COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 4:00pm
DelDOT Administration Building, Farmington/Felton Conference Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
  Pete Nellius (Chairman), Bobby Fifer, John Gilbert, Tom Holmes, Lee Beetschen, Pam Scott, and Ted Williams

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:
  Marty Lessner, and Carolyn Thoroughgood

DELDOT STAFF PRESENT ON RECORD:
  Jennifer Cohan, Secretary; Nicole Majeski, Deputy Secretary; Drew Boyce, Director of Planning; John Sisson, CEO Delaware Transit Corporation; Shanté Hastings, Director, Policy and Performance; and Michael McConnell, Finance.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES ON RECORD:
  Ken Grant, AAA; Jim Johnson Jr., Wallace Montgomery; and DJ Hughes, DBF.

Secretary Cohan opened with welcoming statements. She announced that Pete Nellius has resigned as the Chairman to the Council on Transportation (COT) after 17 years on the Council on Transportation. In honor of Pete’s dedication, he received a letter from the Governor and Secretary Cohan presented a plaque for his service to DelDOT. Secretary Cohan announced that the Governor has appointed Ted Williams as the new Chairman for the Council.

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 19, 2017. Councilwoman Scott noted her name was omitted from the Council Members Present section and the date of the last COT meeting had a minor correction. With the correction of those two errors, the minutes were approved by the Council.
Secretary Cohan provided a PowerPoint presentation with Department updates. She opened with a brief update from the Governor’s office on the COT vacancies. There are currently two vacancies and the Governor’s office is working on filling those vacancies. She reviewed the FY2019 Source of Funds, Trust Fund Reviews, Uses of Funds, Operating Budget History, and the Capital Budget.

Mark Luszczy and Don Weber provided a presentation on Median Barrier Program and reviewed the Strategic Highway Safety comprehensive plan. The overall theme of the plan is “Toward Zero Deaths” which aims to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on Delaware roadways through a multi-agency approach that utilizes education, enforcement, engineering and emergency medical service strategies. Mark and Don provided a display in the conference room and offered further detail after the meeting to anyone interested.

Drew Boyce provided a presentation highlighting the Draft FY20 – FY25 Capital Transportation Program (CTP). He reviewed the new projects within each County. There were minor changes to project schedules and budgets discussed. Drew reviewed the dates and locations of the CTP Hearings for each County. Chairman Williams suggested the Council members attend one of the hearings. The hearings were stated as followed:

- New Castle County – September 9, 2018 at the Newark Free Library, Newark, DE
- Kent County – September 11, 2018 at the DelDOT Administration Building, Dover, DE
- Sussex County – September 26, 2018 at the DelDOT South District, Georgetown, DE

Drew reviewed the next steps in the CTP process. After the September CTP Hearings are held, the public comment period closes on October 8, 2018. December 2018 the Council will meet to review the hearing comments and in February 2019 the COT will meet to adopt the FY 20-25 CTP.

Chairman Williams asked the Council if there was a motion to approve the release of the documents. Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the draft CTP, Council Fifer seconded, and motion pass unanimously.

Chairman Williams ask for an update on the prioritization process. Drew introduced Anson Gock to the Council. Anson has been tasked with the prioritization process and has been working on methods of measure and federal aids to access some of the criteria. Drew predicted a year process and will provide an update in December. Chairman Williams asked for an update on the 301 project. Secretary Cohan stated the 301 project is on time and on budget. It is expected to be complete in December.

Chairman Williams opened the floor to the Public in attendance for comments. D.J. Hughes made a statement on Minus Conaway and accident impact in the area. He added his concern of prioritization #5 titled US 9, Kings Highway, which was added last year. He made a statement that
the project was added last year but others have been funded prior. Chairman Williams stated his comments would be reviewed and responded to if needed.

With no additional comments or questions, Secretary Cohan read a tribute from the Office of the Governor for their appreciation to Pete Nellius for his years on the Council on Transportation.

Chairman Williams requested a motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Belford, Recording Secretary