

**JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

August 15, 2024

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) was held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at WILMAPCO, 100 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 800, Newark, DE 19713 and via video conference/conference call.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Cooper Bowers, from Delaware Department of Transportation, and TAC Chair, brought the TAC meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Samantha Bulkilvish, Delaware Office of State Planning
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
Taylor Englert, Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Michael Fortner, City of Newark
William Goldman, Cecil County Division of Planning and Zoning
Dan Janousek, Maryland Department of Transportation
Gwineth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning
Matthew Rodgers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

TAC Members absent:

City of Wilmington Department of Public Works
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware River and Bay Authority
Maryland Department of the Environment
Maryland State Highway Administration
Town of Elkton Planning

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

Amtrak
Diamond State Port Corporation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Federal Transit Administration

Guests and Invitees:

Tina Merrill, DNREC, AQS member

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant
Elizabeth Espinal, Administrative Assistant

Dave Gula, Principal Planner
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Jake Thompson, Principal Planner
Dawn Voss, Outreach Coordinator
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Espinal.

3. MINUTES

Approval of the July 18, 2024, TAC Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Cathy Smith and seconded by Mr. Matthew Rogers, the July 18th, 2024, TAC Minutes are approved.

Approval of the June 6th, 2024, Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Matthew Rogers and seconded by Ms. Gwinneeth Kaminsky-Rivera, the June 6th, 2024, AQS Minutes are approved.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ACTION ITEMS

6. To recommend endorsement of the East Elkton Traffic Circulation and Safety Plan

Mr. Bill Swiatek provided an update on the East Elkton Traffic Circulation and Safety Plan, which was developed at the request of Cecil County and the town of Elkton to address transportation concerns along Delancy Road, Muddy Lane, and Belle Hill Road. The planning process was guided by a diverse steering committee and involved extensive and iterative community engagement. The plan analyzes current and projected traffic patterns, identifies safety hazards, and proposes solutions to improve traffic flow, connectivity, and safety for all modes of transportation in East Elkton.

The draft plan was well received during a public workshop in June, at County and town council meetings in July, and at WILMAPCO's Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group and Public Advisory Committee meetings in August. The draft plan was open for public comment through the end of July, and no substantive comments were received. Mr. Swiatek expressed gratitude to the Steering Committee, especially Cecil County, the town of Elkton, MDOT, SHA, and the residents of East Elkton for their strong support in developing the plan.

Additionally, Mr. Swiatek mentioned that the American Planning Association's (APA) Transportation Planning Division, along with both the Delaware and Maryland chapters, is sponsoring a site tour and networking visit on September 4th to learn more about the plan. He extended an invitation to all members present and shared the following [link](#) for more details.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Cathy Smith and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom, the TAC recommends endorsement of the East Elkton Traffic Circulation and Safety Plan.

7. To recommend use of Federal STBG, CMAQ, FTA Urbanized Area, FTA 5310, and TAP Funds in FY 2025.

Ms. Heather Dunigan provided DeIDOT's requested spending for categories of federal funding as required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WILMAPCO and DeIDOT.

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) projects for populations over 200,000 are proposed to fund intersection improvements, roadway projects, shared-use paths, paving, and rehabilitation projects. Some of these funds will go toward statewide programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program and rail crossing safety initiatives, with the remainder allocated to individual projects within New Castle County. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area funds are proposed for preventive maintenance, building maintenance, and the Claymont train station. FTA funds for elderly and disabled persons, are proposed for transit vehicle replacement.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are proposed for Rideshare Delaware, statewide bicycle and pedestrian improvements, Old Capital Trail improvements, and other paving and pedestrian enhancements. Ms. Dunigan noted that only the CMAQ-eligible portions of these larger projects, typically focused on bicycle and pedestrian elements, will receive CMAQ funding. CMAQ funding was detailed for statewide Integrated Transportation Management System (ITMS), which aims to optimize transportation system efficiency using a mix of CMAQ and Surface Transportation Block Grant funds. The Air Quality Subcommittee reviewed the projects and found them eligible, with no significant concerns raised. Mr. Bill Swiatek echoed Ms. Dunigan's remarks, emphasizing the importance of directing CMAQ funds to eligible multimodal projects, particularly those that enhance bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Ms. Dunigan then reviewed several bicycle/pedestrian CMAQ projects and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, including the Old Baltimore Pike Side Path, the Augustine Cutoff Pathway, and the East Coast Greenway along Route 4. She provided updates on various projects in different stages, such as the Southbridge Phases 2 and 3 in Wilmington, the New Castle Avenue Sidewalk and Streetscapes, and multiple projects in Brandywine Village.

She also mentioned upcoming projects, including a shared-use path in Newark between Paper Mill Road and Thomas Park, and a streetscape project in Townsend, Delaware. Some projects are still in the planning or preliminary engineering stages, such as the Midtown Brandywine Streetscape and the Montessori Academy project in Wilmington. Lastly, Ms. Dunigan noted a few projects that are not moving forward, including the two-way King Street project.

Mr. Janousek from MDOT expressed appreciation for the comprehensive overview of the various funding areas, noting that such detailed rundowns are uncommon. He inquired whether a similar presentation would be done for the Protect or Carbon Reduction Programs (CRP) or if it had already been completed. Ms. Dunigan responded that such a presentation has not been done, as it is not formally required by the MOU agreement. However, she welcomed the idea and mentioned that WILMAPCO would be open to presenting the details of those programs before the committee.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Michael Fortner and seconded by Ms. Samantha Bulkilvish, the TAC recommends the use of federal fundings for FY 2025.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

8. WILMAPCO FY 2025 Project Updates

Mr. Dave Gula presented an overview of the WILMAPCO FY 2025 Project Updates, focusing on upcoming projects for the year. The new projects, approved as part of the FY 2025 UPWP on May 23rd, include the First and Final Mile Freight Network update, New Castle County Strategic Action Plan, Augustine Cut Off Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvements Phase Two, Rocky Run Pathway Underpass Feasibility Study, and the Maryland Route 272 Corridor Study.

Mr. Dan Blevins provided details on the First and Final Mile Freight Network update, emphasizing its focus on refreshing data from 2019 and aligning it with New Castle County's Comprehensive Plan and other regional studies. The Strategic Action Plan aims to better align the New Castle County Comprehensive Plan and the WILMAPCO RTP, particularly in mobility and transportation.

Mr. Gula continued with the Augustine Cut Off Multimodal Improvements Study Phase 2, which follows up on a previous study by DeIDOT. This project will address safety concerns and public outreach along the corridor, focusing on traffic calming and improving pedestrian and bike networks. The Rocky Run Pathway Underpass Feasibility Study is part of the Concord Pike Master Plan, aiming to improve pedestrian and cyclist access along the corridor.

Mr. Bill Swiatek presented the final plan, the Maryland 272 Corridor Plan, requested by Cecil County. This study will focus on improving traffic flow, pedestrian, bike, and transit experiences along the corridor, following a similar process used in Elkton.

Mr. Gula wrapped up the presentation by mentioning ongoing projects, such as monitoring support for various regional plans and the Newark Bicycle Plan update, which will have more public outreach in the fall. He emphasized that these new projects are generally scheduled for completion within a 12-month period, though timelines may vary.

Mr. Janousek expressed gratitude to Bill for his coordination efforts, commending the excellent job in bringing everyone together to review RFP responses for the MD Route 272 project and developing a solid recommendation.

Mr. Bowers thanked Dan for his comment and extended his appreciation to the WILMAPCO staff, including Dave, Dan, Bill, and Heather, for their informative updates and presentation, noting how helpful they were.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Staff Report

Ms. Heather Dunigan reported the following updates:

- On August 7th, Wallace Montgomery was selected as the lead consultant for the Maryland 272 Corridor Plan.
- On August 10th, staff attended the Union Street Open Streets event, where they presented recommendations for the Union Street reconfiguration and streetscape improvement study.
- On August 14th, staff participated in the 12th Street Connector display at the Brandywine Overflow Study event held at The Urban Artists Exchange Amphitheatre in Wilmington. A follow-up event is scheduled for August 21st at the same location.

- On August 15th, the Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee held a meeting.
- On August 21st, staff will participate in the relaunch of the First State Trails Coalition, with a mixer on the Wilmington riverfront.
- On August 23rd, staff will participate in consultant interviews for the Augustine Cut-Off Multimodal Improvements Study after receiving three proposals.
- On September 2nd, the Ardens Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On September 4th, staff will attend a networking event and site visit for the East Elkton Traffic Circulation Study. Details can be found on the APA Delaware webpage or by contacting WILMAPCO.
- On September 10th, the Newark Bicycle Plan will host an outreach event focused on newer bicycle safety checkpoints.
- On September 15th, staff will be present at Newark Community Day.

Lastly, the next TAC meeting, scheduled for **September 19th**, will not have a Zoom option as it will be WILMAPCO'S annual picnic event at Lum's Pond State Park. After the meeting, we will have a delicious lunch with a Caribbean theme, featuring both Caribbean cuisine and traditional BBQ. The event will include fun games and activities, as well as opportunities for work-related networking. We encourage everyone to attend and bring your colleagues! Please RSVP before the next meeting to get a better headcount.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Dan Janousek from Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced that the Fall Tour meetings for the Consolidated Transportation Plan are being scheduled. While some dates have been posted online, the locations have not yet been finalized. A pre-tour meeting is planned for September 26th with Cecil, Queen Anne, and Kent counties. He noted that those in Maryland should look forward to receiving this information in their inboxes and encouraged everyone interested to attend.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Attachments (0)