



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

## COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

### Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2025

Zoom and In-Person Meeting

#### **Council Members Present:**

Ted Williams (Chairman), Marti Dobson, Robert Fifer, John Gilbert, Martin Lessner

#### **DelDOT Staff**

Shanté Hastings, Secretary; Lanie Clymer, Deputy Secretary; Mark Luszcz, Chief Engineer; Stephanie Johnson, Director, Planning; Anne Brown, Director of Finance; George T. Lees III, Deputy Attorney General-DelDOT; Todd Reavis, Director, Technology and Innovation; C.R. McLeod, Community Relations Director; Austin Gray, DelDOT; Anson Gock, DelDOT; Liddy Campbell, DelDOT; Melanie Carlson, DelDOT Finance; Angela Christian, Finance; John Sisson, Chief Executive Officer-DTC; Cathy Smith, DTC; Tremica Cherry-Wall, DTC

#### **Guests:**

Senator Kyra Hoffner; Enos Han, FHWA; Ryan O'Donoghue, FHWA; Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO; Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO; Kathleen Baker; Jordan Seemans - Harvey Hanna and Associates; Ian Friedland; Julie Fedele; Amy Willey; Dan Blevins, WILMAPCO; Gail Van Gilder, Delaware Greenways; Julie Fedele

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#### **Agenda Item # 1: Review and Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum of council members was met. Chairman Williams continued to the agenda and asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the February 26, 2025 Council meeting. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by John Gilbert and seconded by Bobby Fifer. All in favor of approval were made by the Council.

#### **Agenda Item #2: Secretary's Update:**

Secretary Hastings provided a PowerPoint presentation on DelDOT updates. Her briefing included an updated summary of Safety in Transportation. Secretary Hastings explained that

fatalities are down about 21% since 2024 and 29% in 2023. Secretary Hastings stated that although most of the categories listed are down in numbers, the DelDOT team continues to provide safety improvements to our roads and, along with law enforcement, the Office of Highway Safety and Emergency Services. Secretary Hastings also mentioned signing up to Be A Hero Toward Zero Pledge by going to the website: <https://deldot.gov/Programs/BeDelAWARE/>.

Secretary Hastings continued with an explanation of additional Safety efforts that have been created, called the Safe System Approach. This system approach is to provide additional safety measures for the public. Secretary Hastings explained that two of the main safety measures that are being continued to be installed throughout Delaware roads are the installation of median barriers along the highways to prevent crossover accidents and the installation of Roundabouts, which provide traffic calming and enhanced safety.

Secretary Hastings announced recent updates with the DelDOT's Organization Structure, which included: Lanie Clymer, formerly the Finance Director of DelDOT has been appointed to Deputy Secretary, Anne Brown, formerly Director of Maintenance and Operations, has been appointed as the Finance Director, Pam Steinebach, formerly Director of Planning, has been appointed as Director of Maintenance and Operations, Stephanie Johnson, formerly Director of Resiliency and Sustainability has been appointed as the Director of Planning and Mark Luszczyk, formerly the Deputy Director of Transportation Solutions has been appointed to Chief Engineer.

Secretary Hastings continued with an explanation of four major categories in which DelDOT is most focused on providing: 1. Safety-providing safety measures for safer roadways; 2. State of Good Repair- providing ongoing repairs to pavement, bridges, sidewalks, and equipment that are useful for the traveling public. 3. Multimodal- focusing on providing quality sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, and transit modes of travel for the public. 4. Resiliency- working to provide fewer flood roadways throughout the state.

Secretary Hastings provided a Legislative Update, which included two bills:

- **SB 88: Toll Violation Processing Changes:** The bill went through a code change, so instead of a traveler receiving a \$50.00+ toll violation notices in the mail, the bill was updated so that the traveler was charged only for the set toll amount, either \$1.00 or \$3.00 whichever the amount would be and only be charged for the specified toll amount. Secretary Hastings explained that as of September, toll violations will no longer be sent out, and invoices for missed tolls will begin in November.
- **HB 164: DelDOT Fee Increases:** The revenue package included increased toll fees on Route 95, SR1, and US 301. There was also an increase in Vehicle Document fees, DMV fees, as well as the Alternative Fuel Registration Fee. Secretary Hastings mentioned that postcards explaining the increase in fees were sent out to residents of Delaware.

Councilman Lessner asked about error rates for out-of-state EZPass holders who may receive a violation when the system fails to recognize the driver's EZPass. Secretary Hastings responded that it could be a glitch in the system and not pick up the EZPass information. Secretary Hastings explained that Delaware does coordinate with other states if issues arise with EZPass holders' information.

Councilman Lessner moved on to ask about the State of Good Repair information that Secretary Hastings previously provided, particularly about flooding on sunny days. Councilman Lessner asked if there a specific list of frequently flooded roads. Councilman Lessner stated that recent issues on Route 9, South of Fleming's Bridge, are always either perpetually wet or underwater and asked what are of the State's budget is maintaining these types of roads that are flooded most days. Secretary Hastings explained that a frequently flooded roads list has been created, and they are going through and prioritizing the list and applying for grants, specifically for Route 9 to be able to elevate some of the bridges and roads in between them. Stephanie Johnson also stated that the Resiliency and Sustainability section is looking for ways to create a long-term strategic approach regarding frequently flooded roadway areas. Secretary Hastings explained that more technical work will need to take place in order to alleviate the flooded roadways.

Secretary Hastings continued with an update on the Transportation Trust Fund Sources of Funds for FY26, which includes 1.1 billion in funds. The Secretary shared a breakdown and the percentage of each source. Secretary Hastings also explained how the sources of funds are distributed, which includes going towards the Operating Budget, as well as a portion goes to State and Federal Capital. Secretary Hastings commented on the FY26 US 301 Sources and Uses of Funds. Secretary Hastings also shared the Projected Revenues and Expenditures for FY26 and FY27, explaining how the Debt Service amounts can fluctuate year over year and the Operating Budget increases. Secretary Hastings moved on to the FY27-FY32 6-year Program Spend Budget, which includes a cost breakdown for each County in Delaware and also shared the Capital Program Projections for each county over six years. Secretary Hastings then provided a list of expenditure programs of how State Capital Funds are utilized.

Secretary Hastings explained what programs in each County in the State of Delaware are, Federally Funded vs Non-Federally Funded, and broke it down into percentages of miles throughout each County.

Secretary Hastings continued with a summary of Project Highlights. She provided a brief description of each, explaining the status of each project. The projects included: I-95 and SR896, Camden Bypass, Kenton Road, North Millsboro Bypass, Georgetown to Lewes Trail and SR1 and SR16 Grade Separated Intersection. More information about each project can be found by going to: <https://deldot.gov/projects/>.

**Agenda Item # 3: Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP)**

Stephanie Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Prioritization Process Update. Stephanie presented a FY27-FY32 CTP Timeline of events about the CTP Process, for CY2025- Nomination of Projects, Ranking of Projects, Fiscal Analysis, Funded Candidates Presented to the COT, Public meetings scheduled for each County, and the COT review of comments from each county. And then in CY2026, the COT will meet to vote to recommend the CTP to the Governor. Stephanie announced that one new project was added to the CTP, Kent County Project Candidate- Rank #11 was chosen- McKee Road/Salisbury Road Improvements, US13 N/S. to provide improvements to additional travel lanes, shoulders on both sides, multi-use paths, and sidewalks.

Councilman Williams moved on to explain to the COT Council about the Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Plan (CTP) and stated that one additional project was added, McKee Road. Councilman Williams opened it up for the Council for further questions, hearing none, Councilman Williams entertained a motion to approve the Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP). A motion was made by Marti Dobson, seconded by Martin Lessner. All in favor of the approval made by the Council.

Councilman Williams provided the Next Steps in moving forward with the CTP Process, which includes - Public Meetings held in each County in September; scheduling a December 2025 COT meeting to review all Public Comments received from each of the public meetings; and in the February 2026 COT meeting, vote to recommend the CTP to the Governor.

Councilman Williams stated that the COT is looking into adding new members. Currently, there are seven active council members and 3 vacancies that need to be filled. Councilman Williams explained that there is one potential candidate of interest. Lanie Clymer added that the information will be passed on to the Governor's office for recommendation. Councilman Williams asked the council members for further assistance in finding additional candidates who would be willing to join the Council, specifically from Kent County and New Castle County.

**Agenda Item #4 – Public Comment:**

Chairman Williams opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Kathleen Baker expressed appreciation to the Council on behalf of the Sterling Crossing Community regarding the easement for the extension of Old Airport Road.

Chairman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor from the Council members were made. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liddy Campbell, Recording Secretary