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## RESOLUTION

### BY THE WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL (WILMAPCO)

### AMENDING THE 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, NEW CASTLE COUNTY ELEMENT

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) has been designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Cecil County, Maryland and New Castle County, Delaware by the Governors of Maryland and Delaware, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Regulations of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Metropolitan Planning Requirements, require that, in air quality non-attainment areas, the MPO, in cooperation with participants in the planning process, develop and, at least every four years, updates the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

**WHEREAS**, the projects to be amended in the FY 2023-2025 TIP are drawn from the an air quality conforming 2050 *Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) that is the basis for the New Castle County portion of the Statewide Capital Transportation Program for Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, the RTP can be amended from time to time by the WILMAPCO Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the WILMAPCO TIP format incorporates a four-year period for the listing of priority projects to be implemented, as well as a list of program development projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment to the TIP has undergone appropriate community and technical reviews; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment to the TIP and RTP has been determined to be air quality conforming in accordance with IIJA and Clean Air Act and Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 requirements; and;

**WHEREAS**, the amendment to the TIP and RTP has been found to be financially constrained, as directed by 23 CFR 450.326;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wilmington Area Planning Council does hereby amend the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program to include the Wilmington Riverfront Transportation Infrastructure Project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Sisson, Chairperson  
Wilmington Area Planning Council



Partners with you in transportation planning

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUBMISSION/AMENDMENT FORM

This form must be completed and all questions must be answered in order to process this request.

**Date of Submission:** 03/22/2024

**TIP to be Amended:** FY 2023-2024 TIP

**Sponsoring Agency:** City of Wilmington

**Project Name:** Wilmington Riverfront Transportation Infrastructure Project

**Project Category:** Road Systems

**Project Description:** The proposed improvements include expanded road network branching from South Market Street towards the Christina River and replication the downtown Wilmington grid system.

**Project Justification** Currently, the parcels located within the Project study area have limited access for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles, and there are no public streets between South Market Street and the east bank of the Christina River.

**Funding:** Federal 57.89% State \_\_\_\_\_ Local 42.11% Total \_\_\_\_\_

Funding	Phase	FY 2024 or Earlier	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Total
State / RDC	Design	\$3,421,699	\$1,140,566					\$4,562,265
State / RDC	ROW	\$33,550,373						\$33,550,373
State / RDC	Construction		\$12,750,000	\$7,052,500	\$7,737,500	\$7,625,000	\$5,450,000	\$40,615,000
Federal	Construction		\$3,000,000	\$11,875,000	\$2,125,000			\$17,000,000
Total		\$36,972,072	\$16,890,566	\$18,927,500	\$9,862,500	\$7,625,000	\$5,450,000	\$95,727,638

1. Does this project require a new conformity determination? Yes  
(Section 51.400)(C2) “A TIP amendment requires a new conformity determination for the entire TIP before the amendment is approved by the MPO, unless it merely adds or deletes exempt projects listed in (Section 51.460).”

2. Is this project regionally significant? Yes  
(Section 450.324)(f)(3) “The TIP shall include...all regionally significant transportation projects for which an FHWA or the FTA approval is required whether or not the projects are to be funded with title 23, U.S.C., or Federal Transit Act funds, e.g., addition of an interchange to the Interstate System with State, local, and/or private funds, demonstration projects not funded under title 23, U.S.C., or the Federal Transit Act, etc.”

3. Has this project had the opportunity for public comment? Yes  
(Section 450.326) “... Public involvement procedures consistent with Section 450.316 (b)(1) shall be utilized in amending the TIP, except that these procedures are not required for TIP amendments that only involve projects of the type covered in Section 450.324 (I).”

4. Has this project been found to be financially constrained? Yes  
(Section 450.324)(e) “The TIP shall be financially constrained by year and include a financial plan that demonstrates which projects can be implemented using current revenue sources (while the existing transportation system is being adequately operated and maintained. The financial plan shall be developed by the MPO in cooperation with the State and transit operator...”

Please indicate funding sources by agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal RAISE Grant - FHWA

City of Wilmington and Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware

5. Is this project consistent with the WILMAPCO Metropolitan Transportation Plan? Yes  
(Section 450.324)(f)(2) “The TIP shall include...only projects that are consistent with the transportation plan.”

If not, is there a resolution to amend the Metropolitan Transportation Plan? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide any additional pertinent information below:

Refer to the Project website for additional information including the Draft Environmental Assessment

published on April 1, 2024: <https://www.riverfronteastconnect.com/>



## Transportation Improvement Program Submission/Amendment Description of Public Participation

Project Name: Wilmington Riverfront Transportation Infrastructure Project

Which techniques were used to seek public comment (please use additional pages if needed).

Public workshops/meetings

Number of public workshops/meetings: 1 Open House was held in December 2022 and 2 upcoming public hearings are scheduled April 15 (in-person) and April 17, 2024 (virtual)\*

Format: The December 2022 meeting was an in-person Open House format with informational display boards and staff present to answer questions. A comment form was provided for the public to give comments. Eight comments were received via comment form.

Location(s): Chase Center on the Riverfront

Number of attendees: 75 attendees

Main issue raised: Main comments heard at the meeting inquired about what type of development will follow the infrastructure improvements, impacts to surrounding businesses and the environment, timeframe for the project, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Consensus of meeting: The public expressed support and excitement for the proposed Project and future development of the area.

Overall, the public support for the project was (check one):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong support, few concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> Some opposition, many concerns raised        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some support, but some concerns raised  | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong opposition, major problems identified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed, equal support and opposition     |   |

Unresolved issues identified: No unresolved issues identified.

Citizen Advisory/Steering Committee

Survey

Number surveyed: \_\_\_\_\_

Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Elected officials briefings

Other A series of pop-up events were held within environmental justice (EJ) communities during the Summer of 2023. Three pop-up events were held to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with EJ populations. Additionally, the Project team presented to the Southbridge Civic Association at their June 2023 meetings and at the Canby Park Civic Association meeting in October 2023.

How was the public notified about the project?

Web page

Legal notice

Videos

Radio/television

Publications

Newsletter/brochure

Flyers

Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_

X Other Other notifications include social media posts on the City of Wilmington and Riverfront Development Corporation social media platforms, a press release, a posting to City of Wilmington's City News website, and an e-mail to identified environmental justice organizations in the area. A video of the December 2022 Open House boards was posted to the project website (riverfronteastconnect.com), along with frequency asked questions (FAQs) and answers. Flyers in both English and Spanish were dropped off at community facilities in the area.

**How has the project changed as a result of public comments?**

Comments received at the December 2022 Open House and civic association meetings were considered in the development of the Draft Environmental Assessment. These comments were also considered in the development of FAQs for the project website.

Additionally, comments received during the Public Hearing and associated comment period will be evaluated and addressed in the Final Environmental Assessment. More information on these public hearings is noted below.

**Comment further on the quantity and quality of the public participation:**

Two public hearings will be held in April for the public to learn about and provide comments on the findings on the Wilmington Riverfront Transportation Infrastructure Project Draft Environmental Assessment. An in-person hearing will be held on April 15 at the Chase Center on the Riverfront, and a virtual public hearing (with a morning and evening session) will be held on April 17. Notifications for this hearing will include updates to the Project website, legal notice, radio ads, social media posts, press release, posting to the City of Wilmington's City News website, e-mail to identified EJ organizations, updated FAQs, and flyers in both English in Spanish distributed to community facilities in the area. Meetings will be offered to civic associations in the area for the Project team to present on the Project.