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

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 Luszcz, 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

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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: 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 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