

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

July 16, 2026

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) was held on Thursday, July 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 meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Samantha Bulkilvish, Delaware Office of State Planning
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
William Goldman, Cecil County Division of Planning and Zoning
Wesley Hicks, Delaware Department of Transportation
Gwinneeth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning
Quinn Krenzel, Town of Elkton Planning
Tina Merrill, Department of Natural Resources and Environment
David Schlie, Maryland State Highway Administration
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation
Steven Weber, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

Jasmine Champion, U.S. Federal Highway Administration, MD
Brian Devine, Diamond State Port Corporation

TAC Members absent:

City of Newark
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware River and Bay Authority
Maryland Department of the Environment

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

Amtrak
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Federal Transit Administration

Guests and Invitees:

Taylor Englert, DNREC
Colton Phillips, DelDOT
Harry Romano, Consultant

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Leonard Bonarek, Senior Planner
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive 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 June 18, 2026, Joint TAC & AQS Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky, the TAC and AQS minutes are approved.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. Draft 2026 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Performance Plan.

Mr. Bill Swiatek provided an update on the CMAQ Performance Plan, a federally required document that evaluates the benefits of CMAQ-funded projects and reports progress toward federally established performance measures.

Mr. Swiatek explained that the report includes two components: the final performance report for the second performance period (2022–2026) and the baseline report for the third performance period (2026–2030). The analysis evaluates three key performance measures: peak-hour excessive delay, non-single occupancy vehicle (non-SOV) travel, and mobile source emissions reductions.

For peak-hour excessive delay, Mr. Swiatek reported that congestion conditions increased in the Philadelphia urbanized area, rising from a baseline of 13.1 hours to 15.6 hours in 2025. While the region met the two-year target, it did not meet the four-year target due to post-pandemic increases in traffic congestion. The Aberdeen-Bel Air South and Bel Air North urbanized area experienced a smaller increase in delay than projected, allowing it to meet the four-year target.

Regarding non-SOV travel, Mr. Swiatek reported positive results, noting that both urbanized areas exceeded their performance targets. The Philadelphia region increased from a 2020 baseline of 30.6% non-SOV travel to 38.1% in 2024, while the Aberdeen region also exceeded expectations with approximately one-quarter of trips occurring through non-SOV modes.

Mr. Swiatek also reviewed mobile source emissions performance for Delaware and Cecil County. Delaware experienced challenges meeting four-year targets. This was largely due to updated modeling methods for the ITS program, resulting in lower calculated emissions benefits. Cecil County also fell short due to fewer CMAQ-funded projects than anticipated and one project without quantified emissions benefits.

For the third performance period (2026–2030), Mr. Swiatek explained that new baseline targets were developed using updated projections. Future congestion targets anticipate continued increases in delay. Non-SOV targets, meanwhile, reflect expected declines in work-from-home rates.

Mr. Swiatek highlighted upcoming CMAQ-funded projects expected to contribute to future emissions reductions, including Delaware bike and pedestrian projects, ITS improvements, rideshare initiatives, and multimodal improvements. In Cecil County, planned projects include adaptive signal technology improvements along US 1 and a shared-use pathway along US 40 between Landing Lane and MD-213 in Elkton.

Mr. Swiatek noted that updated project data from DelDOT will be incorporated into the final report. The completed CMAQ Performance Plan will be distributed to the AQS and TAC for review, with consideration for endorsement scheduled for the August meeting. Additional information is available through WILMAPCO's Air Quality [webpage](#).

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [14m.22s].

7. The Southbridge Truck Bypass Study.

Mr. Bill Swiatek provided a final update on the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study, which evaluated strategies to reduce truck traffic impacts in the Southbridge community while improving freight movement efficiency in Wilmington. The study was supported through a Reconnecting Communities grant, along with funding from the City of Wilmington and DelDOT.

The year-long study included technical analysis of truck travel patterns, community engagement, and evaluation of short- and long-term solutions. Public outreach included meetings with residents, civic groups, youth engagement, and a community survey that showed strong support for all actions to reduce truck traffic and improve safety.

Mr. Swiatek reviewed recommended short- and long-term strategies, including improved truck routing signage, roadway improvements, land use planning considerations, railroad crossing mitigation, and potential bypass alternatives. The preferred long-term option identified was the New Castle Avenue Connector, which would provide a new direct connection between New Castle Avenue and Christina Avenue.

Next steps include completion of the public comment period, anticipated TAC recommendation and Council endorsement, and continued monitoring and implementation of the study recommendations.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [11m.49s].

8. WILMAPCO's Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) Studies for FY 2027.

Mr. Dave Gula and Mr. Dan Blevins provided an overview of projects included in the FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The FY2027 UPWP was adopted by the Council on

May 21, 2026, and includes four new project submissions along with continued monitoring and implementation efforts.

Mr. Gula reviewed the four new projects, including the **Bellefonte Pedestrian Pathway Study**, which will evaluate sidewalk gaps along Marion Avenue, Bellefonte Avenue, and Beeson Road. The project will utilize a Walkable Community Workshop approach to assess pedestrian safety, conduct walking audits, and develop recommendations in coordination with the Town of Bellefonte.

The Limestone Road (SR 7) Land Use and Transportation Plan will evaluate multimodal transportation and land use improvements along the corridor in partnership with New Castle County, DelDOT, and DTC. The study will examine safety, connectivity, circulation, future growth, and transportation needs through stakeholder engagement, technical analysis, and development of improvement recommendations.

The Northern New Castle County Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Master Plan will focus on developing a connected bicycle and pedestrian network that links historic, cultural, and recreational destinations. The study will identify key destination clusters, evaluate existing conditions, and recommend infrastructure improvements to support active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian tourism.

The Susquehanna River Road Corridor Study in Port Deposit, Maryland, will examine safety and access concerns along the rural corridor, including speeding, pedestrian access to the river and surrounding natural areas, and opportunities for roadway improvements in coordination with local and state partners.

Mr. Blevins provided updates on ongoing monitoring and implementation efforts, including the Kirkwood Highway Corridor Plan Monitoring and Implementation Committee (KMIC). The committee will evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed Churchmans Road Extension, review bus stop configurations along the corridor, and identify opportunities for improvements in coordination with DTC.

Additional monitoring efforts include evaluating potential transportation impacts of projects within the Churchmans Crossing area, such as opening Continental Drive to through traffic and improving connections to I-95. These studies will assess traffic circulation, potential congestion relief, and cost-benefit considerations.

The FY2027 UPWP projects will continue to support regional transportation planning, safety improvements, multimodal connectivity, and implementation of recommendations identified through WILMAPCO's planning studies.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [10m.33s].

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Staff Report

Mr. Dave Gula reported the following updates:

- On June 23rd, Staff participated in the Wilmington Initiatives public meeting.
- On July 14th, Staff attended the Newport Station Public Workshop.
- On July 15th, Staff attended the New Castle County's State of the County meeting.

- On July 16th, Staff attended DelDOT's Step 1 CID meeting with FRA.
- On July 20th, the East Elkton Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On July 24th, Staff will attend MDOT-MPO Roundtable.
- On July 28th, SS4A Wilmington Advisory Committee meeting #2 will be held at the downtown library branch.
- On August 3rd, the Ardens Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On August 4th, Staff will attend DelDOT's/DTC's NRTC Planning meeting.
- On August 6th, the Port Terminal Truck Routing Feasibility Study partners will meet.
- On August 11th, Staff will be serving on a panel discussing truck parking at the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- On August 12th, the SNCC LUTP Partners will meet.
- On August 17th, Staff will attend the Newark Traffic Committee Meeting.
- On August 18th, the Wilmington Initiatives Partners will meet.
- On August 20th, Staff will attend DelDOT's Step 1 CID meeting with FRA. The Route 9 Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On August 23rd, Staff will attend the Safe Kids Delaware meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Attachments (0)