

## Meeting Notes

### Air Quality Subcommittee

March 5, 2026

#### Attendees

Steve Bayer, DelDOT  
Elizabeth Coffey, Jacobs  
Sophia Cortazzo, MDOT  
Taylor Englert, DNREC Division of Air Quality  
Mike Petit de Mange, Dover Kent MPO  
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Cathy Smith, DTC  
Colleen Stroud, WILMAPCO  
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO  
Helen Wiles, Dover-Kent MPO, Air Quality Partnership DE  
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO

#### Meeting Recording:

<https://wilmapco.sharefile.com/share/view/s11f28d4295a04e8c9ca9bf5d6c9d01fa>

#### Meeting Agenda/Packet:

<https://wilmapco.sharefile.com/share/view/s96e3a5fbf024450c9dd0a8516ae5844a>

#### 1. 2:39 - Acceptance of previous meeting notes

- Bill Swiatek reviewed the notes from the January 15 joint TAC/AQS meeting.
- No comments were received, and the meeting notes were accepted.

#### 2. 3:13 - Review of conformity triggers for the Draft FY 2027-2030 TIP

- Bill presented WILMAPCO's projects to be modeled for air quality conformity and impact, complete with the project name, description, and horizon year.
- In New Castle County, most projects are on course to be in service by the modeled horizon year, including the projects modeled to be completed by 2025.
  - The two projects modeled to be in service by 2025 are the SR 299 widening from SR 1 to Catherine Street and the expansion of SR 72 from McCoy Road to SR 71 from two to four lanes. These both appear to be complete or in their final stages.
  - The next horizon year for projects to be in-service is 2035, and these projects are largely on track. Bill did note the Center Boulevard extension to Churchman's

Road project, which is missing from the CTP and TIP. This will likely need to be revised during the next model run.

- Other projects in the county are modeled for 2050.
- In Cecil County, one project of concern is the I-95 interchange with Belvidere Road, which had been modeled for 2025 and is still not complete. This may be a trigger for remodeling conformity.
  - However, WILMAPCO's upcoming conformity analysis this summer may be a good option to handle this delay, rather than remodeling now.
  - Other projects in Cecil County are on track, with horizon years of 2035, 2045, and 2050.
- Catherine Salarano asked when the next horizon year for the Belvidere Road/I-95 Interchange project would be. Bill replied that a discussion will be held concerning that later this year. The proposed new modeled horizon years are 2027, 2035, 2045, and 2050.
- The subcommittee agreed to forgo remodeling the conformity of this project until WILMAPCO's scheduled analysis this summer.

### **3. 10:13 - Review of the draft conformity analysis schedule/analysis years for the Draft 2050 RTP: 2027 Update**

- Bill Swiatek presented the draft timeline for conformity analysis.
  - This analysis is associated with the 2027 Update to the 2050 RTP, which is due by Spring 2027.
  - This summer will see a review of the regionally significant projects, finishing August 6.
  - Then we will run our air quality conformity analysis from August 4 to October 1.
  - At the October 1 Air Quality Subcommittee meeting, the group will review draft results of this analysis.
  - We will then review the Cecil County and New Castle County draft documents on November 5.
  - On December 17, the AQS and the TAC will approve the conformity documents and recommend releasing them for public comment.
  - January 2027 would then see a release of these documents for public comment by the Council, with the public comment period for both this conformity document and the RTP running from January to March.
  - There will also be a public meeting for the RTP in February 2027, where we will present our conformity results.
  - Also in February, AQS will recommend adoption of the conformity analysis.
  - In March, WILMAPCO Council will formally adopt this conformity analysis as part of the long-range plan.

- The conformity analysis will then be submitted the following week to the federal agencies.
- With regards to the modeled horizon years, Bill said that 2027 will be the attainment year for ozone.
  - 2050 will be the final year.
  - Interim years may be 2035 and 2045.
  - EPA was okay with using these years for our conformity analysis.
- The Subcommittee agreed that these horizon years are acceptable.

#### 4. 15:45 - Other business

- Helen Wiles extended an invitation to an Air Quality Partnership (AQP) meeting on March 16 at 10 am, held virtually.
  - The meeting will be held to discuss Earth Day plans and will host a guest speaker, Jamie Kleman, author of the children's book *It's Not Mean to Be Green*.
  - Please reach out to Helen ([helen.wiles@doverkentmpo.org](mailto:helen.wiles@doverkentmpo.org)) for more information.