

**JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND AIR QUALITY
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

May 21, 2026

A meeting of the Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) was held on Thursday, May 21, 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/AQS meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
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
Quinn Krenzel, Town of Elkton Planning
Colton Philips, Delaware Department of Transportation
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation
Steven Weber, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works
Rose Zappacosta, Delaware Office of State Planning

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

TAC Members absent:

City of Newark
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Department of Natural Resources and Environment
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:

Anna Batista, Highstreet Consultant
Darren Bean, MDOT-State Highway Administration
Jennifer Borders, Arden Community Planning
Walter Borders, Ardens
Virginia Burke, Air Quality Subcommittee
Tremica Cherry-Wall, Delaware Transit Corporation
Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland State Highway Administration
Ben Gruswitz, Ardens
Pam Politis, Ardens

Harry Romano, Consultant
Will Tardy, Jacobs
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 April 16, 2026, TAC Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Cathy Smith, the TAC minutes are approved.

Acceptance of the March 5, 2026, AQS Notes

ACTION: On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Cathy Smith, the AQS Notes are accepted.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

6. Appointment of Nominating Committee for TAC Chair.

Mr. Cooper Bowers announced that volunteers were being sought to serve on the nominating committee for the TAC Chair. He noted that the task would be straightforward and that three TAC members would be needed to serve on the panel. Mr. Bowers first nominated Ms. Cathy Smith, who was present and seated beside him. He then requested that Mr. Shawn Kiernan participate, noting that he had served on the committee during the previous term; Mr. Kiernan agreed. Ms. Dunigan subsequently suggested that Mr. Michael Fortner also serve on the committee due to his prior participation.

The 2026 Nominating Committee for the appointment of the TAC Chair was formed with Ms. Cathy Smith, Mr. Shawn Kiernan, and Mr. Michael Fortner.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. Functional Classification, Decennial Update Process

Mr. Darren Bean presented an overview of the functional classification update process conducted following the release of updated urban area boundaries from the decennial U.S. Census. He explained that, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and state DOTs, the review process evaluates how urban boundary changes affect roadway functional classifications and federal funding eligibility.

Mr. Bean stated that the process began with a preliminary analysis of urban area boundary changes and their impacts on roadway designations as urban or rural. Coordination then occurred with district offices to review state-owned roadways, followed by outreach to local planning partners through a kickoff meeting held in July 2025. Additional work sessions and technical guidance were provided to counties as needed. He acknowledged the assistance of William Goldman in coordinating efforts with Cecil County and local municipalities.

The presentation outlined the quantitative and qualitative factors considered in the classification review process, including annual average daily traffic (AADT), lane widths, access control, surrounding land use, and roadway connectivity to major traffic generators. Mr. Bean also noted that FHWA system balance requirements were applied to ensure an appropriate distribution of roadway classifications across urban and rural areas.

Mr. Bean highlighted the implications of roadway reclassification, particularly regarding eligibility for the Federal Aid Highway Program and its impact on funding for urban and rural minor collectors. He also explained that functional classifications support FHWA's Highway Performance Monitoring System and provide guidance for roadway design standards, including speed limit considerations.

The presentation concluded with an overview of the project schedule. Mr. Bean stated that MPO approvals were currently underway and anticipated to be concluded by mid-to-late June. Following approval, a statewide review package would be submitted to FHWA by late July or early August, after which the Maryland SHA Data Services Division would update the GIS database to reflect the approved classification changes.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [07m.22s.].

Following the presentation, Mr. Cooper Bowers asked whether FHWA system balance ranges were guidelines or fixed requirements. Mr. Bean responded that the ranges are intended as general guidelines to prevent overrepresentation of certain roadway classifications, particularly higher classifications, while recognizing that roadway distributions vary by region. He noted that FHWA reviews such differences on a case-by-case basis and may request justification when areas fall outside the recommended ranges.

8. Transportation Performance Measures for Maryland

Ms. Anna Batista presented an overview of the 2026 Transportation Performance Management (TPM) reporting process and the status of Maryland's federal performance measures. She explained that the biennial reporting process includes measures related to pavement and bridge condition, highway and freight reliability, traffic congestion, and emissions, while safety targets are addressed separately on an annual basis.

Ms. Batista reviewed the timelines for Performance Period II, which recently concluded, and Performance Period III, which recently began. She outlined the coordination process between MDOT and MPOs for establishing statewide and regional performance targets and discussed the reporting requirements applicable to WILMAPCO.

The presentation included a summary of Maryland's recent performance trends for roadway reliability, bridge condition, and pavement condition. Ms. Batista noted that reliability measures have generally declined from post-pandemic conditions but remain near anticipated target ranges. She also reported that Maryland met several infrastructure and reliability targets, although the statewide target for bridges in poor condition was not achieved. Preliminary pavement condition data indicated that statewide conditions remain within expected ranges.

Ms. Batista also highlighted SHA's development of a new pavement and bridge performance dashboard intended to assist MPOs and local agencies with monitoring infrastructure conditions and supporting future target-setting efforts.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [13m.31s.]

9. 2026 CMAQ Performance Measures Plan Update

Ms. Virginia Burke of MDOT's Office of Electric Vehicles, Climate Change, and Air Quality presented an overview of the CMAQ emissions performance measure process and related reporting timelines. She explained the coordination between MDOT, MPOs, and FHWA in developing CMAQ performance plans and establishing emissions reduction targets for ozone nonattainment areas, including WILMAPCO.

Ms. Burke reviewed the results from the previous four-year performance period, noting that Maryland met its statewide emissions reduction targets, while the WILMAPCO/Cecil County area did not meet its established targets. She explained that several CMAQ-funded projects provided qualitative or quantifiable emissions benefits based on FHWA reporting requirements.

The presentation also summarized the methodology used to develop recommended targets for the upcoming four-year performance period, including anticipated CMAQ-funded projects and emissions modeling assumptions. Ms. Burke noted that MPOs may accept MDOT's recommended targets or establish their own targets for inclusion in the CMAQ performance plan submitted to FHWA.

Mr. Bowers asked whether there had been consideration of spreading emissions benefits across the full four-year performance period, rather than attributing them primarily to the first year in which they are reported. He questioned whether the current approach reflects a methodological preference or simply a practical simplification for tracking and calculation purposes.

Ms. Burke responded that while project benefits accrue over time, FHWA reporting rules require that emissions benefits be claimed in a single year. She explained that this approach is longstanding in federal guidance and is intended to provide a clear and consistent accounting method. Ms. Burke noted that emissions are reported in kilograms per day and are not distributed across multiple years for performance reporting purposes. She added that, although the convention may seem counterintuitive given that projects operate over multiple years, the single-year attribution simplifies reporting and avoids unnecessary complexity in calculating multi-year distributions.

Mr. Bill Swiatek thanked Ms. Burke for the presentation and said that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) is a federal funding program used to support transportation projects that reduce emissions. He explained that, as part of program requirements, WILMAPCO is required to develop a CMAQ performance plan to demonstrate emissions reduction performance.

Mr. Swiatek reviewed the current draft project schedule for development of the CMAQ performance plan. He noted that project data for 2025 has already been submitted by DOTs through the FHWA CMAQ Public Access System. He indicated that the next step is receipt of the two-year and four-year emissions targets in June to maintain the project timeline.

Mr. Swiatek outlined the anticipated schedule, including AQS and TAC review of the emissions data in June, development of a draft performance plan in July, committee review and recommendation of endorsement in August, and final Council approval in September. Following approval, the finalized CMAQ performance plan would be submitted by DeIDOT and MDOT to FHWA as part of the required reporting process.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [21m.44s.].

10. Technical Scoring for Project Prioritization for the 2026 New Castle County Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Mr. Leonard Bonarek presented a preliminary summary of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) submissions for Delaware and Maryland. He explained that local governments and eligible entities submit projects to the MPO for review, prioritization, and recommendation before transmission to the respective state DOTs. In this cycle, five projects were submitted for New Castle County and one for Cecil County.

Mr. Bonarek reviewed the New Castle County projects, beginning with the Delaware River Trail extension and associated pedestrian improvements in the City of New Castle. He highlighted the project's proposed trail expansion, traffic calming measures, pedestrian enhancements, and improved connections between residential areas, downtown streets, and the riverfront. He noted that several elements align with prior community input from WILMAPCO's walkability workshop.

Mr. Bonarek summarized Delaware projects, including sidewalk connectivity improvements in the Academy Hill area of New Castle County, pedestrian safety upgrades at Auburn Valley State Park, and a series of crossing and sidewalk improvements in the Arden communities intended to improve safe access between key local destinations. He also described proposed sidewalk and safety improvements along Old Newark Road in the Brookside area, noting its significance due to pedestrian demand and crash history.

Finally, Mr. Bonarek outlined the single Maryland project in Port Deposit's Marina Park, which would fund preliminary design for waterfront and accessibility improvements, including shoreline stabilization, boat ramp enhancements, stormwater management, and ADA-compliant access in accordance with PROWAG guidelines.

Ms. Dunigan noted that the Maryland project will require coordination with the state and local jurisdiction to confirm eligible project components under federal funding guidelines, and that some Delaware submissions may also require adjustments to meet eligibility requirements.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [09m.52s.].

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Staff Report

Mr. Dave Gula reported the following updates:

- On April 25th, Staff presented the Mobility Opportunities Plan at the National APA Conference in Detroit.
- On April 27th, the Southern New Castle County Growth Area LUTP Scenarios Workshop was held at the Odessa Fire Hall from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- On April 30th, the East Elkton Paths Plan will host a pop-up youth event at Elkton High School during lunch periods.
- On May 4th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee met. The KMIC met in person at Greenbank Mill.
- On May 5th, Staff met with DeIDOT's State Rail Plan team for MPO coordination. Staff presented the WCW at Wilmington's West Side Transportation Committee.
- On May 6th, Staff participated in the Downes Elementary Bike to School Day.
- On May 8th, Staff held a legislative briefing on the SS4A Wilmington Safety Action Plan.
- On May 11th, Kirkwood Highway Workshop was held in Cranston Heights Firehall from 4:30-7 PM and was well attended.
- On May 12th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study's Management Committee met and Staff convened the first Advisory Committee meeting for the SS4A Wilmington Safety Action Plan. Staff also attended DeIDOT's 7th St Bridge Community Meeting.
- On May 13th, the SNCC LUTP partners and the MD-272 Monitoring Committee met.
- On May 20th, the WI partners met yesterday. APA Maryland and Delaware hosted a walking tour associated with the MD-272 Plan in Downtown North East.
- On May 21st, Staff joined DTC's DSRL team meeting with FRA. The Route 9 Monitoring Committee and Newark Bicycle Committee will meet later today.
- On May 26th, Staff will attend the Newport Station AC meeting.
- On May 29th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study will hold a youth engagement event.
- On June 1st, the Ardens Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On June 2nd, Staff will attend DeIDOT's State Rail Plan briefing for MPOs
- On June 3rd, Staff will attend DeIDOT's quarterly meeting with Wilmington's Public Works Department.
- On June 4th, the Port Terminal Truck Routing Feasibility Study partners will meet.
- On June 8th, the CXMC workshop will be held at DeIDOT's Canal District office from 4-6 PM. The Air Quality Partnership will meet.
- On June 9th, the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study's Advisory Committee will meet.
- On June 10th, the SNCC LUTP partners will meet. The CPMC workshop will be held at Talleyville Fire Hall from 4-6 PM.
- On June 11th, the WI partners will meet.
- On June 16th, Staff will attend the Delmarva Freight Summit.
- On June 18th, Staff will attend FRA's Step 1 CID meeting for the DSRL.
- On June 23rd, the Wilmington Initiative's Open House will be held in the city-county building lobby from 4 to 6 PM.
- On June 30th, Staff will attend DeIDOT's State Rail Plan briefing for MPOs.
- On July 2nd, the Port Terminal Truck Routing Feasibility Study partners will meet.
- On July 6th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On July 8th, the SNCC LUTP partners will meet.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Cathy Smith of Delaware Transit announced that DART's statewide May 2026 service changes were implemented on May 17, and that Beach Bus and resort transit services began operating on May 18 and will continue through Labor Day. She also noted that the Route 305 intercounty bus service, which typically concludes on Labor Day, will continue weekend operations through September 27 as part of a pilot effort to evaluate demand.

Ms. Smith further announced that DART will conduct a statewide digital customer satisfaction survey during June and July, including a promotional raffle for seven-day transit passes. She encouraged support in promoting the survey.

In addition, Ms. Smith announced the upcoming retirement of Mr. John Sisson and introduced incoming DART CEO Lilia Montoya, who will begin shadowing Mr. Sisson in June before officially assuming the role following his departure in July. She noted that Ms. Montoya brings extensive metro and transit operations experience from the state of California.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Attachments (0)