

DeIDOT Response to 5 Points Inquiries and Comments

In December of 2017 DeIDOT, in conjunction with Sussex County, assembled the Five Points Transportation Study Working Group to identify needs and develop recommendations to address transportation issues in the Five Points study area. Formal recommendations of the working group would then be presented to DeIDOT and Sussex County for their review and appropriate action.

Concurrently, DeIDOT initiated a process to decommission a portion of the Georgetown to Lewes rail corridor from just west of SR9 to its terminus east of Lewes. As a result, two members of the working group proposed an idea to utilize the existing rail right-of-way from Georgetown to Lewes for a limited access multi modal transportation corridor. This was just one of 103 ideas that were generated by the 17 members of the Working Group. DeIDOT and the working group have received several questions as to how DeIDOT's current CTP projects would align with and potentially accommodate this idea and others should they become formal recommendations of the working group.

DeIDOT has several projects in and around the 5-points area including the railroad right-of-way that are currently in design. These projects have gone through a formal public process and have been approved by the Council on Transportation and have received authorization to move forward from the General Assembly for the current phase. These projects include:

- SR1, Minos Conway Road Grade Separated Intersection
<https://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/SR1MinosConway/index.shtml>
- Realignment of Old Orchard Road at Wescoats Corner
<https://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/OldOrchardRoad/index.shtml>
- Track and Crossing Removal
- Georgetown to Lewes Trail, Phase 2
https://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/bike_and_ped/Georgetown-Lewes-Pathway-Phase2/
- Plantations Road Improvements, SR 24 to US 9
<https://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/PlantationRd/index.shtml>

In order to continue to meet public expectations and the existing transportation needs DeIDOT will continue to move these five current projects forward.

The 5 Points Transportation Study Working Group has followed a defined process since its first meeting in December, 2017. The process which will conclude in October, 2018 is still in a preliminary stage and has not developed any formal recommendations. The process is as follows:

- Identification of transportation needs in the Five Points study area (Completed)
- Development of ideas and approaches to address transportation needs in the Five Points study area (Completed)
- Formal voting to determine which ideas and approaches will become a recommendation (This will take place over the course of two meetings on July 23 and July 30)
- Conducting a Public Workshop on August 27 for the public to review the recommendations and offer input on which recommendations should be prioritized
- The Working Group will perform a prioritization exercise of their recommendations at the September Working Group meeting

The idea to utilize the existing rail right-of-way from Georgetown to Lewes for a limited access multi modal transportation corridor and the other 103 ideas are just ideas at this point in the process and have not been endorsed by the Working Group. In order for this idea to become a formal recommendation of the

Working Group is must receive a majority of the votes submitted when it is put up to a vote at the working group meetings to be held on July 23 and July 30 beginning at 6:00 PM at Beacon Middle School, Lewes, DE.

If any of the ideas do not receive a majority of the votes they will **not** be included as a formal recommendation of the Working Group.

If the idea to utilize the rail road right-of-way for a roadway and bike lanes or any of the other ideas do become formal recommendations and are identified by the Working Group as a priority, then DelDOT will be obligated to consider them moving forward. As part of this consideration, the recommendations will be assessed for feasibility, environmental impacts, public comments and cost. These as well as many other variables will be used to determine if the projects can move forward and if DelDOT will pursue the recommendations.

The Working Group represents a diverse group of elected officials, government officials, business leaders and community members and you are encouraged to contact them to voice your opinion on all the ideas that have been brought to the Working Group for consideration. In addition, we hope you will attend the public workshop on August 27, 2018 from 4 PM – 7 PM at Beacon Middle School, Lewes, DE to review and provide comments on those recommendations approved by the Working Group.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jennifer Cinelli-Miller, Project Planner at Jennifer.cinelli@state.de.us or 302-760-2549. You may find all of the meeting materials on the project website at 5Points.deldot.gov