

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 21, 2026**

The WILMAPCO Council meeting was held at WILMAPCO, 100 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 800, Newark, DE 19713 and virtually via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. John Sisson, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members present:

John Sisson, Delaware Transit Corporation Chief Executive Officer
Stephen O'Connor, Cecil County Land Use and Development Planner, representing Cecil County Executive, Adam Streight
Stephanie Johnson, Delaware Department of Transportation, representing Delaware Secretary of Transportation, Shanté Hastings
Kenneth Branner, Mayor of the Town of Middletown, New Castle County Municipalities Representative
Grant Handley, representing Kelly A. Benson, Mayor of North East, Cecil County Municipalities Representative
David Edgell, Office of State Planning and Delaware Governor's Appointee
Kelly Williams, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works Commissioner, representing City of Wilmington Mayor John Carney
Dawn Thompson, Communication Manager representing David Culver, New Castle County Department of Land Use General Manager, who represents County Executive Marcus Henry

Members absent:

Geoff Anderson, Maryland Department of Transportation, Chief and Maryland Governor's Appointee

Guests, Observers:

William Goldman, Cecil County
Mike Kaszyski, Public Advisory Committee
Pamela Keeney, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Control
Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Department of Transportation
Scott McKenzie, Town of Bellefonte
Tina Merrill, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Control
William Tardy, Jacobs
Cameron Turner, DTC Peer Program

Staff members:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Leonard Bonarek, Senior Planner
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant
Elizabeth Espinal, Administrative Assistant
Dave Gula, Principal Planner
Dawn Stant, Outreach Coordinator
Colleen Stroud, Regional Planner
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Jacob Thompson, Senior Planner

Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Espinal.

3. MINUTES:

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Kenneth Branner, seconded by Mr. Stephen O'Connor, the Council approved the March 12, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-01)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

None.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

5. Chairperson's Report:

Mr. John Sisson announced that Ms. Shante Hastings has appointed Lilia Montoya as the next Chief Executive Officer of the Delaware Transit Corporation. Ms. Montoya, a transit professional with more than 20 years of experience, previously worked with the North County Transit District in San Diego, LA Metro, and Boston-area rail systems. Mr. Sisson stated that Ms. Montoya will begin on June 1st and will spend the month of June participating in a statewide tour and transition process to become familiar with DTC operations and stakeholders.

Mr. Sisson also reported that DART's seasonal service changes began the previous week, including the launch of the Beach Bus schedule. He noted that there were no major service changes affecting New Castle County and that updated bus schedules are available to the public.

Additionally, Mr. Sisson stated that the nominating committee, consisting of himself, Mr. Dave Edgell, and Mr. Geoff Anderson, met and recommended Ms. Stephanie Johnson to serve as the next Council Chair and Mr. Stephen O'Connor as Vice Chair.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Grant Handley, seconded by Mr. Kenneth Branner, the Council approved Ms. Stephanie Johnson as WILMAPCO Council Chair and Mr. Stephen O'Connor as vice-chair starting this fiscal year.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-02)

Mr. Grant Handley, representing the Town of North East, reintroduced himself and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bill Swiatek for collaborating on the APA walking tour in North East the previous afternoon. Mr. Handley noted that these collaborative efforts support the ongoing monitoring of the MD-272 Corridor Study.

6. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Tigist Zegeye shared the following report:

- On March 26th, staff attended the Mayor's Budget Town Hall in Wilmington and participated in the Downes Elementary School Safety Stations on March 26th and 27th.
- On April 2nd, the Edgemoor Port Terminal Feasibility Study team held its kickoff meeting. The Study partners will hold monthly meetings on June 4 and again on July 2.
- The CXMC team held a partners meeting on April 2nd, a Spring Office Hours on April 7th and a Spring meeting on April 15th. On June 8th, a workshop will be held at DelDOT's Canal District office.

- On April 6th, staff held a meeting with the United Neighbors in Wilmington.
- The Sidewalk Gap Analysis plan, Staff conducted the second charrette in Wilmington on April 6, and a third charette at Wilmington University in New Castle on April 13.
- On April 10th, staff attended a Cecil County Transit meeting to review the Executive Summary of the Transit Development Plan.
- The Wilmington Initiatives continue to hold their monthly meeting. An open house is being planned for June 23rd.
- On April 17th, Staff participated in Wilmington's Earth and Arbor Day celebration with the AQP mascot, Tropo.
- On April 20th, WILMAPCO and DeIDOT hosted a TIP Public Workshop at the UD Atrium.
- On April 22nd, Staff attended DeIDOT's Foulkstone Pathway Community Meeting.
- On April 25th, staff presented the Mobility Opportunities Plan at the National APA Conference.
- The Southern New Castle County Land Use and Transportation Plan (SNCC-LUTP) partners continue to hold their monthly meeting, a second public workshop for the plan was held on April 27th.
- On April 30th, staff visited Elkton High School to get feedback from students regarding the East Elkton Paths Plan.
- The KMIC meeting was held on May 4, and a public workshop was held on May 11.
- On May 5th, staff met with DeIDOT's State Rail Plan team for MPO coordination, additional briefings for MPOs are scheduled for June 2nd and June 30th.
- On May 5th, Staff presented the Walkable Community Workshop to the Wilmington West Side Transportation Committee.
- On May 6th, Staff participated in the Downes Elementary Bike to School Day.
- On May 8th, staff held a legislative briefing for the SS4A Wilmington Safety Action Plan and held the first Advisory Committee meeting for the plan on May 12th.
- Also on May 12th, staff attended DeIDOT's 7th Street Bridge Community Meeting.
- The Southbridge Truck Bypass Study, the Management Committee met on May 12th, a youth engagement event is planned for May 29th, and the Advisory Committee will meet on June 9th.
- The MD-272 Monitoring Committee met on May 13th. The MD and DE APA chapters hosted a walking tour of Downtown North East associated with the Plan on May 20th.
- On May 21st, staff joined the DTC DSRL team for a meeting with FRA and will attend the FRA's Step 1 CID meeting for the DSRL on June 18th.
- The Route 9 Monitoring Committee has meetings scheduled for May 21st and will meet again on June 18th.
- On May 26th, staff will attend the Newport Station Advisory Committee meeting.
- The Ardens Monitoring Committee is scheduled to meet on June 1st and again on July 6.
- On June 3rd, Staff will attend DeIDOT's quarterly meeting with the Wilmington Department of Public Works.
- On June 10th, the CPMC workshop will be held at the Talleyville Fire Hall.
- On June 16th, Staff will attend the Delmarva Freight Summit.

Lastly, the April Financial Report: expended about 74% of the budget with two months left in the fiscal year.

7. Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Report:

Mr. Mike Kaszyski reported that the PAC met on Monday, April 13th. A quorum was established with eleven members in attendance: six in person and five virtually. PAC Members held an extensive discussion regarding land use planning impacts, level of service metrics, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and Traffic Improvement District (TID) measures.

Ms. Dawn Stant provided the staff report in absence of WILMAPCO's Executive Director, she summarized the March 12th Council meeting, provided updates on ongoing studies, and outlined public engagement events scheduled for the upcoming months.

Ms. Stant presented the public outreach portion of the draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Following a review of the program details and the outreach conducted, the PAC voted unanimously to approve the outreach portion of the draft report.

Mr. Jake Thompson presented the public outreach process for the draft FY 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The committee discussed public engagement challenges and the alignment between the DeIDOT Capital Transportation Program (CTP) and TIP funding priorities. The motion to approve the TIP outreach process passed with nine votes in favor and two abstentions. Consequently, TIP outreach methods will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Bill Swiatek presented a study update. Committee discussion focused on emissions, railroad crossings, and truck volume on Route 9. Members requested information on how to access the project study.

Ms. Stant presented the draft PPP update and requested feedback ahead of the formal public comment period. Members recommended clarifying several glossary terms, adding more photography, and revising the Title VI section. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for June 15th.

8. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Report:

Mr. Dave Gula reported that the TAC met on March 19th and approved the minutes from the February 2026 meeting. There were no public comments. The TAC received a subcommittee update from the Nonmotorized Working Group and the Air Quality Subcommittee. The TAC endorsed and approved of the release of the Draft FY 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public comment.

Mr. Gula mentioned the presentations received during this meeting. An overview of the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was presented by Ms. Tigist Zegeye.

Mr. Dan Blevins provided an update on the Logistics/Fulfillment Center Land Use and Transportation Impact Study. Mr. Blevins also presented an update on the Delaware Statewide Freight Plan.

During the April 16, 2026, TAC meeting, TAC approved the minutes from the March 19, 2026, meeting. There were no subcommittee updates and no public comments. The committee recommended the following items for Council adoption and endorsement: Adoption of the FY 2027 UPWP, an amendment to the FY 2025–2028 TIP, endorsement of the Draft FY 2027–2030 TIP and certification of the FY 2027 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process.

Mr. Gula shared that the TAC received the following presentations. Mr. Bill Swiatek presented an update on the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study. Mr. Blevins and Mr. Gula presented an update on various regional studies.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. To adopt the State/Local Cash Commitment for Fiscal Year 2027.

Ms. Tigist Zegeye presented the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) state and local cash commitment requirements. She explained that WILMAPCO is required to provide a 20% match for all federal funding received, and that state and local matching contributions may be provided either in cash or in-kind. For FY27, all matching contributions will be provided in cash.

Ms. Zegeye reviewed the agreed-upon funding commitments, which include approximately \$1.2 million from the State of Delaware, \$31,500 from New Castle County, \$11,796 from the City of Wilmington, and approximately \$15,900 each from the Maryland Department of Transportation and Cecil County.

Ms. Zegeye noted that while the TAC reviewed the resolution, the action item itself was not presented to TAC for approval. Staff recommended that Council adopt the FY27 UPWP state and local cash commitment resolution.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Stephen O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Grant Handley, the Council adopted the state and local cash commitment for Fiscal Year 2027.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-03)

10. To adopt the Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Ms. Tigist Zegeye presented the FY27 UPWP, which outlines the transportation planning activities to be conducted by WILMAPCO from July 2026 through June 2027, including associated tasks and funding. She noted that no changes had been made since the previous presentation.

Ms. Zegeye highlighted four new projects submitted by member agencies for inclusion in the FY27 UPWP: the Limestone (SR 7) Land Use and Transportation Plan, the Northern New Castle County Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Master Plan, the Bellefonte Pedestrian Pathways, and the Susquehanna River Road (MD 222) Corridor Study for Port Deposit.

Ms. Zegeye reported that the PAC reviewed and recommended approval of the public participation and public education components of the UPWP at its last meeting. The draft UPWP was available for public review and comment from March 31 through May 1. Although no public comments were received, the document recorded eight website visits during the comment period.

Ms. Zegeye stated that, if adopted, the FY27 UPWP would be submitted to DeIDOT, MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration for approval. WILMAPCO staff also plan to begin developing scopes of work and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the new projects prior to the July 1 implementation date. WILMAPCO staff recommend that Council adopt the FY27 UPWP.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Kenneth Branner, seconded by Mr. Stephen O'Connor, the Council adopted the FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-04)

11. To Amend the FY2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Jake Thompson presented a proposed amendment to the FY25–28 TIP for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program, originally adopted in May 2020. The amendment would reduce preliminary engineering and construction funding from \$1.634 million to \$934,000, reflecting a total decrease of \$700,000. Mr. Thompson stated that the adjustment is necessary to align cash flow projections with actual expenditures to date and the updated NEVI program and schedule.

Mr. Thompson reported that the TAC recommended endorsement of the amendment at its April 16 meeting. The Air Quality Subcommittee reviewed the amendment via email and determined that it does not require a revised conformity analysis. WILMAPCO staff recommended approval of the amendment.

ACTION: On a motion by Ms. Stephanie Johnson, seconded by Mr. Stephen O'Connor, the Council approved amending the FY 2025-2028 TIP.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-05)

12. To Certify the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process for FY 2027.

Mr. Jake Thompson presented the FY27 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Self-Certification, noting that MPOs are federally required to complete the certification at least every four years as a supplement to the in-person certification review conducted by the FHWA. He explained that the certification requirements are established by federal law and that the document will be signed by the Secretaries of Transportation for Delaware and Maryland, along with WILMAPCO, before submission to federal agencies.

Mr. Thompson stated that the accompanying document outlines how WILMAPCO meets federal planning requirements and includes references to key planning documents, nondiscrimination policies, the Title VI Plan, Public Participation Plan, Mobility Opportunities Plan, ADA accessibility compliance measures, and air quality conformity requirements under the Clean Air Act. He noted that additional information is available on the WILMAPCO website. Mr. Thompson also reported that the TAC endorsed certification of the FY27 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process at its April 16 meeting.

ACTION: On a motion by Ms. Stephanie Johnson, seconded by Mr. Stephen O'Connor, the Council certified the FY 2027 Metropolitan Planning Process.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-06)

13. To Adopt the Draft FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Jake Thompson presented the draft FY27–30 TIP, a federally required document identifying projects anticipated for funding over the next four fiscal years. The draft TIP includes 33 Delaware statewide projects, 45 New Castle County projects, and 15 Cecil County projects. Funding allocations include 78% for Delaware statewide projects, 14% for New Castle County, and 8% for Cecil County. By mode, 55% supports multimodal projects, 8% transit, 3% bicycle and pedestrian, and 13% roadway projects.

Mr. Thompson noted that the FY27–30 TIP reflects approximately \$290 million less funding than the FY25–28 TIP, although Cecil County funding increased by approximately \$70 million. The public comment period was held from March 19 through April 30, with outreach conducted through

WILMAPCO publications and a public workshop. Public comments supported traffic calming, transit, TAP, and bicycle and pedestrian projects, while concerns were raised regarding the SR-1 widening project and lack of funding for the Elkton MARC Station.

Mr. Thompson reported that the TAC and Council endorsed release of the draft TIP for public comment, the PAC endorsed the public outreach process, and the TAC recommended adoption of the draft FY27–30 TIP. WILMAPCO staff recommended Council adoption of the draft TIP.

Mr. Grant Handley asked when construction on the Susquehanna Bridge reconstruction project was anticipated to begin and whether a tentative timeline was available. Mr. Jake Thompson responded that he would need to review the TIP document for additional details and asked if MDOT staff could provide clarification. Mr. Kiernan stated that he did not have the information available at that time.

Ms. Kelly Williams asked where a list of TIP projects could be found. Mr. Thompson responded that the project list was included in the introduction section of the draft TIP document. A link to the TIP webpage was subsequently shared in the meeting chat.

Mr. Handley also asked whether the federal government provides guidance or preferences regarding funding breakdowns by transportation mode or project category. Ms. Tigist Zegeye explained that the funding allocations are based on the region's long-range transportation plan and are determined through the local programming process, while the federal government establishes the eligible uses for the various funding categories.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Stephen O'Connor, seconded by Ms. Stephanie Johnson, the Council adopted the FY2027-2030 Draft TIP.

Motion passed.

(05-21-26-07)

PRESENTATIONS:

14. Southbridge Truck Bypass Study.

Mr. Bill Swiatek presented an update on the Southbridge Truck Bypass Study, which focuses on reducing truck traffic impacts in the Southbridge community while improving freight movement efficiency in the Wilmington area. He explained that truck traffic remains the community's top transportation concern due to safety, noise, health, and property impacts identified through previous outreach and survey efforts.

Mr. Swiatek reviewed the study process, which included analysis of truck movement data, community engagement, and coordination with an advisory committee composed of community representatives, freight operators, government agencies, and other stakeholders. He noted that the study is evaluating both short- and long-term solutions.

Short-term recommendations include updated truck routing signage, illegal truck parking enforcement signage, and rail crossing warning systems intended to encourage trucks to use Christina Avenue and Terminal Avenue instead of residential streets. Several of these improvements are funded or underway.

Mr. Swiatek also summarized larger long-term alternatives, including reconstruction of Christina Avenue, potential rail overpasses, new roadway connector options, and land use planning strategies aimed at reducing truck-generating uses near residential areas. Estimated project costs

range from approximately \$50,000 for smaller operational improvements to more than \$40 million for major infrastructure projects.

Mr. Swiatek concluded by outlining the remaining project schedule, which includes continued public outreach, a youth workshop, a final community meeting, and selection of preferred recommendations.

To view this presentation in its entirety please [click here](#). [12m.35s.].

Following the presentation, Mr. John Sisson asked about the extent of truck parking issues within the Southbridge area. Mr. Bill Swiatek responded that illegal truck parking remains a localized community concern.

Ms. Stephanie Johnson asked whether navigation applications such as Google Maps were being considered as part of the truck routing strategy, noting that signage alone may not be effective if GPS systems continue directing trucks through residential streets. Mr. Swiatek explained that some truck drivers do not use truck-specific GPS routing systems and stated that while discussions have occurred regarding coordination with navigation providers, there has been limited success in modifying routing data. He added that the study team is working closely with local freight operators and the Port of Wilmington to encourage their drivers to utilize routes more appropriate for trucks.

Mr. Sisson also asked whether truck restrictions could be enforced through police action. Mr. Swiatek explained that enforcement is difficult because many truck operators can claim local delivery access on public roads unless formal truck restrictions are established on them. He noted that designating a bypass as a state route instead of the current community streets could support future enforcement efforts.

Mr. Grant Handley commented on similar truck parking enforcement challenges within his municipality, explaining that limited overnight staffing makes enforcement difficult despite existing regulations.

Mr. Handley also asked about community feedback during the study process. Mr. Swiatek acknowledged longstanding frustration among residents regarding truck traffic. He noted that community liaisons and the Southbridge Civic Association have played an important role in maintaining communication and helping residents understand the study and implementation process.

15. Regional Sidewalk Gap Analysis Outcomes.

Ms. Heather Dunigan provided an update on the Regional Sidewalk Gap Analysis, noting significant progress since the previous presentation in November. Since that time, staff completed the AI-assisted sidewalk infrastructure inventory identifying existing sidewalks and gaps throughout the region, refined the data to support prioritization efforts, and expanded public outreach through workshops and field analysis.

Ms. Dunigan explained that the study was initiated to address the lack of a systematic regional process for identifying and implementing small but critical sidewalk connections. While many sidewalk gaps are identified through municipal comprehensive plans, elected officials, and civic associations, they are often too small to be included in larger transportation funding programs such as the TIP or CTP.

The study includes collaboration among DeIDOT, MDOT, New Castle County, transit agencies, municipalities, school districts, civic associations, and nonprofit organizations focused on walking and bicycling. A consultant team was also engaged to provide planning, engineering, and AI-based data analysis support, allowing the initial sidewalk inventory to be completed efficiently.

Ms. Dunigan further noted that the project has advanced from a broad regional analysis into more detailed fieldwork and community engagement, including charrette workshops and coordination with the advisory committee to guide the next phase of prioritization and implementation planning.

To view the presentation in its entirety, [click here](#) [16m. 28s.].

Ms. Stephanie Johnson asked whether ADA considerations and accessibility challenges were included in the field analysis. Ms. Heather Dunigan responded that ADA-related conditions were evaluated during field analysis within the three charrette study areas, though a detailed ADA assessment was not completed for all sidewalk gaps regionwide.

Mr. John Sisson stated that the study was greatly needed and emphasized the importance of integrating the sidewalk inventory with existing transportation and infrastructure data, including transit stop analyses and DeIDOT projects already included in the Capital Transportation Program (CTP). He also noted the importance of coordinating with anticipated private development projects to avoid duplicative work and encouraged identifying smaller, achievable implementation projects to demonstrate progress.

Ms. Johnson added that DeIDOT has been working to improve the accuracy of statewide sidewalk inventory data, noting inconsistencies in existing measurements and challenges in identifying sidewalk gaps without a reliable inventory. She expressed appreciation for the study and identified opportunities for data sharing and collaboration.

Ms. Dunigan explained that WILMAPCO has developed GIS-based sidewalk inventory data linked to roadway network files, which can be shared with member agencies under its agreement with the data provider. She also acknowledged ongoing discussions regarding the definition of a “sidewalk gap,” noting that some gaps involve missing infrastructure while others involve unusable sidewalks due to debris, vegetation, parking, or other obstructions.

Mr. Sisson added that the issue extends beyond missing sidewalks and also includes maintenance concerns, debris, vegetation overgrowth, and pedestrian crossing challenges. Mr. Grant Handley asked whether representatives from MDOT or SHA attended the Elkton workshop, to which Ms. Dunigan responded that they had not.

16. Logistic/Fulfillment Center Land Use and Transportation Impact Study.

Mr. Dan Blevins presented an update on the Logistics and Fulfillment Center Land Use and Transportation Study, which examines the transportation, land use, and community impacts associated with warehouse and distribution center development in the region. The study is being conducted in partnership with Wallace Montgomery and builds upon similar efforts underway nationally and locally.

Mr. Blevins explained that the study focuses on understanding how logistics and fulfillment centers affect roadway infrastructure, truck traffic patterns, congestion, and nearby

communities. The project also evaluates whether existing Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) trip generation standards accurately reflect current freight and warehouse operations.

The presentation highlighted the region's strategic advantages for logistics development, including lower land costs, newer facilities, and proximity to major markets such as New York and New Jersey. Mr. Blevins noted that the region serves primarily as a complementary logistics hub, particularly for storage, consolidation, and distribution functions.

As part of the analysis, the study team evaluated twelve logistics and distribution centers in New Castle and Cecil Counties using traffic counts, crash analysis, and StreetLight origin-destination data to better understand truck routing patterns and freight movement. The analysis identified strong freight connections to northern markets and revealed instances of trucks using restricted local roadways despite posted signage.

Mr. Blevins further explained that the study will develop best practices guidance for local governments and transportation agencies regarding land use review, traffic impact analysis, and mitigation strategies for future logistics development. The project is currently in the data analysis and evaluation phase, with final recommendations expected to be presented to Council in September.

To view the presentation in its entirety, [click here](#) [09m. 36s.].

The presentation concluded with a collage of photographs highlighting Mr. John Sisson's years of service and involvement with WILMAPCO. Mr. Sisson thanked WILMAPCO for the many collaborations and experiences throughout his tenure, including serving as WILMAPCO Chair for more than 10 years. He stated that, although he was stepping away from his current role, he looked forward to continuing to collaborate in other capacities.

Ms. Tigist Zegeye expressed her appreciation for Mr. Sisson's leadership, friendship, and collaboration throughout his service. She noted that while she did not like goodbyes, she looked forward to continuing to work with him in the future. Ms. Zegeye also presented Mr. Sisson with a token of appreciation in recognition of his contributions and invited others to share remarks.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

17. DeIDOT's and MDOT's Administrative Modification Request Letters

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

ATTACHMENTS: (0)