



COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 1 pm

Zoom and In-Person Meeting

Council Members Present:

Ted Williams (Chairman), Marti Dobson, John Gilbert, Thomas Holmes, Martin Lessner

Council Members Absent:

Robert Fifer

DelDOT Staff

Nicole Majeski, Secretary, Shanté Hastings, Deputy Secretary & Chief Engineer; Pam Steinebach, Director of Planning; George T. Lees III, Deputy Attorney General-DelDOT; Kristin Schaap, DelDOT; Shanita Hall, DelDOT; Stephanie Johnson, Director of Resilience & Sustainability; Mike DuRoss, DelDOT; Anson Gock, DelDOT; Austin Gray, DelDOT; Cooper Bowers, DelDOT; Paul Moser, DelDOT; Liddy Campbell, DelDOT; Bruce Allen, DelDOT; Jay Gerner, DelDOT; Paul Moser, DelDOT; Mike Hahn, DelDOT; Lanie Clymer, Director of Finance; Amanda Giuttari, DelDOT Finance; Melanie Carlson, DelDOT Finance; Alan Marteney, DelDOT; John Calnan, DelDOT; Cathy Smith, DTC; Scott Neidert, DelDOT; Peter Haag, DelDOT; Amy Anthony, DMV; Maureen Kelley, DelDOT; Taylor Stynchula, DelDOT; Sanyee Barjogar, DelDOT; Melanie Carlson, DelDOT; Mark Luszczyk, DelDOT; Jamal Carter, DelDOT

Guests:

Michael McConnell, OMB; Charles Postles, Representative; Marc Coté, Rossi Group; Enos Han, FHWA; Doug Atkin, FHWA; Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO; Bill Weller, Julie Fedele, CGO; Ryan O'Donoghue, FHWA; Rachel McGuire, Jacobs; Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO; DJ Hughes, Davis, Bowen & Friedel; Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO; Philip Barnes, University of DE; Andrea Trabelsi, WRA

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order and announced that the Council would begin with the Secretary's Update and return to the review and approval of the past meeting minutes once quorum was met.

Agenda Item #1: Secretary's Update:

Secretary Majeski provided a PowerPoint presentation on DelDOT updates. Her briefing began with the 2024 Delaware Traffic Fatalities slide. Secretary Majeski explained that although the recent safety chart shows a 7% decrease compared to last year's numbers, Delaware is still seeing an increase in pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorcycle fatalities compared to the past two years. Secretary Majeski continued by explaining that there is a slight uptick in intersection-related crashes and DelDOT's safety team continues to analyze the intersections to determine the types of engineering improvements to resolve these issues.

Secretary Majeski commented that DelDOT continues to support the Delaware Highway Safety Unit within DSP as they have been allocating police officers during the summer months along I-95 and Route 1 administering speeding citations. Secretary Majeski stated that a DUI checkpoint will be taking place over the Labor Day holiday weekend as well.

Secretary Majeski also reminded the Council about the BE DELAWARE Safety Campaign that DelDOT encourages people to sign the pledge to promote safety on our roads.

Secretary Majeski moved on to the next update- DelDOT Finances, which included a brief overview of the FY25 Sources of Funds. The Secretary also provided an overview of the FY25 DelDOT Budget.

Councilman Marty Lessner asked when we go to the Bond Market, are we asking for a total of \$150 million. Secretary Majeski answered yes. Councilman Lessner also asked if other bonds have been issued through the State of Delaware that will need to be paid back. Secretary Majeski responded by explaining that the annual State Budget includes a Debt Service Payment for the bonding that has been done in previous years that gets paid back.

Secretary Majeski continued with an update of the University of Delaware Report which includes information on the Financial and Policy Impact of Electric Vehicles and Improved Fuel Economy of Delaware's Motor Fuel Tax. Secretary Majeski praised Philip Barnes and his staff for doing such a great job on compiling the report. Lanie Clymer provided the link to review the report: <https://udspace.udel.edu/items/b28f5b76-42c2-4f9b-97d2-a6f3e2b8eb76>

Chairman Williams asked a question if there was a way to correlate the motor fuel tax revenues versus the miles traveled. Secretary Majeski responded by stating that the report includes that the average Delaware resident pays approximately \$142.00 a year in motor fuel tax.

Alan Marteney asked the question if the report would be provided online. Lanie Clymer responded that we would provide the weblink to the University of Delaware.

Agenda Item #2: Review and Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Williams moved to the review and approval of the February and May meeting minutes. He entertained a motion for approval. Councilman Gilbert made a motion to approve, Councilman Holmes seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by the Council.

Agenda Item # 3: Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Prioritization Process Update

Pam Steinebach provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Prioritization Process Update. Pam briefed the Council on the seven factors of current and proposed processes, explaining that the primary focus for this meeting would be on four of the seven factors listed in the presentation: Safety, Multi-Modal, Equity, and Resiliency. Peter Haag provided a brief overview of the Safety subfactors and score ranking processes.

Pam continued with an overview of the Multi-Modal, Flexibility/Access process stating that it was updated from a Qualitative to a Quantitative process. Paul Moser also provided additional information on modeling method techniques for bike and pedestrian projects.

Councilwoman Dobson asked about the ADA & Transition plan if there is a status of completion or if the plan is still being developed. Paul Moser answered the ADA Transition Plan is available online: <https://deldot.gov/Business/ada/>.

Pam Steinebach briefly discussed the Equity & Environmental Justice process, explaining the plan is to go from a combination of Qualitative & Quantitative to just a Quantitative process, adding two Equity Focus Areas. Stephanie Johnson explained that they are currently working on data maintenance updates and should have the information completed to present it at the December COT meeting.

Pam also provided an update on the Transportation Resiliency process, explaining the idea is to move it from an Environmental Impact/Stewardship, Qualitative process to the Transportation Resiliency, Quantitative process. Pam also explained that the current focus is on the Flood Risk Assessment Map. Chairman Williams suggested taking into consideration evacuation routes. Stephanie Johnson explained that the Frequently Flooded Roadway Segment Analysis tool does include the evacuation routes.

Pam reviewed the Prioritization Process Timelines and asked the COT Council members if they wanted to meet in October to discuss the Review of the Proposed Draft/CTP Priority Process. It was decided by the Council to have a Special Council meeting in October to go over the Prioritization Update on the remaining factors.

Agenda Item #4: State Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Jay Gerner provided a brief update on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Jay shared information on Public Engagement that included approximately 2,000 views of the LRTP website. Jay also explained that three public workshops took place between April-May 2024, which included public outreach through social media outlets, the DelDOT website, and News media outlets and bulletin boards- asking libraries to post flyers.

Councilman Holmes asked about the number of participants who attended the Sussex County workshops. Jay responded that about 2 to 3 dozen people attended the workshops. Councilman Holmes expressed his concerns with the turnout attendance and suggested other ways of reaching people by setting up electronic display boards before the workshop and even mailing out letters to the communities. Chairman Williams also suggested providing workshop information to the State Legislators and asking them to get the word out as well.

Jay continued his discussion on the LRTP Timeline stating the goal is to continue working on the draft plan between September and November to be able to present a completed draft at the December COT meeting.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Chairman Williams opened the floor for any public comment. There were no comments from the public.

Chairman Williams congratulated Mike DuRoss on his retirement from DelDOT and thanked him for his role with the COT and Pam recognized Mike as well for his accomplishments with the COT.

Chairman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Liddy Campbell, Recording Secretary