COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 3:30pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Council Members Present:
Ted Williams (Chairman), Pam Scott, Martin Lessner, Bobby Fifer, John Gilbert, and Lee Beetschen

Council Members Absent:
Thomas Holmes

DelDOT Staff:
Nicole Majeski, Acting Secretary; Shanté Hastings, Acting Deputy Secretary; Brad Eaby, DOJ; George Lees, DOJ; Ken Feaster, DOJ; Lanie Thornton, Director of Finance; Amanda Giuttari, Finance; Melanie Carlson, Finance; Michael McConnell, Finance; Marc Coté, Director of Planning, Anson Gock, Planning; Mike DuRoss, Planning; Todd Reavis, Director of Technology and Innovation; Mark Luszcz, Deputy Director of DOTS; John Sisson, CEO DTC; Josh Thomas, Planning; Lori Sherwood, Planning

Guests:
Ken Grant; Doug Atkin, FHWA; Drew Boyce; Kathleen Baker; Gail Van Gilder; Nick Roth; Mary Roth; Jay Tomlinson; Alexander Fraser; Bruce Kay; Joseph Giannetto; Joe Hofstee; Mark Tudor; Maggie MacNamara; Joan Lamoy; Diane Jones-Zalewski; Lee Adolph; Marcy Maxwell; Jeff Hans; Keith Steck; and Eul Lee

Agenda Item # 1: Review and Approval of Minutes (August 19, 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 August 19, 2020. Councilwoman Scott made motion to approve. Councilman Lessner seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Council.
Agenda Item #2: DelDOT Update:

Acting Secretary Majeski provided a PowerPoint presentation on DelDOT updates. She briefed and reviewed slides to include: 2020 Highlights; Continuing Operations; COVID 19 Impacts on DelDOT Finances; Transportation Trust Fund; FY22 – Sources of Funds - $938.8M; FY22 – Uses of Funds - $938.8M; Trust Fund Revenues; Debt Services as a Percent of Revenue; and FY22 Initiatives.

Agenda Item #3: FY 21 – FY 26 CTP Project Implementation Update:

Marc Coté provided a PowerPoint presentation on the FY21 – FY26 Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Project Implementation Update. He briefed the FY21 - FY26 was approved on November 19, 2020 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and can be viewed on the DelDOT.gov website.

Marc reviewed slides of changes to the implementation plans for all three counties.

New Castle County:
- SR 896 Widening, US 40 to I-95
- I-95 and SR 896 Interchange
- Tyler McConnell Bridge, SR 141, Montchanin Road to Alapocas Road
- I-295 Northbound, SR 141 to US 13

Kent County:
- West Street, New Burton Road to North Street
- SR1, Scarborough Road C-D Roads

Sussex County:
- US 9, Kings Highway, Dartmouth Dr. to Freeman Highway
- US 9 and US 113 Grade Separated Intersection
- Plantation Road Improvements, SR 24 to US 9
- HSIP SC: Dairy Farm Road and Beaver Dam Road/Fisher Road Intersection Improvement

Agenda Item #4: I-95 Restore the Corridor Project Update:

Shanté Hastings provided a presentation on the Rehabilitation of I-95 From I-495 to North of Brandywine River Bridge. She briefed on slides of the I-95 Project Description; Aerial Image of Project Limits; Project Schedule; Advance Projects – Areawide; Construction Phasing Summary; Public Outreach; and Commuting Solutions.
Agenda Item # 5:  Public Comment

Chairman Williams then opened the floor for questions or comments.

Jay Tomlinson, resident of Lewes, expressed concerns and questioned why the Kings Highway development is being delayed in the PE process. Marc Coté replied, emphasizing that the project had not been delayed. It was scheduled to begin in FY22, and it is still starting in FY22. The original schedule had PE in FY22 and FY23 and we believe the PE phase will continue into FY23 and FY24. We are adding additional funding in those years. Mr. Tomlinson then questioned it being a 4-year process. Shanté Hastings replied that PE funding extends into the right of way. We do design from the very beginning of the project until it goes out to construction, so often we’re making changes as we are working with property owners on right of way acquisitions. We are making tweaks to our designs along the way, so the PE overlaps with the right of way phase. Shanté added, with knowing we will have a lot of public meetings and public input, it will take time to get consensus. We want to make sure that we are setting realistic expectations to the overall schedule and design process.

Keith Steck, resident of Milton, questioned bridge construction and lane expansion on Route 24. Shanté Hastings replied that there are no plans for bridge expansions anywhere on Route 24 at this time. The dualization of lanes runs from the middle and elementary school intersection out to Route 1, which is east of the Love Creek bridge.

With no further comment, Councilman Williams requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lessner made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Scott seconded the motion. All approved.

A video recording and presentation of this virtual meeting can be found at DelDOT.gov website.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Sherwood, Recording Secretary