

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 21, 2025**

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, August 21, 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 10:01 a.m.

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

Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Department of Land Use  
Samantha Bulkilvish, Delaware Office of State Planning  
Alex Burn, Maryland State Highway Administration  
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  
Gwinneth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning  
Austin Gray, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Tina Merrill, Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Jeanne Minner, Town of Elkton Planning  
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation  
Stephen Weber, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works

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

### **TAC Members absent:**

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

Amtrak  
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism  
Delaware River and Bay Authority  
Diamond State Port Corporation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Federal Transit Administration

### **Guests and Invitees:**

Nicolas Baker, WSP Lead Planner  
Sophia Cortazzo, MDOT, AQS Member  
Malcolm Jacob, Dover-Kent MPO, AQS Member  
Matthew Rogers, NCC Dept. of Land Use  
Will Tardy, DelDOT, AQS Member  
Hunter Withers, RIPD, MDOT-SHA

### **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  
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner  
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Espinal.

### **3. MINUTES**

Approval of June 12, 2025, TAC Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky Rivera, June 12, 2025, TAC Minutes are approved.

Approval of April 3, 2025, Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Notes.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Ms. Cathy Smith, April 3, 2025, AQS Notes are approved.

### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**a. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group:** Ms. Heather Dunigan shared that the subcommittee met on August 5 and received two presentations: one on the 2025 Mobility Opportunities Plan and another on the Connectivity Analysis Report. Members expressed that both were valuable analytical tools produced by WILMAPCO for the region.

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

None.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **6. To recommend endorsement of the MD Route 272 Corridor Transportation Plan.**

Mr. Bill Swiatek provided an overview of the MD 272 Corridor Plan. The plan was requested by Cecil County and developed with guidance from a steering committee that included local, state, and county partners. It evaluates transportation conditions along the Maryland Route 272 Corridor from Maryland Route 274 to Shady Beach Road, south of the Town of North East.

Based on community input and technical analysis, key transportation needs identified include traffic congestion, safety, multimodal access, and parking. Recommendations were outlined as follows:

- **Short-term:** lighting upgrades, signage replacements, intersection maintenance, and pedestrian crossing enhancements.
- **Mid-term:** a feasibility study for converting Mauldin Avenue from one-way to two-way, a parking utilization study for downtown North East, additional multimodal network connections, and signal-timing improvements along the corridor.
- **Long-term:** major intersection reconfigurations, bridge replacement, and construction of a separate shared-use pathway along the corridor.

The MD 272 Corridor Plan is currently open for public comment until September 7. It was presented to the Cecil County Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee on July 22 and is scheduled to be presented to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners on August 27. Minor adjustments will be made based on comments received. WILMAPCO is seeking TAC's recommendation for endorsement prior to final Council endorsement in September.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Mr. William Goldman, the TAC recommends endorsement of the draft Maryland Route 272 Corridor Plan.

#### **7. To recommend endorsement of the Rocky Run Feasibility Study.**

Mr. Dave Gula presented the Rocky Run Feasibility Study, which evaluated the three-cell culvert at Rocky Run under Concord Pike as a potential pedestrian and bicycle underpass. The study involved extensive hydrology analysis and input from the project partners, Technical Committee, the Concord Pike Monitoring Committee, and the public through multiple workshops. The primary recommendation is to partially close one culvert cell with a flood wall, allowing it to remain dry for pedestrians during smaller rain events while still accommodating stormwater during major floods. Additional recommendations include grade enhancements, improved sidewalks, and a ramp system to connect to Concord Plaza and to existing trailheads in the First State National Historical Park. The design also allows for the future construction of a standalone pedestrian and bicycle tunnel. Mr. Gula reported strong support from committees and the public and requested TAC endorsement of the study's final results.

**ACTION:** On motion by Ms. Gwineth Kaminsky and seconded by Ms. Cathy Smith, the TAC recommends endorsement of the draft Rocky Run Feasibility Study.

#### **8. To recommend endorsement of the Augustine Cutt-Off Corridor Bike/Ped Improvements Study.**

Mr. Dave Gula presented the action to endorse the Augustine Cut-Off Corridor Bike and Pedestrian Improvements Study. He explained that the study has involved an active and effective advisory committee with broad neighborhood representation, which has been instrumental in moving the project forward despite some residents' initial opposition. The corridor, which carries approximately 10,000 vehicles per day, functions as both a residential street and an arterial, resulting in safety concerns due to high speeds and inadequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Mr. Gula summarized the extensive public engagement process, including advisory committee meetings and workshops in June and August, which were well attended and produced valuable feedback. Survey results indicated strong support for traffic calming measures, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and particularly the consideration of a roundabout at Alapocas Drive. While earlier alternatives proposed significant use of right-of-way, the latest "Alternative 3" design reduces these impacts, preserves mature trees, incorporates a shared-use path, narrows travel lanes to calm traffic, and maintains some parking while adding curbing, stormwater management, and pedestrian-scale lighting.

He noted that short-term improvements are also being coordinated, including shoulder paving, restriping, a speed reduction request, and safety modifications at 18th Street. A final survey remains open, and an additional advisory committee meeting is planned to review results before finalizing the report. Based on current feedback, staff anticipate recommending Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative. The study will be forwarded for Council review and adoption on September 11.

During the discussion, Mr. Dahlstrom commended Mr. Gula for his recommendations, particularly the roundabout and speed reduction proposals. Ms. Jeanne Minner inquired why the proposed shared-use path was 12 feet wide instead of 10 feet. Mr. Gula explained that the additional width was necessary due to the steep topography, anticipated bicycle speeds, and expected heavy use, ensuring adequate separation between cyclists and pedestrians.

Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky raised concerns about the proposed 10-foot travel lanes, suggesting 11 feet would provide safer clearance given the roadway's grade. Mr. Gula responded that the advisory committee strongly supported 10-foot lanes to help calm traffic, but the issue remains open for community input. Ms. Kaminsky also made reservations about a potential roundabout near the Insight entrance, citing topographic challenges. Mr. Gula clarified that DelDOT considered the concept feasible but requiring further study, and that community feedback would help guide whether it should advance.

She further asked about the roundabout at Alapocas Drive, which Mr. Gula noted had majority public support and fit well within the existing right-of-way. Mr. Bowers added that the study demonstrated a strong public engagement process and emphasized the importance of traffic calming following a recent pedestrian fatality on Augustine Cut-Off in April.

**ACTION:** On motion by Ms. Samantha Bulkilvish and seconded by Mr. Mike Fortner, the TAC recommends endorsement of the draft Augustine Cut-Off Corridor Bike/Ped Improvements Study.

#### **9. To recommend endorsement of the Newark Bicycle Plan Update.**

Ms. Heather Dunigan presented the most recent draft of the Newark Bicycle Plan update and noted that the document remains in progress. She requested TAC's endorsement with the understanding that revisions are ongoing through committee, City of Newark, and public review. The updated plan follows the format of the 2014 version, with sections on goals, existing conditions, network maps, facilities, supportive infrastructure, policies, and implementation. New elements include expanded discussion of land use, mobility opportunities, facility type selection based on national guidance, and an inventory of existing infrastructure. Additional content linking the plan to Newark's sustainability goals and refined implementation strategies will be incorporated into the final draft.

**ACTION:** On motion by Ms. Samantha Bulkilvish and seconded by Mr. Mike Fortner, the TAC recommends endorsement of the draft Newark Bicycle Plan Update.

#### **10. To recommend endorsement of the First/Final Mile Freight Network Plan Update (NCC).**

Mr. Dan Blevins presented the First/Final Mile Freight Network Update for New Castle County and requested TAC endorsement. Building on the original 2021 effort, the update incorporates post-COVID freight trends, improved analytical tools for origin-destination patterns, and the growth of e-commerce. The update also expands conflict screening to assess land use, mobility, safety, and roadway condition issues, and outlines strategies and guiding principles to address freight impacts on smaller roadway classifications. These strategies are organized under the Protect–Manage–Accommodate framework established in the previous plan to guide potential solutions for the network.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. Mike Fortner and seconded by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky, the TAC recommends endorsement of the Draft First/Final Mile Freight Network Update for New Castle County.

**11. To recommend use of Federal STGB, CMAQ, FTA Urbanized Area, FTA 5310, and TAP Funds in FY 2026.**

Ms. Heather Dunigan reviewed WILMAPCO's annual process with DelDOT to approve the use of federal funds across several categories, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant, FTA urbanized area funds, CMAQ, FTA elderly and persons with disabilities funds, and the Transportation Alternatives Program. She highlighted specific projects in New Castle County, such as the School Lane Pathway, Old Baltimore Pike improvements, Augustine Cut-Off Pathway Phase 1, East Coast Greenway along SR 4, Adams Street sidewalks, Southbridge Streetscape Phases 2 and 3, and the Old Brandywine Village projects. Additional upcoming projects include the Paper Mill Road connector, Townsend Sidewalk Walkability, Midtown Brandywine Streetscape, and various pedestrian safety improvements.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. Mike Fortner and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom, the TAC recommends use of the federal funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

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

Ms. Heather Dunigan reported that MDOT requested a significant increase to the Areawide Urban Reconstruction project in the TIP. The request reflects an additional \$8.3 million to support the reconstruction of Maryland Route 222 between High Street and Mill Street.

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

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**13. 2025 Mobility Opportunities Plan**

Mr. Bill Swiatek presented an update on the Mobility Opportunities Plan. Formerly titled the Transportation Justice Plan, the effort was rebranded to reflect updated federal equity guidance from USDOT while continuing to analyze community transportation needs. The plan is subtitled Overcoming Transportation Barriers, Increasing Economic Opportunities in Mobility-Challenged Communities, which includes strengthened data analysis, expanded connectivity assessments, and updated terminology.

The plan identifies disparities in access to jobs, groceries, medical care, and transit across economic opportunity areas, minority communities, and mobility-challenged groups such as seniors, disabled residents, zero-car households, and youth. Key findings highlight inequities in housing and transportation costs, commute times, crash rates, and transit access, particularly for low-income, Black, and Hispanic neighborhoods.

Recommendations focus on improving transit access in high-poverty suburban areas, closing connectivity gaps, boosting walkability to job centers, enhancing transit service to food deserts, addressing historic underfunding in Black communities, and ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities. The plan also outlines expanded public engagement efforts and continued monitoring of community transportation investment patterns. Mr. Swiatek concluded that the draft plan is being refined for committee and public review, with Council endorsement anticipated in fall 2025.

Mr. Cooper Bowers said that the transit-to-food desert analysis was particularly valuable and

expressed appreciation for the important work being done to address federal and other changes.

To view this presentation in its entirety, [\[click here\]](#). [(16min. 27sec.)]

#### **14. WILMAPCO FY 2026 Project Updates**

Mr. Dave Gula reported that the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), adopted on May 1, 2025, took effect July 1. The program includes five new project submissions:

- **Delaware Statewide Freight Plan Update** (staff submission)
- **Intersection Control Evaluations and Alternative Screening for New Castle County** (DelDOT submission)
- **Logistics Fulfillment Center Transportation and Land-Use Impact Study** (New Castle and Cecil Counties submission)
- **NCC and CC Sidewalk Gap Analysis** (staff submission)
- **Southern New Castle County Growth Area Land Use and Transportation Plan** (New Castle County and DelDOT submission)

Mr. Dan Blevins explained that the Delaware Statewide Freight Plan is being updated in partnership with DelDOT and Dover/Kent MPO to align with federal requirements and policies. The Intersection Control Evaluations project responds to new federal guidance, establishing funding and procedures to evaluate intersection safety and traffic operations as part of WILMAPCO's studies.

Mr. Blevins also highlighted the Logistics Fulfillment Center Study, which will examine the economic, traffic, and land use impacts of fulfillment centers in New Castle and Cecil Counties, with a best practices guide to follow.

Mr. Gula described the Southern New Castle County Growth Area Land Use and Transportation Plan, which will evaluate development trends, update modeling, and recommend improvements within the Southern New Castle County TID. JMT has been selected as the consultant team.

Ms. Heather Dunigan reported that the Sidewalk Gap Analysis received 13 proposals, with Renaissance Planning and RK&K selected as the consultant team. The study will identify and prioritize sidewalk gaps across the region, using advanced tools such as aerial imagery, GIS, and mobility data. Phase one will deliver broadly applicable tools, while phase two will involve in-depth community engagement and project development.

Ms. Jeanne Minner asked whether Elkton's 2018 Pedestrian Plan would be referenced. Ms. Dunigan confirmed that existing plans and priorities would be incorporated and noted that municipalities and TAC members would serve on the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gula concluded by noting that, in addition to the new studies, ongoing monitoring efforts will continue, including the Ardens Transportation Plan, Churchman's Crossing Plan, Governor Printz Boulevard Corridor, Kirkwood Highway, Route 40, Claymont, Southern New Castle County, US 202 Corridor, and Wilmington Initiatives.

To view this presentation in its entirety, [\[click here\]](#). [(13min. 40sec.)]

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **9. Staff Report**

Mr. Dave Gula provided the following updates on staff activities since the last TAC meeting:

- On July 28th, the East Elkton Plan's Monitoring Committee met.
- On July 29th, WILMAPCO submitted an RFP for a Safety Action Plan for the City of Wilmington. Responses to the RFP are due on August 29.
- On August 4th, Staff attended the AMPO/AASHTO Peer Exchange in Minnesota.
- On August 4th, Staff attended the United Neighbors meeting, Wilmington.
- On August 8th, WILMAPCO held interviews for the SNCC Growth Area LUTP: JMT was selected.
- On August 11th, Staff attended the Cecil County Transit Coordination meeting.
- On August 12th, the final public workshop for the Augustine Cut Off Multimodal Improvements Study, Phase 2, was held on August 12th with about 35 people attending.
- On August 16th, Staff participated in the Open Streets Wilmington - N. Market Street event.
- On August 21st, the Route 9 Master Plan's Monitoring Committee will meet.
- On August 27th, Staff will present the MD-272 Plan to the Town of North East's Council.
- On September 4th, the Air Quality Subcommittee is scheduled to meet.
- On September 8th, the Ardens Monitoring Committee is scheduled to meet.
- On September 21st, Staff will participate in Newark Community Day.
- On September 24th, the Strategies for State Policies and Spending are being released and a public workshop for NCC is scheduled at the Route 9 Innovation Center in New Castle City.
- On September 25th, Staff will participate in the 2025 Delaware Highway Safety Summit.
- On September 29th, a joint DelDOT/WILMAPCO TIP/CTP Public Hearing will be held at STAR Campus in the ATRIUM lobby.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Ms. Samantha Bulkilvish noted that a Climate Action Plan Workshop, organized by DNREC with support from her office, will also hold a workshop in New Castle County on Tuesday, September 16, at Delaware Technical Community College in Wilmington.

Mr. Shawn Kieran announced that a CTP transportation pre-tour meeting will be held virtually on September 24 at 10:00 a.m. He added that the Cecil County tour meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 10:00 a.m., in person, with a possible virtual option.

Ms. Cathy Smith reported that public hearing workshops on proposed service changes effective November 16, 2025, will take place on September 16 at the Wilmington Library (11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.) and at the Bear Library (4:00–6:00 p.m.). She explained that proposed changes, driven by budget constraints and low ridership, include eliminating Route 54 while modifying Route 64 and Route 40 to cover more productive areas in Bear and provide continued access to key destinations such as Walmart. She encouraged members to review the proposals and submit comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**ACTION:** Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

**Attachments (0)**