



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

COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 3:00pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Council Members Present:

Ted Williams (Chairman), Martin Lessner, John Gilbert, Bobby Fifer, Thomas Holmes

Council Members Absent:

Lee Beetschen, Pam Scott

DelDOT Staff:

Nicole Majeski, Secretary; Pam Steinebach, Director of Planning; Todd Reavis, Director of Technology and Innovation; Omar Noor, Technology and Innovation; Mark Luszcz, Deputy Director of DOTS; John Sisson, CEO-DTC; Mike DuRoss, Planning; Anson Gock, Planning; Mike Hahn, Planning; Jenn Cinelli, Planning; Humaira Nabeela, Planning; Brad Eaby, DOJ/DelDOT; George Lees, DOJ/DelDOT; Jim Pappas, Director of Transportation Resiliency and Sustainability; Lanie Thornton, Director of Finance; Melanie Carlson, Finance; Art Jenkins, Finance; Amanda Giuttari, Finance

Guests:

Lindsay Donnellon, FHWA; Doug Atkin, FHWA; Michael McConnell, OMB; Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO; Nancy Manoj, AECOM; Kathleen Baker; Kelly Brennan; Joan Lamoy

Agenda Item # 1: Review and Approval of Minutes (December 10, 2020):

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order with a review of the agenda. He moved to the first agenda item of approval for the last COT meeting minutes on December 8, 2021 and entertained a motion for approval. Councilman Lessner made motion to approve. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by the Council.

Agenda Item #2: Secretary Update:

Secretary Majeski provided a PowerPoint presentation on DelDOT updates. She briefed and reviewed slides to include: Safety in Transportation; Transportation Trust Fund; FY23 - Sources of Funds - \$933.1M; FY23 – Uses of Funds - \$933.1M (in millions); FY23 – US 301 Sources and Uses of Funds (in millions); Trust Fund Revenues; Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill - \$500M/Next 5 Years (new); Transportation Resiliency & Sustainability

Councilman Lessner asked several questions to clarify certain aspects of the additional \$500M that DelDOT is anticipated to receive under the “new infrastructure bill” which includes an additional \$100M for each of the next 5 years. The Secretary indicated that these funds are in addition to the specific discretionary grant money and programs in which the state will apply. Secretary Majeski explained the new \$100M annually for each of the next 5 years will be the increase to the current allocation plus two new formula-based funding for bridge and electric vehicles. Discretionary funds that are listed in the new infrastructure bill are separate from the Delaware apportionment because these funds will be competitive in nature, so at this time the Department does not know which of these we may get.

Councilman Lessner asked if the Department would announce projects they are applying for once they are identified. Secretary Majeski explained that projects most likely won’t be identified until February because the Department is still waiting on the rules around how the new funding can be used. The EV infrastructure framework just got released last week and is in the public review comment period until January. Once the department understands the rules for the infrastructure bill and how the money can be spent, they will announce projects.

Councilman Lessner asked if there are other projects like bicycle or pedestrian projects that are eligible right now for the state to apply for. Secretary Majeski replied that the list for discretionary grants and the details of how to apply or what to apply for have not been released yet.

Councilman Lessner asked when the time comes to apply if there will be “a race to the courthouse” to race against other states to make a claim. Secretary Majeski explained that it is a competitive process, and the Department will use their resources and consultants to package the applications. The Department intends to take full advantage of all the discretionary grants that are available.

Councilman Lessner asked if a portion of the \$100M could or would go to already existing projects and if schedules for existing projects could be accelerated with the additional money. He further asked if the council would be kept up to date on projects applied for and the allocation of the \$100M a year of existing projects on the CTP. Secretary Majeski replied that projects scheduled in the outer years could be accelerated with the grant money once the rules are released and understood by the department on how the money can be spent. The department hopes to have

an updated CTP for the February meeting that will reflect the new funding and can show what projects the money is going towards.

Jim Pappas introduced and presented the new Transportation Resiliency & Sustainability effort at the department. He provided a brief description of the mission and initiatives as well as the website and resources to learn more.

Secretary Majeski announced that the I-95 Corridor project is preparing to enter Phase II.

Agenda Item # 3: Draft FY 23-28 Capital Transportation Program:

Pam Steinebach provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Biennial CTP Process Timeline and the DelDOT Draft FY23-28 CTP Information. She briefed and reviewed slides to include: Biennial CTP Process Timeline; DelDOT Draft FY23-FY28 CTP Information; Review of Public Comments from Draft FY23-FY28 CTP Public Meetings; Project Planning Partners

Pam presented slides to review Public Comments from Draft FY23-FY28 CTP Public Meetings. Modes to present Public Comment include: “In Person” – Virtual Meeting; Internet – Interactive Map Feature – <https://project-site-deldot.hub.arcgis.com/>; Email – dotpublic@delaware.gov; Phone – Community Relations 302-760-2080; Hardcopy – Sent via USPS Mail;

New Castle County: one project – 21 attendees - Comments include:

- Coordination between Truck Parking Facilities and Route 9 Corridor Plan

Kent County: three projects – 14 attendees – Comments include:

- Irish Hill Road Upgrade (Glen Forest Road to US13): bike/ped upgrading
- Brenford Road (SR13 to DE42: Lynbury Woods Road): Safety Concern for Bide/Ped
- Support for Garrison Oak Connector that came out of the Dover/Kent 2040 MTP and Air Cargo Facility Study

Sussex County: nine projects – 24 attendees – Comments include:

- Status and Interest in Mulberry Knoll Road Extension

Pam reviewed the Next Steps for the department to include: The department not recommending any major changes to the draft projects; Public comments will be utilized in development and design; Continued refinement of the spend plan – based on project schedules and infrastructure funds; Present any modifications or updates prior to COT meeting in late February 2022; Plan Adoption by COT no later than March 1, 2022

Agenda Item # 4: Public Comment

Chairman Williams asked the council if there were any other questions for Pam or Nicole. Chairman Williams then stated that he had one question/comment regarding the Port Parking Facility and if there has been a push or desire from anyone at the Port to provide additional cargo storage areas. Secretary Majeski replied by explaining that the Port has been looking at different options to bring more cargo in but has not had a request for additional storage yet. Chairman Williams commented on how the parking area is critical and there are too many trucks parked along Route 9 which has a negative impact on the community.

Councilman Lessner asked if DeIDOT, DNREC, the Port, or the County would be responsible in regulating idling trucks in the parking area due to environmental concerns with the near by Markell bike trail. Secretary Majeski replied by explaining that the department will follow up on this question and with the Port as well. The department researched this question and verified that DNREC oversees anti-idling regulations and enforcement. More information can be found at this website: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/mobile-sources/diesel-emissions/#:~:text=Idling%20of%20an%20on%2Droad,of%20from%20%24500%20to%20%241%2C500>

Chairman Williams opened the floor for public questions or comments. Kathleen Baker with Sterling Crossing commented on the increase in housing and daily traffic causing safety concerns. Thanked the department for all they do and hopes to see some of the federal funds help accelerate projects that could make a difference in safety.

Chairman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Gilbert made a motion to approve, and Councilman Lessner seconded the motion.

A video recording and presentation of this virtual meeting can be found on the DeIDOT.gov website and on the DeIDOT YouTube page.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Niddrie, Recording Secretary