# Kirkwood Highway Corridor Master Plan

Workshop #1 Summary WILMAPCO Council January 2024













# SCOPE OF WORK - KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY

Study Purpose:



STRENGTHEN ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL MODES LIKE WALKING, BIKING, AND TRANSIT



ENHANCE EXISITING NEIGHBORHOOD VITALITY



POSITION EXISTING BUSINESSES TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE



ACCOMMODATE FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH



PROMOTE MORE SUSTAINABLE PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT



## SCOPE OF WORK - KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY

#### Task 1: Identify Issues, Opportunities and Constraints

#### Task 2: Community Visioning (Workshop held 12/11)

Work with Project Management Committee and Advisory Committee to prepare for and hold Visioning Workshop, determining whether it will be in-person, virtual or a hybrid format.

#### Task 3: Define Assumptions and Potential Land Use and Transportation Scenarios for Analysis

A range of transportation and land use alternatives for redevelopment may be identified. Alternatives will vary by development program, configuration, intensity, and transportation improvements.

#### Task 4: Model Land Use and Transportation Scenarios and Compare Results of Analysis

This approach will be used to evaluate the effect of identified land use and transportation scenarios. Model should include a comparison of the land use, demographic, environmental and transportation impacts of the scenarios.

**Task 5: Select Concept Level Alternatives and Prepare Final Report** Corridor concept alternatives that are supportive of maintaining and enhancing existing neighborhood vitality with the land use framework, including an identification of any needed Comprehensive Plan and Zoning changes, buildout calculations, Transportation Improvement District (TID) area or area(s) for other applicable local, State or Federal economic incentivizing overlay district(s).

#### Market Analysis

Socio-economic analysis will include an examination of population and household trends for 2010, 2023 (estimated) and 2028 (projected).

Labor and industry trends will examine industry employment (e.g., employment by industry, wage rates, industry employment likely to be most disrupted at the county level (which influences local labor markets) and commutation patterns to and from employment centers located within or along the corridor.



### Kirkwood Highway Corridor Market Analysis

- Compliment to regular scope of work
- Development of current conditions on:
  - Housing stock (type, age, etc...)
  - Employment types and trends
  - Economic impact of current businesses
  - Current workforce characteristics
- Regional Commercial Comparisons of:
  - Vacancy rates
  - Gross receipts
  - Asking rents (per s.f.)
- Explores strengths, weaknesses, and future opportunities along corridor





» The top five sectors by jobs in the study area provide an average annual earnings between \$38,720 to \$71,630

### LABOR AND INDUSTRY



#### Primary Job Trends by Industry, 2010-2020

Industry Sector	Primary Jobs (2020)					Primary	New Castle County	
	500- Foot Buffer					Job Change (2010- 2020)	Est. Job Change (2020- 2030)	Average Annual Earnings (2021)
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,068	726	1,358	1,701	3,785	-106	1.8%	\$69,650
Retail Trade	1,048	361	916	920	2,197	-418	0.3%	\$38,720
Educational Services	73	467	678	309	1,454	281	0.2%	\$62,100
Administration & Support	226	117	857	380	1,354	248	0.5%	\$55,630
Construction	42	152	287	897	1,336	22	1.0%	\$71,630
Accommodation & Food Services	516	185	669	345	1,199	-70	2.4%	\$25,020
Prof., Scientific, and Tech. Services	108	216	209	189	614	-1,910	0.3%	\$107,140
Other Services (excluding PA)	204	179	171	185	535	-243	0.5%	\$46,020
Finance &Insurance	111	57	282	79	418	-451	•	\$101,270
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	271	5	8	270	283	179	2.7%	\$31,700
Wholesale Trade	84	48	94	140	282	-162	0.2%	\$83,530
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	90	81	104	53	238	85	•	\$70,520
Manufacturing	19	15	75	66	156	-203	0.0%	\$92,210
Transportation & Warehousing	7	31	90	15	136	-75	1.3%	\$60,140
Management of Comp. & Enterprises	32	20	2	38	60	-1	0.0%	\$132,640
Information		5	10	1	16	-137	-1.6%	\$78,320
Public Administration	2	-	2		2	-473	0.6%	\$60,840
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	-	-		-		-13	-0.5%	\$42,180
Utilities	1.2	-	1.4-3	. 84	•	-4	-0.4%	\$123,580
Total	3,901	2,665	5,812	5,588	14,065	-3,451	1.3%	

Pre- Workshop Listening Tour

- 20+ Groups
- Interviews conducted Between
   October and November
- Key questions asked such as:
  - How has traffic and development changed the quality of life, for the better or worse, for residents of the Kirkwood Highway corridor?
  - What is your connection to the Kirkwood Highway corridor?
  - Compared to five/ten years ago how much has traffic changed in the Kirkwood Highway corridor?
  - What is/are your vision/expectations for the Kirkwood Highway corridor?

## LISTENING TOUR

#### PURPOSE

To better understand opportunities, issues, and concerns, the project team wanted to listen to stakeholders at the outset of the study

SAFETY

Manage travel speeds
Too many access points creates conflicts

• Improve lighting along the corridor

• Reduce the frequency and severity of

crashes, including pedestrian

and bicycle crashes

#### PROCESS

Met with a cross-section of stakeholders, including local government agencies, local elected officials, advocacy groups, and community leaders in the Kirkwood Highway corridor study area

THEMES

WE HEARD





#### LAND USE

- Maintain economic competitiveness
- Maintain quality of life for communities
- Redevelop/revitalize shopping areas
  that are walkable/bikeable
  - g =

#### JOBS

 Affordable small business space along the corridor

 Provide nighttime transportation options for area workers
 Attract high-quality/highpaying jobs

#### OTHER

- Affordable housing in the study area
  Accessible transportation, particularly for the blind and those in wheelchairs
  - Create a sense of community, recognizing different areas along the corridor

• Address congestion

• Improve signal timing along the corridor

 Address cut-through traffic on parallel routes



• Improve travel time on Rt 6

- Increase transit ridership
- Improve access to bus stops

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#### BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN

 Encourage pedestrians to cross at crosswalks/pedestrian bridges
 Connected bicycle network
 Connections to transit service

- Workshop #1: Monday, December 11, 2023
- open-house format
- Approx. 100 attendees
- Advertising in English & Spanish
- Interpreters at workshop





El Consojo de Planificación del Area de Wilmington (WILMAPCD), el Departamento de Taransotte de Delavare (PUC) y el Repartamento de los de Taransos de desarrollo de un Plan de Taransos de desarrollo de un Plan de Taransos de toderario de un Plan de Taransos te plano para el corredor de la Antopista Riktwood erre llewark y Wilmington, Jude Autopista Rikkwood.	The Willington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO), Delaware Department of Transportation (DRLDOT), and Nev Castle County Department of the Kirkwood Highway Land Use and Transportation Plan. The plan will include both short and for the Kirkwood Highway corridor between Newark and Wilmington. Help shape the way people live, work, and play in the Kirkwood Highway Corridor.
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### Workshop Materials

#### **Corridor Context:**

- Population / Employment Densities
- Community Destinations
- Future Land Use
- EJ/TJ/LEP Areas







The corridor is home to a variety of communityoriented institutional, commercial, educational, and natural/recreational uses, many of which have evolved slowly over time.

Depicted on the map to the left are selected destinations, including medical facilities, community centers, parks, recreation facilities, libraries, and banks.

Development intensity (residents+jobs within ¼ mile) reflects historic crossroads on ridgelines between stream valleys.

This perspective helps identify where centers reside along the corridor and where transportation demand may be the highest.

Kirkwood Highway is designated as a Type 1 Corridor in the New Castle County Future Land Use Map. In a Type 1 corridor, commercial development is typically oriented toward serving adjacent residential communities, where bolstering neighborhood stability is paramount.

Commerce along the corridor is not expected to grow. Forecasts indicate 3% of jobs and 9% of residents and businesses will leave over the next 30 years.

Who we are: The Kirkwood Highway corridor is home to approximately 45,000 residents and provides 17,000 jobs. Several Transportation Justice (TJ) areas are designated along the full span of the corridor, including:

- Environmental Justice (EJ) low-income and minorities
- Language Assistance (LA) limited English proficiency (LEP) and low literacy
- Mobility Challenged (MC) people with disabilities, people who live in households without vehicles, and seniors

Some areas meet the criteria for multiple designations.

### Workshop Materials

- Current motorized and non-motorized conditions such as:
  - Daily Volumes
  - Safety & Speed
  - Transit Inventory & Usage
  - Non-motorized inventory
- Interactive maps available on project page





https://mangomap.com/wilmapco/maps/140477/Current-Conditions-Kirkwood-Highway#

### Workshop Materials

- Use of newer data collection platforms for better understanding of travel patterns of residents and other corridor users
- Help answer some usually hard-to-get answers like:

Why are they here? Where we're coming from? How did they get here? Where are they headed?







### How comments were collected:

- Hand-written comments, on maps, notepads and sticky notes
- Survey forms
- Wikimap entries

### Wikimap portal









- 37 hand-written comments
- 57 wikimap entries

**Pedestrian** &

Cyclist

Infrastructure

• 25 email comments/surveys

Traffic Calming Measures

Green Spaces & Aesthetic Improvement

Traffic Safety and Congestion

Targeted Infrastructure Improvements



### What we heard - key locations:

- 70 wikimap entries
- 32 email comments



### Ongoing Post -Workshop Outreach

- Online Comment/Survey (ongoing)
- Wikimap thru 1/31/24
- All workshop materials posted to website



Public outreach for this project will be conducted over the course of the development of the plan, including elected officials (state and local), members of the business and development community, community and civic leaders, environmental advocates, and other institutional leaders, and one-one-one and small group interviews.

Recent Events: The first workshop was held on Monday Decemeber 11th from 4-7pm at the Cranston Heights Fire Company. For those who would like to still provide feedback, please fill out our <u>workshop survey</u> or map out your concerns via our <u>Wikimap feature</u>.

Outreach/Meeting Dates	Pre-Workshop Materials	Workshop Materials		
Visioning Workshop #1 12/11/23 @ Cranston Heights Fire Company 4-7pm	<ul> <li>Kirkwood Highway Welcome Video (En Español)</li> <li>Current Transportation Conditions &amp; Infrastructure Webmap</li> <li>Corridor Demographic Profile – Kirkwood Higwway</li> <li>Hourly Traffic Volumes – Kirkwood Highway</li> </ul>	Kirkwood Wikimap Portal (Wikimapa En Español)     Fill out our workshop survey! Workshop Boards & Displays: study Basics and Timeline Corridor Characteristics, Demographics and Employment Current Transportation Conditions & Travel Patterns Corridor Visioning and Opportunities		

#### Kirkwood Highway Land Use and Transportation Plan

#### **Comment Form**

Thank you for completing this survey. Your comments and opinions are very important. All information you provide on this survey will be carefully reviewed by the project team. To stay informed about this project, please visit www.wilmapco.org/kirkwood.

AND LISE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAT





### **Kirkwood Highway Corridor Master Plan**

# **Questions?**

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