

WILMAPCO Council

Action Item Summary Sheet

Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

Action Item # 13: To Endorse the Bridging I-95 Cap Feasibility Study

Description/Summary of Item:

This study was designed for WILMAPCO staff to work with DeIDOT, DTC and the City of Wilmington to consider the feasibility of developing a cap structure over the below-grade segment of Interstate 95 within the City of Wilmington to create a new community space for surrounding residents that will connect neighborhoods that were separated by I-95's construction. The final study will also identify improvements to the transportation network to create a safer environment for walking, bicycling and transit use within the study area.

Summary of Action Taken by PAC: The WILMAPCO PAC took no action. The Study was presented to the PAC on February 7, 2022, June 13, 2022, October 17, 2022 and December 12, 2022.

Summary of Action Taken by TAC: The study was presented to the WILMAPCO TAC on January 20, 2022 and September 15, 2022. The TAC endorsed the Bridging I-95 Cap Feasibility Study on December 15, 2022.

Summary of Action Taken by Subcommittee/Task Force (if applicable):

The study was presented to the WILMAPCO TAC Non-motorized Transportation Working Group on February 1, 2022 and October 4, 2021, but no action was taken.

The study was presented to the Wilmington Initiatives Partners on May 25, 2022, September 21, 2022, and November 16, 2022.

WILMAPCO Staff Recommendations: The WILMAPCO staff recommends that the Council Endorse the Bridging I-95 Cap Feasibility Study.

DRAFT **RESOLUTION**

WILMAPCO Council:

John Sisson, Chair
Delaware Transit Corporation
Chief Executive Officer

David L. Edgell
Delaware Office of State Planning
Coordination, Director

Danielle Hornberger
Cecil County Executive

Michael Kline
Mayor of North East

Nicole Majeski
Delaware Dept. of Transportation
Secretary

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

Eric Scott Thompson
Mayor of Elsmere

WILMAPCO Executive Director
Tigist Zegeye

BY THE WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL (WILMAPCO) ENDORING THE BRIDGING I-95 CAP FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) has been designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for New Castle County, Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland by the Governors of Delaware and Maryland, 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 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) submitted a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) request for WILMAPCO to assist in conducting a study to consider the feasibility of developing a cap structure over the below-grade segment of Interstate 95 within the City of Wilmington to create new community spaces that will connect neighborhoods separated by I-95's construction; and

WHEREAS, the Study also identifies necessary multimodal improvements to connect residents to open spaces and cultural resources while providing a more walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly community asset to create a safer multimodal network; and

WHEREAS, the Study employed continuous and thorough public engagement with the community and an Advisory Committee throughout the planning process to determine the needs for new community spaces with safe connections for walking and biking amenities; and

WHEREAS, the Study puts forth a preferred concept with a menu of improvements and utilized four public workshops to solicit feedback from the community and develop consensus; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee supported the preferred concept and the Bridging I-95 Cap Feasibility Study final report;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilmington Area Planning Council does hereby endorse the Bridging I-95 Cap Feasibility Study.

Date: _____

John Sisson, Chairperson
Wilmington Area Planning Council

