The Capital Transportation Program and the Council on Transportation

What are they?
How do they work?
How can you get involved?

For more information please contact:
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The Council on Transportation

The Council on Transportation (COT) is a nine-member advisory panel established by State law and appointed by the Governor. It is made up of business and community leaders who have expressed interest in transportation subjects and have demonstrated expertise or experience that would help in evaluating relevant issues and programs. Members denote their time and serve for three years. They are drawn from each of Delaware’s three counties, with a minimum of two from each county. While current members cannot be legislators, their political party affiliation is a consideration. No political party can outnumber any other political party by more than one member. No member may be engaged in any business, employment or vocation which would create a conflict of interest in determining Delaware’s transportation programs.

The Role of the Council on Transportation

Approve Long Range Transportation Plan
The COT has final approval of the Long Range Plan that establishes the vision for the transportation system for the next 20 years.

Approval of Transportation Priorities
The COT has final approval of the priorities and the formula-based prioritization process by which DelDOT determines the transportation improvements to be included in the Capital Transportation Program (CTP).

Adopts DelDOT’s Capital Transportation Program
The COT reviews and approves DelDOT’s CTP, making sure that the public is provided opportunities to be well-informed and involved in the process and that these projects are in the community’s best interest.

Approves Highway Realignments
The COT approves DelDOT’s recommended preferred alternative on alignments of new highways, ensuring that DelDOT has followed the prescribed public process for reaching those decisions.

Reviews Certificates of Convenience & Necessity
DelDOT issues certificates to public carriers (operators of railways, taxis/cabs/limousines, buses and commercial carriers), except for schools and churches, for transportation services. The COT reviews and comments on the issuance, suspension, revocation or reinstatement of these certificates.

What the Council Does
The Council serves in an oversight and advisory capacity to the Secretary and Directors of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and to the Governor on issues relating to transportation and other matters which may aid DelDOT in providing the best possible transportation services for the traveling public as specifically defined in 29 Del. C. § 8409.
Each year, the Governor, working in conjunction with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), proposes transportation-related projects, known as a "Capital Transportation Program" (CTP), to the state General Assembly. Projects are selected through a preliminary prioritization process and are described in terms of anticipated costs, locations, descriptions of improvements and the reasons the projects are needed.

The CTP is a six-year program of transportation investments. It includes a variety of projects intended to make our system safer, reduce traffic congestion, accommodate the needs of economic growth and preserve the existing system in good working order. These projects must conform to the requirements of federal laws, such as the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), creating a performance-based transportation program, and the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAA) to reduce air pollution. Each requires careful consideration on how it will impact the state's economy, environment and quality of life. That's where the Council on Transportation - and the public - come in.

Take a closer look at the steps taken as the draft CTP moves through the Council on Transportation (COT) to adoption, funding and implementation.

**Draft CTP**
DelDOT receives project ideas from Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), local governments and the general public. A Draft plan is developed from projects identified in:

- Long Range Transportation Plans
- Management Systems
- Economic Development Initiatives

**Public Notice**
The COT announces the draft available to the public and solicits public input, to solicit public input during the early stages of consideration. These meetings are announced in the Daily News and on DelDOT’s website.

**Written Comments**
Written comments from interested citizens or groups continue to be taken for another ten days after each public meeting.

**COT Review**
The COT reviews the public comments and other information from the public process.

**COT Votes**
The final CTP, including the TIP, is presented to the COT. A majority of the Council must vote to approve the proposed CTP before March 1.

**MPO Priorities**
The MPOs finalize and adopt their Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) which must be included into the CTP without modification.

**Maintenance**
Maintaining the system is an essential role for DelDOT and improvements to system preservation and maintenance are critical.

**Project Development**
Depending on the project's size and complexity, the process of designing and developing projects prior to construction can take from months to many years. Property, environmental, access, cost and social impacts are considered as necessary. Additional public meetings and hearings on individual projects are held in order to receive citizen comments. Plans are drawn up, specifications created and bids for services are received.

**Construction**
Construction DelDOT personnel construct the project to deliver the service.