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# Churchman's Crossing Plan Update



# 1<sup>st</sup> Community Workshop

September 16, 2020





# WELCOME!

# 1<sup>st</sup> Community Workshop for the Churchman's Crossing Plan Update



### **VIRTUAL WORKSHOP HOUSEKEEPING**

#### Some helpful hints for tonight's virtual workshop:

- The Zoom Webinar Menu Bar (on a computer) appears at the bottom of the Zoom window once the workshop begins. If you don't see the menu bar, move your mouse slightly and the bar will re-appear. The bar disappears after a few seconds when in full-screen mode.
- Note that you are muted and without video by default. You can ask questions via the Chat box.
   The host and panelists will monitor these questions throughout the evening.
- For dial-in participants, to participate during the question and answer period after the presentation, please press \*9 to Raise/Lower Hand and press \*6 to Mute/Unmute.



#### With the Zoom Webinar Menu Bar you are able to do the following:

- **1.** Adjust Audio Settings. Click the upward arrow (^) next to "Audio Settings" to change your computer's audio preferences (for example, change from headphones to computer speaker).
- 2. Chat. During the presentation, you are able to submit questions and feedback using the "Chat" feature. The host and panelists will monitor the chat and answer questions following the presentation.
- **3. Raise Your Hand.** Use the "Raise Hand" button for audience participation. Once raised, the button will change to "Lower Hand", which can be selected once you have been recognized.
- 4. Leave the Workshop. To leave the virtual workshop, click the "Leave" button.



### **POLL QUESTIONS**

We will be posing questions to participants throughout tonight's presentation.

Everyone is encouraged to participate by selecting answers in the pop-up polling window using the Zoom app (not available for dial-in participants).

We will use the results to help develop scenarios later in the process.

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#### **STAY CONNECTED**

We are committed to keeping you informed about this important Plan Update:

- Project website: <u>http://www.wilmapco.org/Churchmans/</u>
- For questions, comments, or to sign up for project email updates, email Randi Novakoff at <u>rnovakoff@wilmapco.org</u>
- To reach co-project manager Dave Gula
  - -Email: dgula@wilmapco.org





5:00 – 5:30 PM Registration / Sign-in

#### 5:30 – 6:15 PM Presentation

### 6:15 – 7:00 PM Q & A



### **AGENCY PARTNER STATEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS**

# Dan Blevins WILMAPCO

Marc Cote DelDOT

## Andrea Trabelsi New Castle County Department of Land Use















**Community Area Master Plans** 







## Jim Burnett RK&K

# Dan Hardy Renaissance Planning

# Alyssa May Rybinski Engineering









## PURPOSE OF TODAY'S COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

- Provide an introduction and overview of the Plan Update process
- Learn about land use and transportation planning, and why it's important
- Share existing conditions information about the Churchman's Crossing area
- Welcome input on current opportunities and concerns, as well as the future of the Churchman's Crossing area















#### CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

# PROJECT BOUNDARY





### **POLL QUESTION #1**

- Do you live, work, or play in the Churchman's Crossing area?
  - -Yes, I live here
  - -Yes, I work here
  - -Yes, I shop, dine, play and do other activities here
  - -More than one of the above
  - -None of the above



#### **1997 CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING STUDY**





#### **PROGRESS: 1997 TO 2020**

- Modifications to the UDC to re-establish a balance between transportation capacity and development
- Modifications to the UDC to incorporate Guiding Principles related to zoning and subdivision reviews, as well as Traffic Mitigation Agreements (TMA's)
- Growth continues
  - -Non-residential: 4.8 MSF developed since 1997; 3.7 MSF committed as of 2019
  - -Residential: 760 DUs committed as of 2019

Year	Existing	Committed	Exploratory	Existing + Committed
1997	9.6	3.7	1.5	13.3
2004	11.8	3.2	0.7	14.9
2009	13.2	4.1	0.5	17.3
2019	14.4	3.7	0.5	18.1

#### Million Square Feet (MSF) Non-Residential Development



#### CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

### **PROGRESS: 1997 TO 2020**

- 25 of the 61 roadway, transit, sidewalk and bicycle recommendations implemented
  - -Interchange and intersection improvements
  - -New SEPTA station
  - -Bus service improvements
  - -New sidewalks and bicycle lanes



The 1997 Report and 2019 Current Conditions summary are available on the project website <a href="http://www.wilmapco.org/Churchmans/">http://www.wilmapco.org/Churchmans/</a>



### **CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE**

- Update the Original 1997 Churchman's Crossing Study
- Updated Plan will include recommendations on:
  - -Transportation Improvements
  - -Land Use Strategies
- Based on input from:
  - -Advisory Committee
  - -Public Workshops



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#### **PROJECT VISION**

• The vision for the 2020 Churchman's Crossing Plan Update will be guided by three goals:



These goals also guided the original 1997 Churchman's Crossing Study



### **CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE PROCESS & TIMELINE**

The Churchman's Crossing Plan Update will take approximately 1 year, through Fall 2021

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# **Planning Basics**











#### CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

# WHY DO WE NEED TO UPDATE THE PLAN?

- Confirm the guiding vision for the future
- Coordinate development/re-development
- Coordinate and time infrastructure needs
- Leverage resources to maximize results





Without Blueprints

With Blueprints

	With a Plan	Without a Plan
•	Public infrastructure / spending is aligned with need (efficient) Re-development/development efforts can benefit from each other with intention and predictability	<ul> <li>Public infrastructure / spending may lag or be spent before facilities are needed</li> <li>Re-development/development is haphazard or unpredictable</li> </ul>
•	Better understanding of the consequences of actions	<ul> <li>Impacts / consequences are random</li> </ul>



### WHY DO WE NEED TO UPDATE THE PLAN?

Transportation and Land Use Plans provide a blueprint for how a community intends to manage change over the course of the next generation, recognizing that:

- Both public and private sectors will help implement projects
- Each project will provide incremental progress toward a comprehensive vision
- The vision will balance many different community objectives
- Several tools can eventually be used to implement a Plan, including:
  - » Future land use and zoning
  - » Subdivision and building regulations
  - » Transportation improvement projects

- » Concurrency (adequate public facilities)
- » Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs)
- » Complete Community Enterprise Districts (CCEDs)



## **CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING AND NCC@2050**

- Parallel tracks over next several months
- Churchman's Crossing Plan efforts will:
  - -Be geographically independent (like Claymont, Route 202)
  - -Examine a range of land use and transportation scenarios
  - -Seek a land use/transportation balance
  - -Set land use guidance for defining remaining comprehensive plan elements
  - -Consider public/private sector implementation strategies
    - » Transportation facility implementation
    - » Transportation service provisions
    - » Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies
  - -Be formalized via Comprehensive Plan Amendment





#### **CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE**

# HOW DOES COVID-19 AFFECT THE PLAN UPDATE?

#### Short-term trends

- Traffic volumes decreased initially, but are rebounding
- Increase in work from home, biking, walking
- Challenges with social distancing and transit / carpool modes

#### Long-term outlook

- COVID-19 effects subtle; integrated within broader trends
- Scenario planning tests trends over a 20-year horizon
- Phasing/prioritizing may help address COVID-19 impacts



Relative Level of Nationwide Passenger Vehicle Travel













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#### CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

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- To better understand opportunities, issues, and concerns at the outset of the study, the project team initiated a Stakeholder Listening Tour
- A cross-section of stakeholders were interviewed, including:
  - -Elected and Government Officials
  - -Community Groups
  - -Business Community
  - -Institutions
  - -Environmental Advocates
  - -Bike Advocates
  - -Emergency Services



#### Jobs

- —Important to keep businesses/institutions such as Delaware Park, Christiana Hospital, and DelTech in the area
- —Supporting job growth is important; the four biggest areas of growth in NCC are:
  - » Financial Technology (FinTech)
  - » Chemical Technology (ChemTech)
  - » Biological Technology (BioTech)
  - » Healthcare





#### Land Use

- -Preserve the little open space that remains in the area
- -Limit sprawl
- Coordinate better with EMS; ensure they have proper access to communities
- -Greater consistency in land use decisions made by the County, the TIS process, and DelDOT transportation decisions

#### Environmental

- -Focus on clean water and waterways
- -Flooding is a major concern





#### Transportation/Traffic

- -Safety needs to be prioritized
- -Significant traffic on DE 4, DE 7, Churchman's Road, DE 273
- -Not enough alternative routes
- -Need additional north/south roadway capacity
- -Access to I-95 is important
- —Traffic during evening rush hour results in gridlock trying to access SR 1 and I-95
- Address concerns about cut-through traffic, including the Village of Christiana





CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

- Public transportation
  - -Improve bus service
  - -Move the transit center away from the mall (but keep mall bus stops)
  - -Bus transportation should be convenient and accessible within neighborhoods
  - -Continued need to expand regional train service (MARC)





#### Bicycle/Pedestrian

- -Consider bike options that complement the DelDOT Bicycle Master Plan
- -More pedestrian and biking connections (e.g. open spaces, hospital, shopping)
- -Walkable communities, such as mixed use, are a positive
- -Important to have a low-stress bicycle network
- -Make the mall more bike and pedestrian friendly





### **POLL QUESTION #2**

What single word or phrase best describes what you value most about Churchman's Crossing today?





### THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DATA

- Where have we been? Where are we headed?
- How might we rethink possibilities?
- What matters most to you?





#### **ECONOMIC ANCHORS**

Churchman's Crossing anchored by "meds and eds", finance, retail, hospitality – and serves as a key economic engine for New Castle Couty

#### **Major Employers**

The Churchman's Crossing study area has about 1,500 businesses with a total of about 35,000 employees. The largest employers include:

- Christiana Hospital
- Casino at Delaware Park
- JP Morgan Chase & Co.
- Bank of America
- SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae)

Source: ESRI Business Analyst

#### Total number of jobs by industry Supersector in New Castle County





#### **CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE**

### **GROWTH TRENDS**

- The recent decades of fastpaced growth may be slowing
- Current projections suggest stability in population and jobs, both Countywide and in the Churchman's Crossing area, over the next several decades
- Is this a good thing or a bad thing?

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How should we seek to influence these trends?


### **CURRENTLY ADOPTED LAND USE PLAN (FOR THE FUTURE)**

New Castle County 2012 Comprehensive Plan Update features development potential





Source: New Castle County Department of Land Use May 2012

### 

# EXISTING ELEMENTS





DelDO

CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

### EXISTING ELEMENTS





CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

# EXISTING ELEMENTS





CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

### LAND USE AND TRAVEL PATTERNS

- Land use influences travel behavior
- The land use "Ds":
  - -Density
  - -Diversity
  - -Design
  - -De-others
- Help influence outcomes like:
  - -Vehicle Miles of Travel
  - -Affordability

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- -Tax base / assessed value
- Scenario planning will help us understand and guide smarter growth



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#### CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING | WHERE STUDY AREA WORKERS LIVE

### TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE

Linkage to County fiscal sustainability

-Direct value

- -Indirect/induced value
- Churchman's Crossing has high value parcels....





### **ASSESSED VALUE PER ACRE**

- ....because parcels are large
- Location, location, location
- Exploring "highest and best use"





### **POLL QUESTION #3**

What single word or phrase describes what you'd like to see more of in Churchman's Crossing in the next 20 years?





### **TRAFFIC OPERATIONS (2019)**

 Mild to moderate congestion throughout the day, worst during PM rush hour

— SR 1

- Churchman's Road (SR 58)
- Kirkwood Highway (SR 2)
- -SR4

— SR 273





### **TRAFFIC SAFETY**

- 6 Intersections Ranked in Worst 20 Statewide (based on number, severity, and cost)
- Safety is an important part of the Plan Update
- Safety improvements continue to be made through DeIDOT's Hazard Elimination Program (HEP)

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### **MULTIMODAL INVENTORY**

- Significant bus stop coverage along major roadways in the Churchman's Crossing area
- Train and bus connections at Fairplay Station
- Residential areas connected via sidewalks, but gaps in coverage present along major roadways





### **BUS RIDERSHIP**

- Christiana Mall serves as the most significant transit hub in the Churchman's Crossing area
- Highest ridership occurs on routes between Wilmington and the Christiana Mall





### **BICYCLE LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS**

- Major arterials serve as bike routes, but are also high stress roadways that only advanced bicyclists would be able to tolerate
- Average bicyclist would only be able to tolerate short trips between residential areas or to nearby shopping centers





### **BICYCLE CONNECTIVITY**

- Low-stress islands are small clusters of roads and pathways which are disconnected from one another by higher-stress roads
- Each color represents a unique low-stress island





### **POLL QUESTION #4**

 What mode(s) of transportation do you use to get around the Churchman's Crossing area? Check all that apply.

-Bus

- -Walking
- -Bicycle
- -Personal car
- -Carpooling
- -Ride sharing (Uber, Lyft, Taxi, etc.)













### CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE

### **NEXT STEPS**

Consider and apply what we know today...

- -Listening tour feedback
- -Comments, polls from this evening
- -Data analysis of current conditions

...to create preliminary land use and transportation scenarios, metrics, and visuals to discuss potential futures



### **CHURCHMAN'S CROSSING PLAN UPDATE PROCESS & TIMELINE**

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  - -Email: dgula@wilmapco.org



### FOR MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- To report a road condition (such as drainage problems, potholes, traffic signs or signals, streetlights)
  - -Call the TMC at 302-659-4600 or 800-324-8379
  - —Use the "Report an Issue" feature on the mobile app (<u>https://deldot.gov/mobile/</u> for instructions)
  - -Or visit <a href="http://deldot.gov/Traffic/ReportRoadCondition">http://deldot.gov/Traffic/ReportRoadCondition</a>

- To reach New Castle County Department of Land Use
  - -Call 302-395-5400 for Permits/Inspections/Planning and/or 302-395-5555 for Code Enforcement
  - -Or email LandUse@newcastlede.gov

















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### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

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- To speak your question, please raise your hand by using the "Raise Hand" button in the Zoom Webinar Menu Bar, or by pressing \*9 when calling in on a phone
- The host will be notified of who has raised their hand, and will announce your name and ask you to unmute yourself when it is your turn
- Please unmute yourself by clicking "**Unmute now**", or by pressing **\*6 when calling in on a phone**
- Depending on your settings, you may need to also click "**Unmute**" a second time in the lower left side of the menu bar



