



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, taxicabs/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.

For more information please contact:

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Dover, DE 19901
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The Capital Transportation Program and the Council on Transportation

What are they?

How do they work?

How can you get involved?



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 donate 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.

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.



DelDOT's Capital Transportation Program... A Closer Look

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 (CAAA) 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

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Public Notice

The COT makes the draft available to the public and schedules public meetings to elicit public involvement during the early stages of consideration. These meetings are announced in the Public Notice section of local newspapers statewide and on DelDOT's website.

Public Meetings

Public meetings, one in each county, are held during the month of September to review and explain the proposed projects and to gather comments, suggestions or objections from interested individuals or groups.

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.

Revised Draft CTP

DelDOT reviews the public comments, updates project budgets and schedules, and coordinates projects and priorities with the state's MPOs - WILMAPCO (New Castle County) and the Dover/Kent County MPO - and presents a revised draft CTP.

MPO Priorities

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

COT Votes

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

Approval, Funding, Implementation

The CTP is presented to the Governor and the General Assembly by March 15. If approved, the General Assembly funds the first year of the CTP through passage of the "Bond Bill" legislation, which applies to the upcoming fiscal year, and in July DelDOT begins the process that will eventually lead to the implementation of individual projects.

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 to receive citizen comment. Plans are drawn up, specifications created and bids for services are received.

Maintenance

Maintaining the system is an essential role for DelDOT and investments in system preservation and maintenance are critical.

Construction

Contractors or DelDOT personnel construct the project or implement the service.