

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WILMAPCO Hybrid-format Meeting, June 15, 2026

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Espinal.

Mr. Mike Kaszyski, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce representative and PAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: 7

Tracy Chamblee, Southern New Castle County Alliance
Bill Dunn, Civic League for New Castle County
Richard Janney, Southern New Castle County
Mike Kaszyski, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce and PAC Chair
Sarah Lester, Cornerstone West
William Lower, Committee 100
Glenn Pusey, Bear Glasgow Council

Members Absent: 7

Mark Blake, Greater Hockessin Area Development
Robin Bullock, Holloway Terrace
Carlos de los Ramos, AARP
Patricia Folk, Cecil County
Barry Shotwell, 7/40 Alliance
Joshua Solge, City of Newark
Dave Tancredi, Milltown-Limestone Civic Alliance

Staff Members: 5

Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Elizabeth Espinal, Administrative Assistant
Dawn Stant, Outreach Coordinator
Colleen Stroud, Transportation Planner
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Guests: 1

Jamila Davey, West Side Streets Committee for Change

2. Approval of the April 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On Action by Mr. Bill Dunn and seconded by Mr. Richard Janney, the meeting minutes were approved by the PAC.

3. Public Comment Period:

Ms. Jamila Davey, representing the West Side Streets Committee for Change and the Safe Streets for All Advisory Board, provided feedback on WILMAPCO's Public Participation Plan. She emphasized the need for a formal process to address transportation issues involving city streets and state highways, encouraged broader public access to the Wilmington Initiatives, and advocated for more meaningful, ongoing community engagement rather than traditional outreach formats.

Ms. Tigist Zegeye acknowledged these concerns and explained that WILMAPCO is coordinating with the City of Wilmington, DelDOT, and DTC to strengthen collaboration through the Wilmington Initiatives. She noted plans to expand the Safe Streets for All steering committee to include broader neighborhood representation. Ms. Zegeye and Ms. Dawn Stant also clarified the relationship between regional planning efforts and local implementation, while noting that the Public Advisory Committee intends to improve public awareness of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The discussion also addressed corridor planning and traffic operations. Mr. Bill Dunn raised questions regarding corridor studies, and Ms. Heather Dunigan clarified WILMAPCO's role in the Augustine Cut-Off Study. Mr. Janney inquired about traffic signal operations, prompting Mr. Michael Kaszyski to explain current signal technologies, operational challenges, and DelDOT's public outreach resources for neighborhood transportation concerns.

Ms. Davey and Ms. Sarah Lester shared that their neighborhood has been working with state legislators for more than two years to pursue a comprehensive corridor study addressing pedestrian safety west of I-95. Ms. Davey highlighted a resident-led "daylighting" safety demonstration on Lancaster Avenue, and Ms. Lester requested a future agenda item to present the community's survey findings and demonstration project results as a model for community-driven traffic safety initiatives.

4. Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Tigist Zegeye shared the following public outreach information:

- Starting with the May 21st Council meeting, which marked John Sisson's final meeting. At the meeting, Council approved Ms. Stephanie Johnson from DelDOT as the new Chair and Mr. Stephen O'Connor to continue as vice-chair for the new term. Council also approved the FY2027 UPWP, the Draft FY2027–2030 TIP, the FY2027 MPO Self-Certification, and an amendment to the FY2025–2028 TIP for MDOT's NEVI project. Additionally, Council heard presentations on the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study, the Regional Sidewalk Gap Analysis, and the Logistics/Fulfillment Center Land Use Study.
- On April 17th, Staff participated in the Wilmington Earth Day and Arbor Day event with Tropo.
- On April 20th, WILMAPCO and DelDOT hosted a TIP Public Workshop at the UD Atrium
- On April 25th, Staff presented the Mobility Opportunities Plan at the National APA Conference.
- On April 27th, the Southern New Castle County Growth Area Land Use and Transportation Plan Scenarios Workshop was held at the Odessa Fire Hall.
- On April 30th, the East Elkton Paths Plan hosted a pop-up youth event at Elkton High School during lunch periods.
- On May 4th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee met, and the KMIC monitoring committee meeting was held at Greenbank Mill.
- On May 5th, Staff presented the Walkable Community Workshop at Wilmington's West Side Transportation Committee.
- On May 6th, Staff participated in the Downes Elementary Bike to School Day.
- On May 11th, the KMIC public workshop was held at Cranston Heights Fire Hall.
- On May 13th, the MD-272 Monitoring Committee met. Staff attended DelDOT's 7th St Bridge Community Meeting.
- On May 20th, APA Maryland and Delaware hosted a walking tour associated with the MD-272 Plan in Downtown North East.

- On May 21st, the Route 9 Monitoring Committee met, the next meeting is June 18th.
- On May 29th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study held a youth engagement event.
- On June 1st, the Ardens Monitoring Committee met.
- On June 5th, Staff attended a daylighting demonstration ribbon cutting at 2nd & Connell in Wilmington at 11am.
- On June 8th, the CXMC workshop was held at DelDOT's Canal District office from 4-6 PM. Staff attended the Air Quality Partnership meeting.
- On June 9th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study's Advisory Committee met.
- On June 10th, the SNCC LUTP partners met, and the CPMC workshop was held at Talleyville FH.
- On June 16th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study's Final Public Workshop will be held at 4PM.
- On June 23rd, the Wilmington Initiatives Open House workshop will be held, in the City-County building.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Approval of the Draft 2026 WILMAPCO Public Participation Plan.

Ms. Dawn Stant presented the 2026 Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update, noting that the document had been reviewed in detail at the April PAC meeting and that no substantive changes had been made since that time. She reported that the required 45-day public comment period, held from April 23 through June 7, concluded without receiving any public comments. The plan was advertised through WILMAPCO's website, newsletter, and social media channels. Staff requested the PAC recommend adoption of the updated PPP to Council, with TAC scheduled to consider the recommendation prior to Council action in July.

Ms. Stant explained that the PPP serves as WILMAPCO's guide for public engagement, ensuring timely access to information and promoting continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive public participation throughout the transportation planning process. The plan also fulfills federal requirements mandating that metropolitan planning organizations maintain and periodically update a public participation plan.

She highlighted the primary revisions, including a significantly shorter and more user-friendly document with improved organization, simplified language, and reduced redundancy. The updated plan places greater emphasis on its purpose and objectives, making it easier for the public to navigate and understand.

Ms. Stant summarized the plan's four primary objectives:

- Provide clear, accessible, and widely distributed public information.
- Build and sustain partnerships with communities and stakeholders through collaboration and outreach.
- Encourage broad, representative, and inclusive public participation by tailoring engagement strategies to specific audiences and ensuring accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VI requirements.
- Maintain a transparent, cooperative, and ongoing public involvement process through open meetings, public comment opportunities, and multiple methods of gathering public input.

Following the presentation, Ms. Stant requested that the PAC recommend Council adoption of the 2026 Public Participation Plan Update.

ACTION: On Action by Mr. Bill Dunn and seconded by Mr. Glenn Pusey, the Public Participation Plan Update of 2026 is approved by PAC.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. Regional Sidewalk GAP Analysis.

Ms. Heather Dunigan provided an update on the Regional Sidewalk Gap Prioritization Study, highlighting the completion of extensive technical analysis and public outreach since the project's launch. The study was undertaken to develop a systematic, data-driven approach for identifying and prioritizing small but critical sidewalk gaps across New Castle County and Cecil County that are often too minor for traditional capital programs but significantly affect pedestrian connectivity and safety.

Ms. Dunigan explained that the project combined AI-generated sidewalk inventory data, GIS analysis, field reviews, and community input to identify priority sidewalk gaps. Through partnerships with DelDOT, MDOT, local governments, transit agencies, municipalities, school districts, and community organizations, the study gathered more than 400 public comments and conducted detailed field assessments and workshops in selected corridors to validate the data and better understand local conditions.

The presentation highlighted the development of an interactive mapping tool that enables partner agencies to view sidewalk gaps, prioritization scores, and public feedback. The study identified 134 high-priority sidewalk gaps across the region and emphasized that while addressing all identified needs will require significant investment, the project provides a valuable framework for future planning, funding, and implementation. Ms. Dunigan concluded by noting that WILMAPCO will continue supporting implementation efforts through ongoing monitoring, coordination with partner agencies, and incorporation of the study into future planning activities.

To view the presentation in its entirety, [\[click here\]](#) (24m. 08s.).

Mr. Bill Dunn asked whether the study's definition of a sidewalk gap included deteriorated or inaccessible sidewalks. Ms. Heather Dunigan clarified that the study defined a gap as the physical absence of a sidewalk. While the broader inventory identified all sidewalk gaps, many were not considered priorities because sidewalks were unnecessary in certain rural or low-density areas. She explained that the completed database will help transportation agencies coordinate future roadway improvements by identifying priority sidewalk gaps and avoiding duplicate or conflicting projects.

Mr. Mike Kazsyski noted that the database would also support DelDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) by improving project coordination. Ms. Dunigan added that DelDOT frequently refers sidewalk requests to WILMAPCO because it does not maintain a formal sidewalk prioritization process, although sidewalk needs are routinely considered during roadway improvement projects.

Mr. Bill Dunn reflected that many roads historically lacked sidewalks, citing Marshallton as an example where sidewalks were absent for decades before improvements began. Ms. Dunigan noted that Marshallton is already included in planned sidewalk improvement efforts and that the database will also assist agencies in developing more accurate cost estimates for future projects.

Mr. Kazsyski further emphasized the importance of connecting isolated sidewalk segments, noting that some development projects install sidewalks that lead nowhere. He suggested expanding funding programs to improve connectivity between sidewalks and trails, similar to Pennsylvania's trail development programs, to create a more complete and functional pedestrian network.

9. Other Business

Mr. Bill Dunn reiterated his request for additional "Slower Traffic Keep Right" signage along U.S. Route 1, noting that increased signage could encourage safer traffic flow and improve lane discipline.

Mr. Janney announced that this would be his final meeting as a member of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), explaining that he no longer felt able to continue serving as a representative of the Southern New Castle County community. Committee members expressed their appreciation for his years of service and contributions to the PAC. Members thanked Mr. Janney for his dedication and wished him well, noting that his presence and commitment to the committee would be greatly missed.

10. Adjournment

The PAC adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Attachments: (0)