

WILMAPCO Council

Action Item Summary Sheet

Meeting Date: May 11, 2017

Action Item #14: To Endorse the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan

Description/Summary of Item: The Route 9 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Master Plan identifies the best reinvestment and redevelopment strategies for the Route 9 Corridor south of Wilmington, Delaware. Plan area boundaries stretch north to south from the City of Wilmington line to the City of New Castle line, and west to east from US 13 to the Delaware River. This Master Plan was requested by New Castle County, which has identified that the area needs significant revitalization. The Route 9 Master Plan was funded and executed by the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) under the close guidance of a Steering Committee comprised of local civic and agency partners.

Considering our analysis and public engagement, the major recommendations for the Route 9 Corridor of tomorrow are:

- Industrial lands adjacent to Route 9 will be appropriately separated from residential neighborhoods.
- New truck routes (Pigeon Point Road Extension and Garasches Lane Extension) will work to keep trucks out of existing and future neighborhoods and simultaneously improve freight movement efficiency, freeing industry and the port to comfortably expand west and south.
- Zoning adjustments allowing for mixed use development (residential/commercial/office) will encourage healthy suburban centers along the corridor to grow and thrive.
- The first center to be redeveloped will be around the Innovation District.
- Both Route 9 and Memorial Drive will be placed on road diets, and their key intersections will be redesigned and rebuilt to enhance safety and keep traffic moving.

Summary of Action Taken by PAC: The WILMAPCO PAC received a presentation in February, but did not take any action.

Summary of Action Taken by TAC: The WILMAPCO TAC recommended endorsing the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan at their April 20 meeting.

Summary of Action Taken by Subcommittee/Task Force (if applicable): the following bodies received presentations and provided positive reviews of the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan in April:

- Delaware HEAL's Environment and Policy Committee
- DNREC's Planners Technical Advisory Committee
- Route 9/US 13 All Civics Association
- Route 9 Corridor Master Plan's Steering Committee

WILMAPCO Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends that Council endorse the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan.

WILMAPCO Council:

John Sisson, Chair
Delaware Transit Corporation
Chief Executive Officer

Robert J. Alt
Mayor of Elkton

Jennifer Cohan
Delaware Dept. of Transportation
Secretary

Connie C. Holland
Delaware Office of State Planning
Coordination, Director

Alan McCarthy
Cecil County Executive

Matthew Meyer
New Castle County Executive

Heather Murphy
Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Director, Office of Planning and
Capital Programming

Michael S. Purzycki
Mayor of Wilmington

Michael Spencer
Mayor of Newport

WILMAPCO Executive Director
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RESOLUTION

BY THE WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL (WILMAPCO) ENDORING THE ROUTE 9 CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) has been designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Cecil County, Maryland and New Castle County, Delaware by the Governors of Maryland and Delaware, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the WILMAPCO Council recognizes that comprehensive planning for future land use, transportation, sustainable economic development, environmental protection and enhancement, and community health and livability are necessary actions to implement the goals and objectives in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and

WHEREAS, the New Castle County requested that WILMAPCO develop a land use and transportation master plan for the Route 9 Corridor between Wilmington and New Castle; and

WHEREAS, the Route 9 Master Plan assessed existing demographic, land, environmental, traffic, and real estate market conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Route 9 Master Plan employed continuous and rigorous public engagement throughout the planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Route 9 Master Plan puts forth dozens of recommendations which will spur economic development, correct unhealthy land use patterns, mitigate community health concerns, improve the multimodal transportation network, reduce illegal truck traffic while streamlining freight transportation, and, generally, spur mixed-use and mixed income reinvestment and redevelopment opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilmington Area Planning Council does hereby endorse the final report and recommendations of the Route 9 Master Plan.

Date: _____

John Sisson, Chairperson
Wilmington Area Planning Council

