

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 16, 2026**

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, April 16, 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:**

Stephen Bayer, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Department of Land Use  
Alexandra Brun, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Samantha Bulkivish, Delaware Office of State Planning  
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning  
William Goldman, Cecil County Division of Planning and Zoning  
Gwinneth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning  
Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Jeanne Minner, Town of Elkton Planning  
Tina Merrill, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
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:**

Gregory Becoat, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Brian Devine, Diamond State Port Corporation  
Jasmine Champoin, U.S. Federal Highway Administration, MD

### **TAC Members absent:**

City of Newark  
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:**

Quinn Krenzel, Town of Elkton  
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use  
Harry Romano, Consultant  
David Schile, MD-Safety Highway Administration  
Hunter A. Withers, Consultant  
Kelly Williams, City of Wilmington  
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

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Espinal.

### **3. MINUTES**

Approval of March 19, 2026, TAC Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Mr. Shawn Kiernan, the TAC minutes are approved.

### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

None.

### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **6. To recommend adoption of the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

Ms. Sharen Elcock presented the funding and task information for the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She reported that the total proposed budget is \$6,289,030, divided between Delaware and Maryland funding sources, with funding consisting of approximately 80% federal funds and a 20% state and local match. She also reviewed the consultant-supported projects proposed for inclusion in the FY27 UPWP, noting that these projects had previously been presented to the committee and that no changes had been made since the prior meeting. The highlighted projects were submitted by municipalities and member agencies.

Ms. Elcock stated that the draft UPWP has been available for public comment since March 31 and, as of the meeting date, no public comments had been received. The public comment period will remain open through May 1. She noted that the public outreach portion of the UPWP was presented to the PAC on April 13, where it received approval, and that the document will next be presented to Council in May.

She explained that, following TAC recommendation and Council adoption, the UPWP will be submitted to the state departments of transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for final approval. Staff will then begin preparing scopes of work and requests for proposals (RFPs) for new projects to support implementation by July 1.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Catherine Smith, the TAC recommends adoption of the UPWP.

**7. To recommend amendment of the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Program (TIP).**

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that MDOT requested an amendment to the FY25–28 TIP for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program. As adopted in May 2024, the project included a total of \$1.634 million; the proposed amendment would reduce preliminary engineering and construction funding, resulting in a revised total of \$934,000, a decrease of \$700,000. Mr. Thompson explained that funding adjustment is necessary to ensure cash flow projections accurately reflect expenditures to date and the updated NEVI program schedule.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. Shawn Kiernan and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom, the TAC recommends amendment of the FY 2025-2028 TIP.

**8. To recommend endorsement of the Draft FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally required document identifying projects anticipated to receive funding over the next four fiscal years and is updated every two years. The draft FY27–30 TIP includes 33 Delaware statewide projects, 45 New Castle County projects, and 15 Cecil County projects. Funding allocations include 79% for Delaware statewide projects, 14% for New Castle County, and 7% for Cecil County projects. By mode, 56% of funding supports multimodal projects, 3% bicycle and pedestrian projects, 8% transit projects, and 12% roadway projects. By category, 54% of funding is dedicated to preserving the existing transportation system, 24% to system management improvements, and 5% to system expansion.

Mr. Thompson noted that, compared with the adopted FY25–28 TIP, the draft FY27–30 TIP contains no new projects and reflects \$316 million less in total funding, although Cecil County funding increased by \$43 million. He stated that the TAC and Council endorsed release of the draft TIP for public comment in March, and the TAC endorsed the public outreach process on April 13. The public comment period remains open through April 30, and a public workshop is scheduled for April 20 at the University of Delaware Health Sciences Complex Atrium. Following the public comment period, revisions will be made as needed before Council consideration on May 7.

Ms. Tina Merrill asked about the preferred timing and process for submitting air quality-related comments on the TIP documents. Mr. Thompson responded that comments are currently being accepted through April 30 and may be submitted either through [info@wilmapco.org](mailto:info@wilmapco.org) or directly to his email provided during the meeting.

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

**9. To recommend Certifying the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process for FY 2027.**

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that self-certification is a federally required process conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) at least every four years and supplements the Federal Highway Administration’s in-person certification review. He explained that the certification requirements are established by federal law and that the document will be signed by the Secretaries of Transportation for Delaware and Maryland, along with WILMAPCO, before submission to federal agencies.

Mr. Thompson stated that the accompanying document outlines how WILMAPCO satisfies federal metropolitan planning requirements and includes references to required planning documents. He noted that WILMAPCO complies with nondiscrimination and accessibility requirements through its Title VI Plan, Public Participation Plan, Mobility Opportunities Plan, and adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including ensuring accessible meetings, documents, and website materials. He also noted that WILMAPCO complies with Clean Air Act requirements related to air quality and pollution prevention measures, and more details are available at [wilmapco.org/aqs](http://wilmapco.org/aqs).

**ACTION:** On motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky-Rivera and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom, the TAC approved release of the draft FY 2027-2030 TIP.

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **10. Southbridge Truck Bypass Study**

Mr. Bill Swiatek presented an update on the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study, which is evaluating short- and long-term strategies to reduce truck traffic through the Southbridge community in Wilmington while improving freight efficiency to and from the Port of Wilmington. He explained that the study was initiated in response to community concerns regarding truck-related safety, health, noise, and property impacts identified during a 2023 transportation planning study. Mr. Swiatek noted that the study team analyzed more than a year of truck movement data using StreetLight software to identify truck travel patterns, origins and destinations, and freight activity throughout the area.

Mr. Swiatek reviewed several draft recommendations, including updated truck routing signage, rail crossing warning systems, reconstruction of Christina Avenue, potential bypass connections, and land use strategies aimed at reducing truck-generating uses near the neighborhood. He stated that several signage improvements have already received funding and are expected to be implemented within the next year. He also discussed ongoing community outreach efforts, including online and door-to-door surveys, youth engagement activities, and community meetings, noting that the study is expected to be finalized during the summer. Additional information and study materials are available at [wilmapco.org/southbridge](http://wilmapco.org/southbridge)

**To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [13m.49s.].**

#### **11. Sub-Regional Studies Update**

Mr. Dave Gula presented an overview of WILMAPCO's subregional study monitoring committees, explaining that the committees were established to ensure long-term transportation and land use plans remain active, projects continue moving forward, and corridor conditions such as traffic, safety, land use, and development trends are regularly monitored. He stated that the committees include elected officials, agency staff, business representatives, advocacy organizations, civic associations, and community stakeholders, and meet throughout the year to review monitoring reports, provide technical feedback, prioritize projects, and identify new transportation needs or improvement opportunities. Mr. Gula also noted that the committees support ongoing public engagement through public meetings, workshops, office hours, and outreach activities.

Mr. Gula highlighted recent work completed through the US 202 Concord Pike Monitoring Committee, including a detailed review of bus stop conditions, accessibility, ridership, pedestrian safety, and potential stop relocations or upgrades along the corridor. Recommendations focused on improving ADA accessibility, relocating stops closer to signalized

intersections and crosswalks, consolidating low-performing stops, and prioritizing improvements based on ridership and safety needs. He stated that the findings will be incorporated as an addendum to the Concord Pike Master Plan and used to help identify future funding opportunities for transit and pedestrian improvements.

Mr. Dan Blevins provided updates on the Churchman's Crossing, Kirkwood Highway, and Route 40 monitoring efforts. He explained that the Churchman's Crossing Monitoring and Implementation Committee prioritized bicycle and pedestrian connectivity improvements through stakeholder ranking exercises and technical analysis, resulting in several projects being advanced for DeIDOT's Bike/Pedestrian Program funding consideration.

Mr. Blevins also reviewed ongoing intersection control evaluations (ICE) in the Kirkwood Highway and Route 40 corridors, including safety and operational studies at several intersections and unsignalized crossovers, with the goal of identifying appropriate future improvements such as signal modifications, roundabouts, or other traffic control measures. He noted that additional reports and recommendations from the monitoring committees will continue to be developed and made available through WILMAPCO's study webpages.

**To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [21m.05s.]**

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **12. Staff Report**

Mr. Dave Gula reported the following updates:

- On March 18th, the Wilmington Initiatives meeting took place, and the CPMC conducted its annual Spring meeting.
- On March 19th, the DSRL team met with the FRA to provide updates regarding the CID Step 2A grant phase. Additionally, the Newark Bicycle Committee held its scheduled meeting.
- On March 23rd, the SNCC-LUTP Advisory Committee held a meeting, which saw high attendance levels from member agencies.
- On March 26th, Staff attended the Mayor's Budget Town Hall in Wilmington and participated in the East Elkton Monitoring Committee meeting. On March 26 and 27, staff also assisted with the Safety Stations at Downes Elementary School.
- On April 2nd, the Edgemoor Port Terminal Truck Routing Study team conducted its kickoff meeting. Concurrently, the CXMC partners met to coordinate ongoing efforts.
- On April 6th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee held a meeting, and staff met with the United Neighbors in Wilmington.
- On April 7th, the CXMC team hosted its Spring Office Hours, as previously noted during the formal presentation.
- On April 8th, partners of the SNCC-LUTP convened for a coordination meeting.
- On April 10th, Staff attended a Cecil County Transit meeting to review the Executive Summary of the Transit Development Plan, which is currently undergoing public review.
- On April 13th, the STBS team met with representatives from Wilmington's Departments of Land Use and Development, Public Works, and Economic Development.
- On April 15th, the Wilmington Initiatives held its monthly meeting, and the CXMC conducted its Spring meeting.
- On April 16th, Staff joined the DTC's DSRL team for a meeting with the FRA to review ongoing work in progress.

- On April 17th, Tropo will be with the Air Quality Partnership at the Wilmington Earth Day and Arbor Day event.
- On April 20th, a Transportation Open House Public Workshop regarding the TIP will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the STAR Campus.
- On April 27th, the Southern New Castle County Growth Area LUTP Scenarios Workshop will be hosted at the Odessa Fire Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- On April 30th, the East Elkton Paths Plan will host a youth-focused pop-up event at Elkton High School during lunch periods.
- On May 4th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee will meet, and the KMIC has an in-person meeting at Greenbank Mill.
- On May 5th, Staff will meet with DeIDOT's State Rail Plan team for a scheduled MPO coordination meeting.
- On May 7th, partners for the Edgemoor Port Terminal Truck Routing Study will hold a coordination meeting.
- On May 11th, KMIC will host a Kirkwood Highway Workshop at the Cranston Heights Fire Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- On May 13th, the SNCC LUTP partners and the MD-272 Monitoring Committee will meet.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**Attachments (0)**