY26 was only \$1 million and with help of the department it is now \$5.5 million.

Next, Mr. Hughes expressed concerns on the Cave Neck Road, Hudson Road, and Sweetbriar Road project. Drew Boyce responded that recent restriping was an initial, temporary measures and showed the project is in the CTP for a reason. Mr. Hughes asked of it also being expedited and suggested if there could also be alternate funding sources. Chairman Williams then responded to Mr. Hughes on the potential economic development for the Kings Highway Project. He explained, if we ran through the current CTP projects and used the new prioritization process some projects that are higher on the list could end up lower. We don't want to see any of the projects change because they have a ranking system already. If we re-ran the ranking system there could be projects that could fall way back, a lot farther back than what the community would be expecting and had been anticipating based upon previous CTP presentations.

With no additional comments or questions, Councilman Williams requested a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Scott made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Lessner seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Sherwood, Recording Secretary