

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 19, 2026

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, 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 10:03 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Alexandra Brun, Maryland State Highway Administration
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
Julianne Hilton, Maryland Department of the Environment
Gwineth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning
Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Department of Transportation
Quinn Krenzel, Town of Elkton Planning
Tina Merrill, Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Clare Quinlan, Delaware Department of Transportation
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation
Steven Weber, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

Gregory Becoat, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Brian Devine, Diamond State Port Corporation
Enos Han, U.S. Federal Highway Administration, DE

TAC Members absent:

Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware River and Bay Authority

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

Amtrak
U.S. Federal Transit Administration

Guests and Invitees:

Ryan Icaruso, Maryland Department of Transportation
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Hunter A. Withers, MDOT-SHA Consultant
Gavin Yocum, UD Student

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Leonard Bonarek, Senior Planner
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant

Elizabeth Espinal, Administrative Assistant
Dave Gula, Principal Planner
Dawn Stant, Outreach Coordinator
Colleen Stroud, Regional Planner
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Jake Thompson, Senior Planner
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Espinal.

3. MINUTES

Approval of February 19, 2026, TAC Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky Rivera and seconded by Mr. Michael Fortner, the TAC minutes are approved.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group

Ms. Heather Dunigan reported that the Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group met on March 3rd, to discuss the Wilmington Safe Streets for All project, noting that WILMAPCO is currently assisting the city with grant administration as work begins. The group also reviewed an updated speed analysis methodology that focuses on extreme speeding data rather than just the 85th percentile—to better minimize pedestrian risks during walkable community workshops. Additionally, the meeting covered non-motorized projects within the draft 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Ms. Dunigan provided an update on the Regional Sidewalk Gap Analysis and discussed recent planning charrettes taking place in the following weeks.

b. Air Quality Subcommittee

Mr. Bill Swiatek reported that the Air Quality Subcommittee met on March 5. The group reviewed the draft 2027-2030 TIP to see if it would trigger a revised air quality conformity analysis. They found that it would not. The committee will be doing a conformity analysis associated with the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, due next Spring. The AQS reviewed that project's schedule. After determining a list of regionally significant projects this summer, they hope to begin the analysis in early August and have it completed by October. The group also discussed the analysis years that will be used. These were determined to be: 2027, 2035, 2045, and 2050.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ACTION ITEMS

6. To release the draft FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that the TIP is a federally mandated document that identifies regional projects scheduled for funding over the next four fiscal years and is updated every other year. The Draft FY27-30 TIP includes 33 Delaware statewide projects, 45 in New Castle County, and 14 in Cecil County. By location, 79% of funding is allocated to Delaware statewide projects, 14% to New Castle County, and 7% to Cecil County. Analysis by mode shows that

56% of funding is dedicated to multimodal projects, 3% to bike-ped infrastructure, 8% to transit, and 12% to road projects. Categorically, 54% of funding focuses on preserving the existing transportation system, 5% on expansion, and 24% on management projects that enhance existing facilities. Compared to the adopted FY25-28 TIP, the current draft contains no new projects. Total funding for FY27-30 is \$318 million less than the previous period, though Cecil County funding has increased by \$41 million. Following the WILMAPCO Council's endorsement on March 12th, the draft FY27-30 TIP has been released for a public comment period running through April 30th.

The document will be presented to PAC on April 13th and the TAC on April 16th. Additionally, a public workshop is scheduled for April 20th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the University of Delaware Health Sciences Complex atrium. Final Council endorsement is expected on May 7th.

Ms. Samantha Bulkilvish (OSPC) inquired about the primary methods for public participation regarding the TIP. Mr. Jake Thompson clarified that comments are accepted through public workshops, the WILMAPCO website, and via email.

In response to a follow-up regarding the nature of the feedback received, Ms. Heather Dunigan noted that while formal written comments are infrequent, the workshops foster significant informal engagement. She emphasized that these sessions are particularly valuable because they provide the public with the opportunity for direct, one-on-one dialogue with project managers.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Catherine Smith and seconded by Ms. Gwineth Kaminsky-Rivera, the TAC approved release of the draft FY 2027-2030 TIP.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Tigist Zegeye presented the draft FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), totaling approximately \$6.3 million in funding from federal, state, and local partners in Delaware and Maryland. She summarized five project submissions from member agencies and staff recommendations, including studies for the SR 7 (Limestone Road) corridor, the Northern New Castle County Bicycle and Pedestrian Network, and concept planning for pedestrian improvements in Bellefonte and along Susquehanna River Road in Port Deposit.

Ms. Zegeye explained that the Maryland 222 Corridor Study submitted by Cecil County will not be included in the UPWP because the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) has agreed to lead and fund the effort in coordination with Cecil County and WILMAPCO. Ms. Zegeye concluded by outlining the project schedule. The proposed UPWP was presented to the Council the previous week, and a 30-day public comment period will run from March 31 through May 1. The PAC is expected to review the document in April, with anticipated Council adoption on May 7, followed by submission to DelDOT, MDOT, FHWA, and FTA for final approval prior to the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [09m.19s.]

TAC Chair Cooper Bowers expressed appreciation for the consideration of the projects submitted by New Castle County and the joint submission with WILMAPCO. He specifically commended the Monitoring and Implementation Committee for allocating funds toward "future study" recommendations. Drawing on his experience at DelDOT, Mr. Bowers noted that

proactively funding these studies ensures that planning concepts transition into active implementation rather than stalling due to initial budget or scope limitations.

8. Logistic/Fulfillment Center Land Use and Transportation Impact Study

Mr. Dan Blevins provided an update on the Logistics/Fulfillment Center Land-Use and Transportation Impact Study, which was initiated through the UPWP at the request of New Castle County and Cecil County. The study examines the growing presence of logistics and warehouse facilities in the region and evaluates their impacts on transportation systems, land use, and community concerns related to truck traffic and freight activity.

Mr. Blevins explained that the study analyzes how existing zoning policies, traffic impact studies, and planning practices address these facilities, while also evaluating whether current ITE trip generation rates accurately reflect actual traffic generated by logistics centers. The project includes five key tasks, including regional freight and market analysis, field traffic counts at selected facilities, and the development of best-practice recommendations for evaluating logistics developments during land-use and transportation review processes.

As part of the analysis, the study team selected approximately a dozen logistics facilities across New Castle County and Cecil County for detailed evaluation. Using origin-destination data and traffic counts, the team is examining freight movement patterns, regional market connections, and common truck routes serving these facilities. Early findings show strong freight connections to regional markets such as New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, highlighting the region's role in serving broader East Coast distribution networks.

Mr. Blevins noted that the study will ultimately provide guidance for traffic impact studies, land-use review, and freight planning to better manage logistics-related transportation impacts. Data collection has experienced some delays due to weather affecting traffic counts, but the study is expected to be completed in summer, with anticipated presentation to PAC and Council later in the year.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [10m.41s.].

Mr. Bowers acknowledged the timeliness of the article on rapid delivery, noting the inherent tension between consumer demand for fast shipping and public opposition to truck traffic. He emphasized that the project submitted for the UPWP will provide essential data for the County and DelDOT to refine zoning and regulatory frameworks. Specifically, the study aims to build upon current ordinances, which distinguish between warehouses and fulfillment centers by providing the technical "meat" required for more accurate trip distribution analysis during Traffic Impact Study (TIS) reviews.

9. Delaware Statewide Freight Plan Update

Mr. Dan Blevins provided an update on the development of the 2026 Delaware State Freight Plan, a federally required plan that must be updated every four years. The current update, which began in August 2025, is approximately halfway complete and is expected to be finalized by September. The plan must address 17 required elements established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and recent federal guidance confirmed that these requirements remain largely unchanged, with only minor additional areas of emphasis.

Mr. Blevins explained that the plan builds on previous freight planning efforts and incorporates findings from numerous recent studies and initiatives, including logistics, first- and final-mile freight analyses, and other freight-related planning activities conducted since the 2022 plan. The update examines freight flows, key industries, and the movement of goods through the region using origin-destination analysis and other data tools to better understand regional freight patterns and Delaware's role in serving broader markets.

The plan will also assess existing freight infrastructure across multiple modes, including trucking, rail, maritime, aviation, and pipelines, while identifying freight needs, bottlenecks, and first- and final-mile connections. Additional analysis includes monitoring truck parking usage through technology such as traffic management cameras and truck parking information systems.

Mr. Blevins noted that the next phase of the work will focus on identifying freight needs, candidate projects, and an investment plan for the state. A draft plan is expected by June and will be presented at the Delmarva Freight Summit, followed by further review and refinement before submission to federal agencies in September.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [08m.33s.]

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Staff Report

Mr. Dave Gula reported the following updates:

- On February 19th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee held a joint meeting with Claymont civic leaders on the Harvey Road Lane Reduction over I-95 concept, and Staff participated in Downes Elementary School's Family Night.
- On February 25th, the Route 9 Monitoring Committee met, next meeting will be today March 19th.
- On March 2nd, Staff attended the AC meeting for the DE State Rail Plan update. The Ardens Monitoring Committee met, and the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study held a rescheduled public workshop due to inclement weather.
- On March 3rd, the Nonmotorized Working Group met.
- On March 10th, the CPMC team hosted an "Office Hour" for committee members.
- On March 11th, the SNCC LUTP partners met.
- On March 12th, the CPMC partners met, and the Claymont Monitoring and Implementation Committee (CMIC) held its first monitoring meeting.
- On March 16th, the KMIC was scheduled to meet; this meeting was postponed to May 4th due to weather conditions.
- On March 18th, the Wilmington Initiatives met. The CPMC held its Spring meeting and was well attended.
- On March 19th, the Newark Bicycle Committee will meet.
- On March 23rd, the SNCC-LUTP Advisory Committee will meet.
- On March 26th, Staff will attend the 12th Street Bike Lane public workshop in Wilmington. The East Elkton Monitoring Committee will meet. Staff will participate in the Downes Elementary School Safety Stations between March 26th and 27th.
- On April 6th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On April 7th, Staff will attend DelDOT's State Rail Plan MPO update meeting.
- On April 8th the SNCC-LUTP partners will meet.
- On April 15th, Wilmington Initiatives will meet and the CXMC will host its Spring meeting.

- On April 16th, the Route 9 Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On April 20th, WILMAPCO and DeIDOT staff will host a TIP Public Workshop in the UD Atrium.
- On April 27th, the SNCC-LUTP will host a public workshop in the Odessa Fire Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Attachments (0)