

2025 Council on Transportation Annual Report



Delaware Department of Transportation

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Council Members

Ted C. Williams – Chairman

Newark, Delaware

Martha Dobson

Dagsboro, Delaware

Robert Fifer

Camden-Wyoming, Delaware

John Gilbert

Lewes, Delaware

Thomas Holmes

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

Martin S. Lessner

Wilmington, Delaware

Herbert Russell

Wilmington, Delaware

Michael Carey

Dover, Delaware

At the end of 2025, there was one vacant seat on the Council on Transportation.

Council on Transportation Role and Purpose

Established under 29 Del. C. § 8409, the Council on Transportation (COT) is a nine-member advisory body appointed by the Governor. Members are drawn from each of Delaware's three counties, with at least two representatives from each. They are business and community leaders with demonstrated expertise or experience in transportation or related fields, and they serve three-year terms on a voluntary basis.

To ensure balanced representation, political affiliation is considered during the appointment process: no political party may outnumber another by more than one member. Members may not be sitting legislators and must not hold any business or professional interests that would create a conflict with their responsibilities on the Council.

The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Secretary and other Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) leadership on transportation policy and related matters that support DelDOT's mission to deliver Excellence in Transportation for Every Trip, Every Mode, Every Dollar, Everyone. In this capacity, the Council plays a central role in shaping transportation investment and planning across the state.

One of the Council's core responsibilities is approving DelDOT's ranked project prioritization process, the formal and data-driven method by which DelDOT makes transportation investments.

The Council also reviews and adopts DelDOT's Capital Transportation Program (CTP), ensuring that planned projects reflect public input, community needs, and local and statewide priorities. Every two years, DelDOT updates the six-year CTP, which outlines planned investments in Delaware's transportation system. These investments include roadway and transit improvements, grants and allocations, and transportation support systems such as facilities,

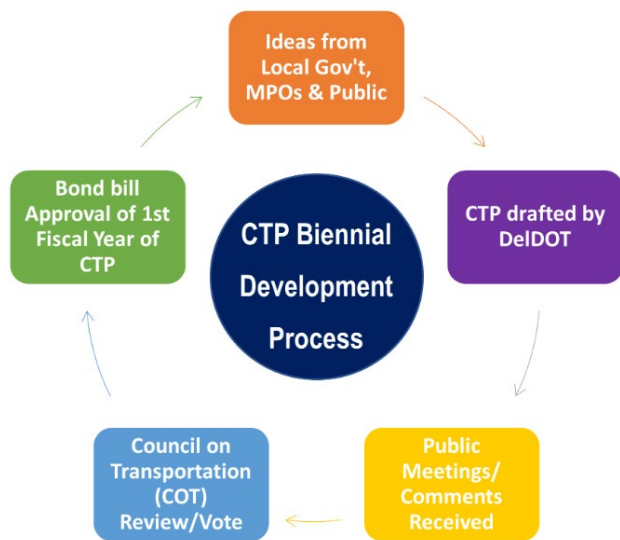


Figure 1: DelDOT's biennial Capital Transportation Program (CTP) development process.

equipment, and information systems. The CTP also identifies the estimated costs of project phases scheduled during each year of the program. The first four years of the CTP serve as Delaware's federally required Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and include DART First State's capital investments for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Section 5307 Program of Projects (POP).

The biennial CTP development process, as shown in Figure 1, begins with project recommendations from the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO), the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (D/K MPO), and Sussex County. In 2025, DelDOT executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Transportation to change the Salisbury/Wicomico MPO (S/W MPO) core work program to be limited to the Maryland portion of the Salisbury Urbanized Area, therefore, project recommendations are no longer requested from S/W MPO.

In 2025, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the FTA approved the COT-adopted FY25-FY30 CTP. Development of the FY25-FY30 CTP was initiated in 2023 and continued through 2024.

Additionally, DelDOT initiated the development of the FY27-FY32 CTP in 2025. Due to budgetary constraints, Delaware's MPOs and Sussex County were provided with the opportunity to review the FY25-FY30 CTP and provide recommendations for higher priority transportation investments for the FY27-FY32 CTP. Such projects would replace recommended projects in previous CTP

documents. One new project, McKee Road/Saulsbury Road Corridor Improvements between US 13 North and US 13 South in Kent County, was added in developing the FY27-FY32 CTP. This project is shown in Figure 2. Additionally, four projects identified in previous CTP documents were removed in developing the FY27-FY32 CTP:

- US 13 at White Oak Road Intersection Improvements
- Banning Street and Clarence Street between Forrest Street and West North Street Improvements
- Brenford Road (SR 13 to DE 42: Lynnbury Woods Road)
- West Street, New Burton Road to North Street

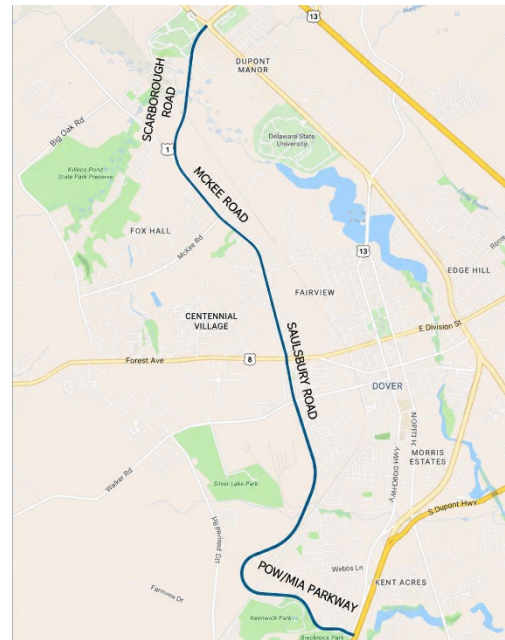


Figure 2: Location of McKee/Saulsbury Road Improvements Project

State of Good Repair (SOGR) projects remained a significant part of the program to ensure a focus on maintaining existing infrastructure.

In addition, the Council approves decisions regarding the alignment of new highways, confirming that appropriate public processes have been followed. The Council also reviews Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for public transportation carriers and provides input on the issuance, suspension, revocation, or reinstatement of those certificates.

Through these responsibilities, the Council ensures that capital transportation investments are in the best interest of the traveling public in Delaware.

2025 COT Meeting Summaries

This section provides an overview of each COT meeting held in 2025. The COT met two times in 2025. Full minutes from each meeting can be found in Appendix A.

February 26, 2025, COT Meeting

Agenda Items:

- Review and Approval of Agenda
- Safety Update
- Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from the December 10, 2024, meeting
- Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Prioritization Adoption
- Long Range Transportation Plan Update
- Public Comment

Meeting Summary:

- Review and Approval of Agenda: Chairman Williams called the meeting to order, announced Shanté Hastings as DelDOT's new Secretary, and deferred approval of the December 10, 2024, meeting minutes until a quorum was present.
- Safety Update: A PowerPoint presentation was provided on transportation safety, including reduced fatalities, the Be A Hero Toward Zero Pledge, the Safe System Approach, median barriers, roundabouts, DelDOT organizational changes, Department responsibilities and initiatives, transit highlights, and the Downstate Rail Study.
- Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the December 10, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Council.
- Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Prioritization Adoption: A comparison of the current and proposed CTP prioritization processes

was presented. The Council approved the revised process, moving to 100% quantitative criteria.

- Long Range Transportation Plan Update: The completed draft had been reviewed and approved by the MPOs and DelDOT leadership. Additional information on long-term corridor and regional needs was requested, and the Council was expected to review and vote at the next scheduled meeting.
- Public Comment: No comments from the public.

September 8, 2025, COT Meeting

Agenda Items:

- Review and Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes
- Secretary's Update
- Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP)
- Public Comment

Meeting Summary:

- Review and Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the February 26, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Council.
- Secretary's Update: A PowerPoint presentation included transportation safety updates; the Safe System Approach; DelDOT organizational changes; the Department's focus on Safety, State of Good Repair, Multimodal transportation, and Resiliency; legislative updates on SB 88 and HB 164; frequently flooded roadways; FY26 Transportation Trust Fund sources and uses; FY27-FY32 program spending; and project highlights.
- Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP): The CTP timeline and process were presented. McKee Road/Salisbury Road Improvements was added as a new Kent County project, and the Council approved the Draft FY27-FY32 CTP.
- CTP Next Steps: Public meetings were scheduled in each County for September, with a December 2025 COT meeting planned to review public

comments and a February 2026 vote to recommend the CTP to the Governor.

- Council Membership: The Council discussed three vacancies and requested assistance identifying potential members from Kent and New Castle Counties.
- Public Comment: Appreciation was expressed on behalf of the Sterling Crossing Community regarding the easement for the extension of Old Airport Road.

Appendix A: 2025 COT Meeting Minutes



COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Zoom and In-Person Meeting

Council Members Present:

Ted Williams (Chairman), Marti Dobson, Thomas Holmes, Robert Fifer, John Gilbert

DelDOT Staff

Shanté Hastings, Secretary; Lanie Clymer, Director of Finance; Mark Luszczyk, Chief Engineer; Pam Steinebach, Director of Planning; Anne Brown, Director of M&O; George T. Lees III, Deputy Attorney General-DelDOT; Todd Reavis, DelDOT; C.R. McLeod, Community Relations Director; Anson Gock, DelDOT; Colton Phillips, Cooper Bowers, DelDOT; DelDOT; Bruce Allen, DelDOT; Jay Gerner, DelDOT; Liddy Campbell, DelDOT; Norman Jester, DelDOT; Amanda Giuttari, DelDOT Finance; Melanie Carlson, DelDOT Finance; Amy Anthony, Director, DMV; John Sisson, Chief Executive Officer-DTC; Cathy Smith, DTC; Uma Ganesan, DTC-Finance

Guests:

Enos Han, FHWA; Ryan O'Donoghue, FHWA; Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO; Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO; Peter A. Brown, Jr., LDI; Drew Boyce, Kleinfelder; Philip Barnes, University of DE; Laurie Walsh; Andrea Trabelsi, WRA; Jake Thompson; Heather Dunnigan, WILMAPCO; Alan Marteney, Century Engineering; Jamie Snow, WRA; Senator Gerald Hocker; Josh Balcena; Mary Roth; Ana Garcia; Jake Thompson, WILMAPCO; Sean Matthews

Agenda Item # 1: Review and Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order and before moving forward with the agenda, Chairman Williams announced to the Council that DelDOT has a new Secretary, Shanté Hastings.

Chairman Williams stated that since we are waiting on all Council members to be present to meet quorum, we would move the approval of the meeting minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting and start with the Secretary's Update.

Agenda Item #1: Safety Update:

Secretary Hastings provided a PowerPoint presentation on DelDOT updates. Her briefing included a summary of Safety in Transportation. Secretary Hastings explained that fatalities are down about 50% since 2024 and 73% in 2023. Secretary Hastings also mentioned that January of 2025 was the lowest amount of fatalities reported and praised DelDOT as well as law enforcement efforts for making Delaware's roads a safer place to travel. Secretary Hastings also mentioned signing up for the Be A Hero Toward Zero Pledge by going to the [website](#).

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 announced two types of safety measures that have taken place: 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 provided an update on recent changes with the DelDOT's Organization Structure, which included Lanie Clymer, formerly the Finance Director of DelDOT has been appointed to Deputy Secretary, and Mark Luszcz, formerly the Deputy Director of DOTs, has been appointed to Chief Engineer and Anne Brown, currently the Director of Maintenance and Operations, but will moving into a new role as the Director of Finance. Secretary Hastings explained this would leave a vacant position for the Director of Maintenance and Operations sections, but she is currently working on getting it filled as soon as possible.

Secretary Hastings presented a list of DelDOT Statistics and responsibilities, which included 89% of roadways in Delaware are maintained by DelDOT as well as 1,781 bridges and one ferry, and over 1,200 traffic signals. Secretary Hastings went on to explain that DelDOT is also responsible for 1,150,424 DMV Transactions Annually, 80M Annual Toll Transactions as well as E-ZPass Utilization; 5.3M Fix Route trips and 858,000 Paratransit Trips.

Secretary Hastings acknowledged the DelDOT staff and thanked them for all their hard work and dedication in keeping our roads safe and providing excellent service to our customers.

Secretary Hastings moved on with an explanation of the Department Initiatives, explaining that DelDOT continues to provide ways for customers to connect, whether it be through driving, biking, walking, and transit. These initiatives also include connecting bike trails to be used for not only recreational purposes, but also to make them available to the public to use as a mode of travel to their workplaces. There are also prioritization initiatives that are taking place to provide modifications to roads and bridges. Secretary Hastings also announced that DelDOT will continue

to focus on the Transportation Infrastructure and Investment Fund projects, which provides private sector businesses a chance to apply for funding for transportation-related improvements. Another initiative that DelDOT provides in the DMV Online services for the public and we continue to create and enhance these services to better serve our customers.

Secretary Hastings continued with Transit Highlights, which includes the DART Reimagined Plan, using DART Connect transit service, by calling or using the app to set up a pickup, and they provide a round-trip service for \$2.00. This program also includes alternative fuel vehicles as well as building new facilities to support these types of vehicles. Secretary Hastings mentioned that DelDOT will be establishing 4 Hybrid DART buses in 2026. And the program also includes the Downstate Rail Study, to provide rail services between New Castle and Sussex County.

Agenda Item #2: Meeting Minutes Approval (December 10, 2024):

Chairman Williams announced that the Council had enough members present to vote on the December 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Chairman Williams entertained a motion for approval, a motion from Ms. Marti Dobson was made, and seconded by Mr. John Gilbert to approve the meeting minutes.

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

Pam Steinebach provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Prioritization Process Update. Pam provided updates and a comparison of the Current Adopted CTP Process vs the Proposed CTP Project Prioritization Comparisons, which explains the new goals through the proposed process. Pam stated that DelDOT is in the process of requesting CTP nominations from the MPO's and the County as well as checking with sections within DelDOT if there are any projects that they would like to include in the nominations. Pam stated that the goal is to gather all the nominations by April. Pam opened it up to the Council for questions.

Councilman Williams stated that he appreciated all the efforts that have gone into making the updates to the CTP Prioritization Process and expressed that Economic Development is critical and felt the balancing of the prioritization process has improved. Councilman Williams opened it up for questions, hearing none, Councilman Williams entertained a motion to approve the revised Prioritization Process based on the new numbers, 100% Quantitative vs. Qualitative, a motion was made by Mr. John Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Bobby Fifer. The revised Prioritization Process was approved.

Agenda Item 4- Long Range Transportation Plan Update:

Jay Gerner provided an update on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Jay stated that the Full draft is completed and has been reviewed and approved by the MPO's, DelDOT Leadership team. Jay explained that the Executive leadership requested an additional section that describes some of DelDOT's long-term needs assessment studies for critical corridors and regions and other initiatives, SR1 Master Plan, US 113 North/South Study, Coastal Corridors Initiatives, CTP Process, Planning Studies Pipeline Process. Jay explained that the DelDOT Leadership team will be reviewing and for public review. Pam explained that once the review is finalized, then the COT Council will review and vote on the approval at the next scheduled COT meeting.

Chairman Williams asked Secretary Hastings if a funding update would be available at the next COT meeting, particularly on the gas tax funding. Secretary Hastings explained that DelDOT is scheduled for an Operating Budget Hearing, and then they will be able to provide an update at the next scheduled 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 entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Liddy Campbell, Recording Secretary



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

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](#).

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 Luszcz, 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 the [DelDOT project portal](#).

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

