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Media Release

Coordinated Transportation Moves Forward In Kent County

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Transportation is critical to an individual's quality of life and many rely on others to provide this important service. Imagine having to plan all the trips you make by piecing together trips from various community transportation providers. This can be a daunting task for anyone, but particularly for individuals with disabilities, older adults and those with low incomes. They are often hindered from not only pursuing an increase in their quality of life, but simply maintaining a minimal standard of living.

The federal government responded to this need with a 2004 Executive Order signed by President George W. Bush, which requires transportation for individuals with disabilities, older adults and people with lower incomes to be better coordinated. The national initiative on behalf of human service transportation coordination launched the United We Ride (UWR) effort and led to the requirement for every state to develop a Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (CHSTP). Meetings to develop Delaware's CHSTP are taking place in all three Delaware Counties and were initiated by DART First State.

In Kent County, the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization is facilitating development of the CHSTP with a variety of organizations including the Delaware Division of Health and Social Services, the Delaware State Housing Authority, the Frederica Senior Center, the Modern Maturity Center, DART First State and the Transportation Management Association of Delaware. The Kent County group of organizations has been named the Kent Interagency Transportation Enterprise (KITE).

KITE is gathering information to identify available transportation resources, geographical areas of service and gaps in service. This will help the group as they develop a plan to best serve the community through coordination. The group aims to maintain, "quality of life and independence for citizens of Kent County with transportation needs by identifying, utilizing and coordinating resources which will expand transportation resources through partnerships with state, non-profit and private agencies."

Organizations who provide human services transportation in Kent County are encouraged to participate in the KITE plan. The development of a coordinated plan is required for the receipt of future federal funding; which impacts all human service transportation providers in Kent County. The next KITE meeting will be held February 8th at 1:30 in room 5ga of the Blue Hen Corporate Center. Interested individuals can contact Dan McNulty of the Dover/Kent County MPO at (302) 760-2712 for more information.