ATTACHMENT #1

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

NATHAN HAYWARD III
SECRETARY

November 10, 2003

Mr. Anthony DiPrima
City Manager
City of Dover
15 E. Loockerman Street
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Tony:

At the October meeting of the City of Dover Transportation Committee, the issue of restricting left-hand turns at the intersection of State and North Streets was again raised. At that time you recommended that restrictions be imposed, even though a survey of affected businesses on Loockerman Street and The Green requested by the Committee had not been conducted due to a lack of staff and time.

As a representative to the Committee from the Delaware Department of Transportation, I expressed our opposition to having signs posted without input from the businesses in the area. For a number of reasons, DelDOT opposes the concept of putting up signs, then taking them down if there are complaints. I enumerated those reasons at the meeting. The Department was then asked (challenged?) to conduct the survey of downtown businesses, to which I responded that I would inquire about the possibility.

Manpower and time limitations also affect DelDOT. Even with consultants, the Department has an estimated five-week backlog on studies. It is not just a matter, in the view of our Traffic Studies Section, of simply sending someone door-to-door on Loockerman Street and The Green to ask how business owners feel about the idea.

The institution of turning restrictions is more complex than a simple turn restriction affecting just one intersection. When traffic is redirected, the potential for problems are created at other locations. What would be the impact, for example, at the South Governors Avenue and North Street intersection? The State and Loockerman Street intersection also would be affected by the restriction, as would the intersection of State and Water Streets. Does the turn restriction suggested transfer a problem from one location to another, and possibly create a larger problem there?

DelDOT

There is reason to believe that limited turn restrictions based on time of day also cause confusion for motorists. Unless the City is ready to commit strongly to enforcement, the result will not be what is desired. In fact, upon implementation of the limited restriction, we could see a more dangerous intersection for a period of time as motorists learn of the new regulation. If a traffic light posted at the intersection is difficult to see, as studies have indicated in the past, will a sign be any more visible?

As parking for Downtown Dover businesses has been an issue for many years in redevelopment questions, there could be a perception that it is even more difficult to access parking areas. Residential parking at the condos located on Loockerman Street would also be affected by the suggested change.

Our Traffic Studies Section perceives this as a larger issue than trying to improve traffic flow for a couple of specified hours on weekdays. It sees that the impact on Downtown businesses has to be considered, as well as the impact on other nearby intersections. As a result, DelDOT opposes any piecemeal action that does not take into account all factors. There is a real concern that a larger problem could be created than presently exists. The idea of trying it and then reversing direction if there are complaints is not one that the Department endorses.

So, for now the answer is that DelDOT would have to conduct a full traffic study before agreeing to the restriction, an action that will take both time and fiscal resources to accomplish. If the Transportation Committee wants to make a formal request of the Department to conduct such a study, we will accommodate it, however we are asking that the City prioritize this against other projects that have been requested of the Department. Until such time, no action can be taken.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Laing
Municipal Liaison

GL:c

cc: Eugene Ruane, Councilman, City of Dover
Terry Petrucci, Director, Public Relations
Don Weber, Assistant Director, Transportation Solutions
Dover Transportation Committee members

ATTACHMENT #2

January 21, 2004

Ms. Juanita S. Wieczoreck
MPO Coordinator
Dover/Kent County MPO
P.O. Box 383
Dover, DE 19903-0383

Dear Juanita:

The City of Dover is interested in working with the Dover/Kent County MPO on a study of the intersection of North and State Streets. We are particularly interested in exploring the possibility of restricting certain left-hand turns at the intersection. We understand that this study will need to take into account the potential impact on other intersections in the area.

Depending on the estimated cost, the City would budget for the 20 percent match in FY 2004/2005. We would appreciate it if you could develop an estimated project budget for consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, I may be reached at (302) 736-7005 or by e-mail at tdeprima@dover.de.us.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY J. DEPRIMA, AICP
City Manager

AJD/tlk

cc: Transportation Committee
Gary Laing
Scott Koenig
Jim Galvin

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ATTACHMENT #3

City of Dover

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware now has a State Scenic and Historic Highway program sponsored by the Delaware Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dover is home to a significant number of scenic and historic qualities that contribute significantly to the byway experience that could benefit from the designation; and

WHEREAS, the Route 9 Scenic and Historic Highway stretches from the City of New Castle to the John Dickinson Plantation and the St. Jones River Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Route 9 as a State Scenic and Historic Highway will help leverage resources and highlight the history and beauty of this unique landscape.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOVER, that the Delaware Department of Transportation is strongly encouraged to designate Route 9 as a Delaware State Scenic and Historic Highway and to express the hope that this Resolution will be taken into consideration as the Department evaluates support for Route 9's nomination to the State Scenic and Historic Highways program.

ADOPTED: *

JAMES L. HUTCHISON
MAYOR

WILLIAM P. McGLUMPHY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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