SAFETY ADVISORY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Safety Advisory and Transportation Committee meeting was held on April 25, 2012 at 5:03 p.m. with Chairman Hutchison presiding. Members present were Mrs. Russell (arrived at 5:09 p.m), and Mr. Davis. Mr. Lynn was absent.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Due to the lack of a quorum at the commencement of the meeting, Mr. Hutchison requested that consideration of Agenda Item #1, FY 2013 Capital Investment Plan (CIP), be deferred until later in the meeting, noting that no official action could be taken until a quorum was attained.

Update - Dover High Construction

Mrs. Ann Marie Townshend, Director of Planning and Community Development, explained that progress was continuing on the construction of the new Dover High School and that steel was currently being set. She advised members that staff recently discussed the signalization of the intersection at the east entrance of the school with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Capital School District's design team and that a signal could not be placed at the intersection until a traffic study is performed. She explained that if the study concludes that a signal is not warranted, an alternate plan must be developed to allow pedestrian access to the school.

In response to Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Gary Laing, Community Relations Officer and Public Relations Liaison, DelDOT, explained that the study would measure the speed and amount of traffic during normal conditions and should be done before summer to accurately reflect traffic flow.

Mrs. Townshend stated that the monthly construction coordination meeting scheduled during the previous week was canceled and staff was awaiting information regarding rescheduling. She noted that another significant topic to be discussed was pedestrian circulation at the school and that the Capital School District would be coordinating with DelDOT on this issue.

Responding to Mr. Hutchison, Mrs. Townshend stated that construction of the high school was on schedule.

Briefing on Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Projects - *Gary Laing*

Mr. Gary Laing, Community Relations Officer and Public Relations Liaison, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), provided members a briefing on DelDOT Projects, as follows:

DelDOT Repaving Project

The repaving project, which involves milling, patching, and paving of streets, as well as construction of ramps and new crosswalks in pedestrian crossings in seven (7) locations in the City, is underway. Mr. Laing noted that DelDOT was awaiting receipt of a waiver of the noise ordinance from the City for the project and Mrs. Ann Marie Townshend, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated that she would provide this. Mr. Laing explained that most of the work was being performed at night; however, some construction in residential areas (such as curb cutting) was being done during the day. He indicated that DelDOT staff met with members of the Historic District Commission and informed them that new pavement striping at the intersections of State and Loockerman and State and Water Streets would be thermoplastic, as required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which has no allowance for variation in historic areas.

West Dover Connector
A public workshop was held two (2) weeks ago to provide information on the engineering and alignment of the roadway. The workshop was well attended and positively received. Real estate acquisition for the project is scheduled for 2012, followed by final design and construction.

In response to Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Laing explained that the connector's interface with the railroad tracks would be a "flyover."

Wyoming Mill Road Project
This project is complete.

Route 8/Hazlettville Road Connector
Mr. Laing did not anticipate that this project would be addressed in the near future due to budget constraints. He indicated that the project was not included when the Community Transportation Plan (CTP) was developed during the previous year and that DelDOT would be seeking input from the City of Dover, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) regarding their views on the priority of this project compared to other proposed transportation projects in the area.

Mr. Laing advised members that he would be leaving DelDOT on May 4, 2012 and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Committee. He noted that no successor had been named to his position and was unsure if another staff member would have direct responsibility for public relations within the agency in the future; however, he indicated that DelDOT personnel were well versed regarding City projects.

Briefing on Dover/Kent Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Projects - *Rich Vetter*
During the Safety Advisory and Transportation Committee Meeting held on February 29, 2012, Mrs. Ann Marie Townshend, Director of Planning and Community Development, advised members that the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) had proposed bicycle/pedestrian improvements in the downtown Dover area. Mr. Rich Vetter, Executive Director of the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), provided members with a concept plan and artist's rendering depicting proposed traffic calming solutions for the portion of the bike path that would interface with the area of Loockerman Street just east of Fraizer's Restaurant ***(Attachment #1).*** He noted that this section of the street is scheduled for repaving in the near future and it is proposed that striping be added at that time to create 4-foot-wide bike lanes. Mr. Vetter explained that traffic calming islands were proposed for the area of Loockerman Street east of Park Drive in an effort to reduce speeds and form a gateway to the downtown area. He stated that a workshop was scheduled to discuss the proposed bicycle/pedestrian improvements on May 10, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

In response to Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Vetter stated that, if approved, design of the project would take place in FY 13, with construction the following year.

Noting the presence of a quorum, Mr. Hutchison requested a motion for the approval of the agenda.

Mrs. Russell moved for approval of the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously carried.

FY 2013 Five-Year Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

Mr. Scott Koenig, City Manager, reviewed the projects in the Draft FY 2013 Capital Investment Plan (CIP) that were related to safety and financed through the General Fund, as follows

1) The annual contribution to Robbins Hose Company to pay the debt on fire trucks. Mr. Koenig indicated that this is a fixed contribution that would amount to $238,524 for FY 2013.

2) Replacement of the main electric breaker at the police station. Mr. Koenig noted that problems had been experienced with the power supply unit to the police station and the estimated cost of replacing the breaker would be $33,800.

3) The repair and microsealing of the Police Department parking lot. Mr. Koenig noted that this item was previously planned for financing through the General Fund; however, it is now planned for payment through funds that Council has appropriated through a loan and bond for a street paving project; consequently, this project is a General Fund item but will be paid from bond proceeds rather than general tax dollars.

4) The replacement of vehicles. Mr. Koenig explained that the Police Department was the only department proposing the purchase of vehicles related to safety. He advised members that the draft CIP proposed nine (9) vehicles for purchase; however, he requested that the Police Chief reduce the number of vehicles since a "gap" was anticipated in the budget. Mr. Koenig stated that the CIP includes nine (9) vehicles per year for the out years. He noted that Police Department vehicles incur heavy use, long hours, and "rough" conditions.

Mr. Hutchison requested that staff provide information on the nature of each vehicle's use and the mileage breakdown when this matter is discussed during the budget process.

By unanimous consent, members recommended acceptance of the report as presented.

Mr. Davis moved for adjournment, seconded by Mrs. Russell and unanimously carried.

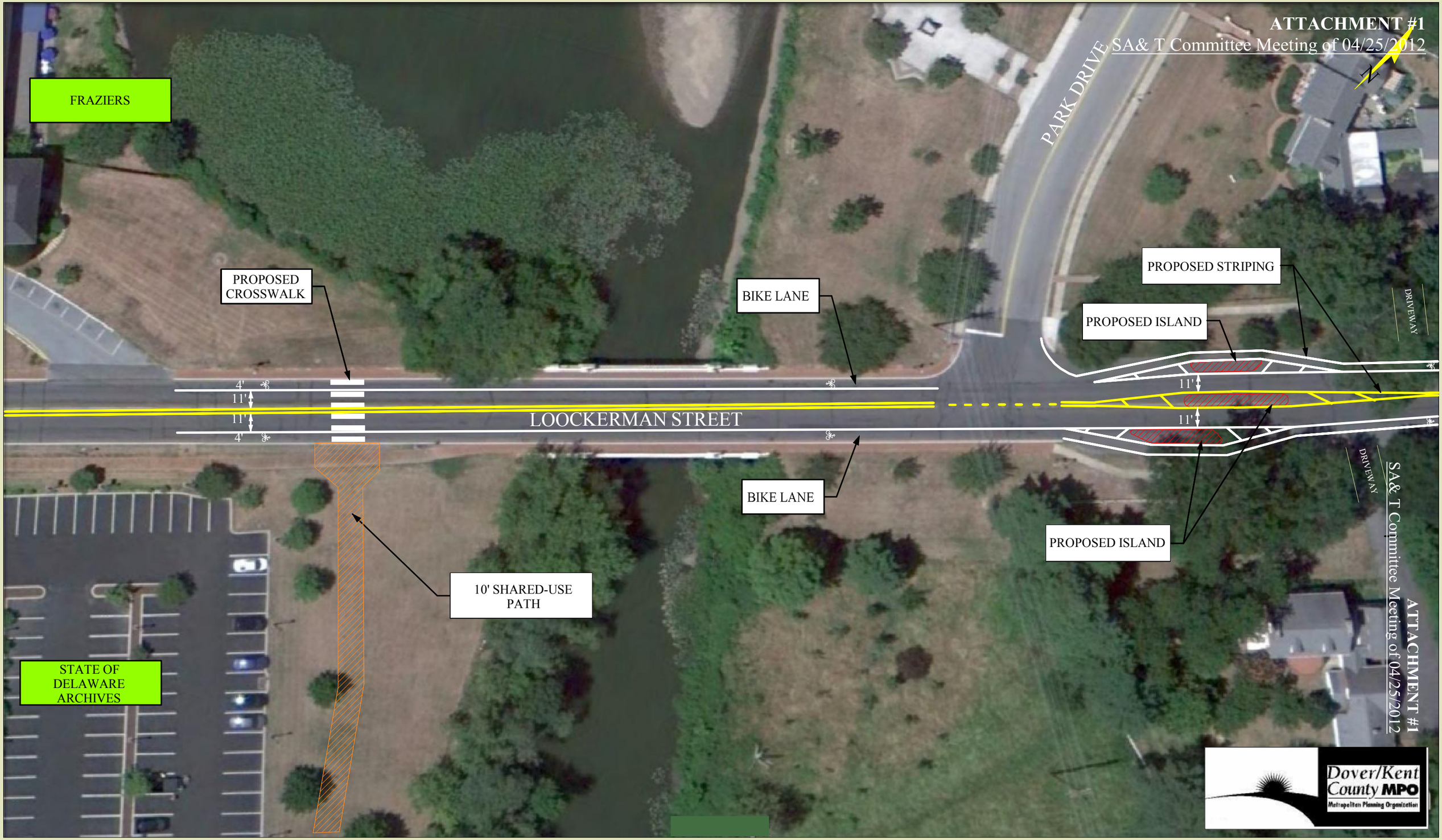
Meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

James L. Hutchison, Sr.
Chairman

JLH/JS/dd/tm
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Attachment
Attachment #1 - Concept Plan and Artist's Rendering of Proposed Traffic Calming Solutions - Bike Path Interface with Loockerman Street

Proposed Traffic Calming
Loockerman Street



APRIL 2012

