

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 20, 2025**

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at WILMAPCO, 100 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 800, Newark, DE 19713 and via video conference/conference call.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Cooper Bowers, from New Castle County Department of Land Use, and TAC Chair, brought the TAC meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### **2. TAC Members present:**

Stephen Bayer, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Department of Land Use  
Samantha Bulkilvish, Delaware Office of State Planning  
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning  
Michael Fortner, City of Newark  
William Goldman, Cecil County Division of Planning and Zoning  
Gwinneth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning  
Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Tina Merrill, Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Quinn Krenzel, Town of Elkton Planning  
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation  
Steven Weber, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works

### **TAC Ex-Officio Members present:**

### **TAC Members absent:**

Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism  
Delaware River and Bay Authority  
Maryland State Highway Administration

### **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:**

Justin Faucher, Hardesty & Hanover  
Colton Phillips, DelDOT  
Clare Quinlan, DelDOT  
Matt Rogers, NCC  
Harry Romano, Maryland SHA  
Hunter A. Withers, Wallace Montgomery

**Staff:**

Leonard Bonarek, Senior Planner  
Dan Blevins, Principal Planner  
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner  
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant  
Dave Gula, Principal Planner  
Colleen Stroud, Regional Planner  
Jake Thompson, Senior Planner  
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner  
Dawn Voss, Outreach Coordinator  
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Espinal.

**3. MINUTES**

Approval of the October 16, 2025, TAC Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** On motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky and seconded by Ms. Cathy Smith, the TAC minutes are approved.

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

None.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS****6. To recommend amendment of the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).**

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that MDOT has requested an amendment to the FY 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust funding for the Areawide Congestion Management Project. As adopted in May 2024, the project includes a total of \$3.94 million across FY 2025–2028.

The proposed amendment would shift a portion of funds from the construction phase to the other phase. Total project funding remains unchanged. Mr. Thompson explained that this adjustment is needed to accommodate safety and spot improvement projects committed in the FY 2025–2028 TIP. He noted that the revised distribution of construction and other funds does not alter the overall funding levels for the program.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. Mike Fortner and seconded by Mr. Shawn Kiernan, the TAC recommends amending the FY 2025-2028 TIP.

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:****7. Southbridge Truck Bypass Study**

Mr. Bill Swiatek presented an update on the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study, a follow-up to the 2023 Southbridge Transportation Action Plan. The study focuses on the Southbridge community

in Wilmington and adjacent areas extending from the Riverfront East district to the Port of Wilmington. Truck traffic was identified as the community's top transportation concern, with 95% of surveyed residents stating that reducing truck volumes is important due to safety, health, and property damage impacts.

The study, funded by a \$240,000 federal Neighborhood Access and Equity grant with additional contributions from the City of Wilmington and DelDOT, is guided by a diverse advisory committee including community groups, elected officials, port representatives, and trucking industry stakeholders. The project is approximately halfway complete, having conducted technical analysis of truck patterns, early public outreach, and development of preliminary recommendations.

Early findings show that more than half of trucks traveling through Southbridge are associated with two Leonard's Express facilities, with additional volumes originating from Route 9 and I-495. Very few trucks entering the community travel directly to or from the port. Short-term recommendations include enhanced truck route signage, enforcement support, illegal parking signage, and the development of an advanced warning system to alert drivers when rail crossings are active. These measures are intended to facilitate the better use of Christina and Terminal Avenues as an existing bypass.

The study also proposes updated highway signage, including removal of outdated Route 13 northbound signs which currently direct Edgemoor-bound traffic through Southbridge. Cost estimates for early actions have been shared with elected officials. Long-term recommendations will evaluate potential new road connections and land-use considerations. The study is expected to conclude in April, with additional public engagement and a community survey forthcoming.

**To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [13m.58s.].**

Mr. Matthew Rogers asked whether the study had considered establishing 24/7 accessible truck parking facilities, such as those recommended in DOT guidance with restrooms and showers to address illegal truck parking in neighborhoods. He noted that some drivers park illegally because their destinations are closed or because they bring their trucks home, and he referenced ongoing county discussions about requiring such facilities near logistics centers in unincorporated areas.

Mr. Bill Swiatek responded that the illegal truck parking issue appears mostly to be a handful of drivers parking in the community to visit local establishments. He noted that a larger truck parking project is planned near the port, which could help. He said that efforts have been underway to raise awareness among residents that neighborhood truck parking is illegal, and violations should be reported to the police.

Mr. Rogers added that the state is advancing initiatives to increase truck parking within its right-of-way and that the county hopes its proposed warehousing and logistics ordinance will support additional on-site truck parking options. He expressed appreciation for the effort.

## **8. Regional Climate Action Plan**

Mr. Swiatek provided an update on the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP), funded by the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), with support from WILMAPCO, completed the Priority Climate Action Plan in March 2024. Although the required comprehensive climate plan was paused during an

administrative transition, the EPA has reinstated funding, directing its completion by the end of the current year, with a follow-up status report due in 2027.

The plan covers the entire 12-county Philadelphia metropolitan statistical area (PA, NJ, DE, MD) and is led by the DVRPC, supported by WILMAPCO and other regional agencies. Required elements include greenhouse gas inventories, reduction strategies, community benefits analysis, and workforce considerations across eight major sectors, such as transportation, buildings, and industry.

Key transportation strategies focus on vehicle electrification, fleet decarbonization, transit expansion, and active transportation. With these efforts in place, modeling projects an 82% reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels, primarily due to electrification and grid decarbonization. This projection falls short of the net-zero goal in this region, though the goal could be achieved and surpassed elsewhere in the nation.

The plan's development included extensive public engagement, comprising a multi-state steering committee, stakeholder outreach, surveys, and three resident focus groups (including one in Wilmington). Priorities identified by participants included clean air/water, accountability for polluters, improved transit access, and tree preservation.

The comprehensive plan will be finalized this month and submitted to EPA; Council endorsement is not required nor will be sought.

**To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [09m.43s.].**

## **9. Walkable Community Workshops**

Mr. Dave Gula presented an overview of the 2025 Walkable Community Workshops, which are offered at the request of local communities to encourage resident engagement in pedestrian and bicycle planning. He explained that each workshop includes an educational presentation, a guided walking audit, and a collaborative mapping session to document issues and potential solutions. Staff then compile a report for the community or municipality, providing recommendations and identifying possible funding avenues for improvements.

Mr. Gula summarized the three workshops conducted in 2025: City of New Castle, Windy Hills, and the Lancaster Avenue/2nd Street area in Wilmington. Each workshop addressed community-specific concerns related to pedestrian safety, speeding, wide intersections, limited visibility, inadequate crosswalks, and parking challenges. He described the data analyses, crash history reviews, and potential treatments explored, including traffic calming measures, flex-post installations, improved crosswalks, and temporary pilot projects such as mini-roundabouts.

Mr. Gula noted that each community will receive a draft report for review before final adoption and that funding for long-term improvements remains a challenge. Short-term demonstration projects may offer interim solutions. Additional information is available on WILMAPCO's Walkable Community Program website.

**To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [19m.01s.].**

Ms. Bulkilvish inquired about the process by which communities learn about and arrange the walkable community workshops.

Mr. Gula explained that engagement varies. In Wilmington, staff maintains close contact with Westside community groups, which allowed WILMAPCO to recommend a workshop when concerns arose regarding pedestrian safety and speeding traffic. He recalled that staff worked with the Windy Hills neighborhood and suggested the workshop format after residents voiced concerns about speeding at the Adelene and South Dillwyn intersection to the Newark Traffic Committee. Mr. Gula acknowledged that the general awareness of the walkable community program is insufficient and requires better promotion. He also noted that one challenge of the program is not having dedicated funding for implementation, which puts constraints on the recommendations that can be included in the report.

Ms. Dunigan added that an application form is available on WILMAPCO's website. The process involves an initial phone conversation and an on-site meeting. Staff continually promotes the program, recently including an article in the *WILMAPCO Transporter* newsletter. She encouraged members to share the program with interested communities, noting that several communities have participated multiple times after positive experiences. Ms. Bulkilvish thanked the staff for clarifying the outreach and setup process.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **11. Staff Report**

Mr. Dave Gula reported the following updates:

- On October 18th, Lancaster Avenue Walkable Community Workshop took place, and it was well attended.
- On October 20th, Staff attended the Newport Station Public Workshop.
- On October 22nd, the Philadelphia MSA Climate Action Plan's Steering Committee met.
- On October 28th, Southbridge Truck Bypass Study had a Public Workshop at the Neighborhood House.
- On November 5th, the MDOT CTP Tour meeting in Cecil County took place.
- On November 12th, Staff presented the East Elkton Transportation Plan and the MD 272 Plan at a Maryland Planning Commissioners training.
- On November 17th, staff hosted the SNCC LUTP Information Workshop, at Odessa Fire Hall and it was well attended.
- On November 19th, Staff attended the CXMC Fall meeting, at DelDOT Canal District Office.
- On November 21st, Staff had a presentation scheduled for WHA at the Compton Towers, but that date will be rescheduled for January.
- On November 25th, Staff will present the Mobility Opportunities Plan at a University of Washington class.
- On December 1st, the Ardens Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On December 3rd, Staff will present on incorporating public health considerations in planning at the APA Delaware State Conference.
- On December 9th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study's Management Committee will meet.
- On December 18th, the Route 9 Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On January 5th, the Ardens Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On January 7th, Staff will present the Route 9 Master Plan to the Rt. 9 / 13 Civic Alliance.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Gula announced that next TAC meeting is scheduled for December 18th, and members are strongly encouraged to attend in person for a holiday luncheon and celebration.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**ACTION:** Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Attachments (0)**