

## **Livable Delaware Activity**

Activity/Policy/Program name: Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan

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Purpose: To provide Sussex County with the same level of long-range transportation planning as Kent and New Castle Counties.

Enabling Laws: 17 Del.C. §132 (General Authority)  
29 Del.C. §8404 (Planning Authority)

Policies: Not applicable.

History: The existing Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted in 1996 as a component of the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan. Although there is no federal or state mandate to maintain a long range transportation plan for Sussex County, the Department does so as a means of providing the county with the same level of long range transportation planning afforded Kent and New Castle Counties through their two Metropolitan Planning Organizations, as required by federal law. As the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan provides overarching policy guidance, the Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan provides more project specific guidance.

Current Situation: Maintaining a separate long-range transportation plan for Sussex County has proven to be a good investment for the Department. It has helped to strengthen the tie between the county comprehensive land use plan and the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan, and it serves as the guide by which the department develops its short and long term planning and capital program for the county. The development of a long range transportation plan for Sussex County supports the following Livable Delaware goals:

- Direct investment and future development to existing communities, urban concentrations, and growth areas.
- Protect important farmlands and critical natural resource areas.
- Streamline regulatory processes and provide flexible incentives and disincentives to encourage development in desired areas.
- Encourage redevelopment and improve the livability of existing communities and urban areas, and guide new employment into underutilized commercial and industrial sites.
- Promote mobility for people and goods through a balanced system of transportation options.
- Coordinate public policy planning and decisions among state, counties and municipalities.

Revisions/Actions needed: The Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan is in the process of being revised to reflect progress made over the past five years, to provide an updated basis for the county comprehensive land use plan update due next year, and to keep Sussex County in pace with the Metropolitan Planning Organization plans recently adopted

for New Castle County by the Wilmington Area Planning Council and the plan being updated in Kent County by the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Resources needed to create/revise: The Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan is being updated with consultant assistance and to this point approximately \$300,000 has been budgeted for the effort.

Process for creation/revision: Although the Department is providing the resources for and managing the Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan update, the plan belongs to Sussex County. As such, the effort is being guided by a Public Advisory Committee (PAC), which represents numerous and various interests in Sussex County. The PAC helps to guide the work of the technical team and is assisting in the presentation of this work to the public.

Schedule: The PAC met at the end of June 2001 to set priorities and the technical team is now in the process of writing the complete plan document. The plan document is expected to be completed by the end of August, undergo review by the PAC and general public through September, and be completed by the end of October 2001.

Measures to Guide Progress: Performance measures for the Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan will include:

- The change in overall customer satisfaction with the transportation system as assessed by the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey;
- The change in travel time as assessed by the annual Travel Time Survey; and,
- The level to which people understand and agree with the way that we are building, running, and maintaining their transportation system.

Interactions or Inter-relationships with Other Agencies or Units of Government: The Sussex County Long Range Transportation Plan will form the basis of the transportation component of the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan update due next year as well as for Sussex County municipalities seeking to do the same.