# ADVISORY COMMITTEE OCTOBER 7, 2024









### AGENDA

- Welcome
- Advisory Committee
- Schedule & Recap
- Draft Recommendations of Land Use and Transportation Elements
- Open Discussion
- Upcoming Public Workshop
- Public Comment



### WELCOME



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#### **STUDY AREA**



### **PROJECT PROCESS**





# **KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Advisory Committee is one part of the overall public engagement process. Feedback from both the Advisory Committee and Public Workshops will inform the Kirkwood Highway Land Use and Transportation Plan.

#### **Role of Advisory Committee**

- Advisory Committee Members are providing feedback and input to the project team.
- Advisory Committee Members are providing information, experiences, and local knowledge to assist the project team.
- The project team is using the input of the Advisory Committee Members, as well as all other public input, to make land use and transportation recommendations.
- The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body and will not make recommendations.

Organization/Office	Name	
NCC Chamber of Commerce	Emma Odren	
Town of Elsmere	Steven Martin	
Western YMCA	Chris Ryan	
Office of State Planning Coordination	Samantha Bulkilvish	
City of Newark	Mike Fortner	
Delaware State University	Darren Blackston	
Civic League for New Castle County	Bill Dunn	
Del Park Manor	Paul Benicky	
Hyde Park Civic Association	Jenn Ruebush	
Mill Creek Fire Company	Nicholas J. Baronie, Fire Chief	
United Way	Laura Gendreau (Stand By Me)	
Delaware Black Chamber	Ayanna Khan	
Committee of 100	Doug Eitelman	
Latin American Community Center	Jose Lopez	
Freedom Center	Jody Hougentogler	

# ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EXPECTATIONS

#### **Advisory Committee and the Public**

- All Advisory Committee meetings are open for observation by the public.
- Advisory Committee meetings are designed and for the benefit of the Advisory Committee Members.
- Only Advisory Committee Members will be allowed to ask questions and discuss topics during meetings.
- All Advisory Committee meetings will devote time for public comment at the end of the meetings.
- Individuals are free to discuss the work of the Advisory Committee outside of Advisory Committee meetings; however, any opinions/discussions reflect the views of the individual and not of the Committee.



### **PURPOSE**



Strengthen alternative travel modes



Enhance existing neighborhood vitality



Position existing businesses to remain competitive



Accommodate future economic growth



Promote more sustainable patterns of development



# **RECAP: VISION STATEMENT**

Kirkwood Highway should become a multimodal corridor that serves a variety of compact community and business centers between Newark and Wilmington.

- Transportation facility design elements, reflective of the context of the different areas along the corridor, should discourage high traffic speeds and promote safe access for all ages and abilities to destinations by walking, bicycling, rolling, and riding transit while managing congestion levels.
- Economic development efforts should focus on facilitating a transition from auto-oriented design to more bikeable and walkable places that mix affordable community-serving retail and services with housing opportunities that serve the corridor's diverse clientele.
- Both public and private properties should integrate landscaping and open space.
- Connected networks serving all modes should link Kirkwood Highway's community and business centers to adjacent neighborhoods and resources such as schools and parks.



## **RECAP: SAFETY**

We discussed how safety must be a top priority

The highest concentration of crashes are at/near Price's Corner and the SR 141 junction, and at/near the intersection with SR 7

Improvement recommendations must be developed to create safer environments for all people who use the corridor, with particular attention to locations with a high history of crashes



# **RECAP: MARKET ANALYSIS / LAND USE**

# We discussed how population and employment are projected to decrease

The Kirkwood Highway study area currently has approximately 45,000 residents and 17,000 jobs.

The adopted forecasts for the study area project a loss of about 1,300 residents and 1,400 jobs over the next 30 years.

# Commercial $\rightarrow$ residential conversions can be a win-win

Despite projected population declines, the market analysis indicated a demand for roughly 1,000 new dwelling units in the study area - with appropriate catalysts. Commercial  $\rightarrow$  residential conversions can provide workforce housing opportunities directly along the corridor.

#### Kirkwood Highway Study Area Employment and Population Projections



## **RECAP: TRANSIT - ENHANCED TRANSIT ELEMENTS**

We discussed how DTC's 2023 DART Reimagined study shows that the current transit supply in Kirkwood Highway corridor is appropriately meeting transit demand

The study team would consider what enhanced transit elements are most appropriate for Kirkwood Highway to appropriately meet the project vision, building off the DART Reimagined recommendations





# **RECAP: ROUNDABOUTS ON KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY**

We discussed how preliminary analyses showed that roundabouts would not be feasible along a large portion of Kirkwood Highway

Further, more detailed analyses would be needed to see if they could be viable on the eastern- and westernmost limits of the project area

Note: most feedback at the June 10<sup>th</sup> public meeting did <u>not</u> support roundabouts directly on Kirkwood Highway.



## **RECAP: SCENARIOS** → **ALTERNATIVES**

We discussed developing alternatives intended to convert Kirkwood Highway from a STROAD into either a STREET or a ROAD in different segments





# **RECAP: SCENARIOS** → **ALTERNATIVES (DOT BOARDS)**

#### **ROAD Alternative**

- Strong Support for Grade Separations at SR2/SR7 and SR7/Milltown
- Support for Access Management (Consolidation of driveways, median closures)
- Support for Pedestrian Overpass only in the SR 7 Intersection area

#### **ROAD ALTERNATIVE** LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN WILMAPCO DART W LANGE **INTERACTIVE! INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a GREEN dot in the box PIKE CREEK for elements you want to see 7 MARSHALLTON move forward. \*\* 2 ELSMERE Place a RED dot in the box for elements you do not want to see move forward. 273 Elements Grade Separation at SR 2 @ SR 7 Pedestrian overpasses at key locations Access management (driveway closures) Median closures (with indirect left turns) Grade separation at SR 7 @ Milltown

# RECAP: SCENARIOS $\rightarrow$ ALTERNATIVES (DOT BOARDS)

#### **STREET Alternative**

- Strong Support for "Right Sizing" SR2 @ SR141 Interchange
- Strong Support for Sidewalks and Shared Use Paths along Kirkwood
- Minimal Support for On-Road bicycle lanes along SR2
- Minimal Support for roundabouts on SR 2 at west and east ends

STREET ALTERNATIVE	IRKWOOL HIGHWA
INTERACTIVE!	
INSTRUCTIONS: Place a GREEN dot in the box for elements you want to see move forward.*	AB C LLSAGERE LDD LLSAGERE LDD
Elements	
Right-size SR 2 @ SR 141 interchange	•
Continuous sidewalks along SR 2	
On-road bicycle lanes along SR 2	••••••••
Shared-use path along SR 2 (walking and biking)	• • • • • •
Transit signal priority	•••••••

KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY



# **RECAP: JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

- 40 People signed in at the workshop
- 22 comment forms were filled out (11 at the workshop; 11 submitted after the workshop)





### HOLY ANGELS SPANISH LANGUAGE CHURCH SERVICES -SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

- 11AM & 1PM Spanish Language Only Services
- Main Comment Provided: Sidewalks and lighting along Possum Park Road and crossing at Kirkwood Highway



#### ¡Queremos saber de usted!



#### ¿Cómo puede enviarnos sus comentarios?

Visite el sitio web del proyecto en www.wilmapco.org/kirkwood y envíe una encuesta por correo o asista a un taller.

#### ¿Cuándo es el próximo taller?

Asista al Taller de Recomendaciones para el Borrador del Proyecto el jueves 14 de noviembre, de 4 a 7 p.m., en el local de la compañía de bomberos de Cranston Heights, ubicado en el 3306 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19808. SE BRINDARÁN SERVICIOS DE INTERPRETACIÓN.

#### ¿De qué tratará el próximo taller?

El equipo compartirá tablones gráficos, una presentación y se instalarán estaciones interactivas acerca de las recomendaciones para el borrador del proyectos sobre mejoras en las políticas de transporte y uso del terreno.

#### ¿De qué manera puede mantenerse al tanto con las actualizaciones del proyecto?

Inscribase en la lista de correo para mantenerse al tanto con las novedades en www.wilmapco.org/kirkwood

¿De qué manera puede comunicarse con WILMAPCO?



www.wilmapco.org/kirkwood



dgula@wilmapco.org



Escanee el código para visitar el sitio web del proyecto y obtener más información.



KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY

## **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Land Use & Economic Development
- 2. Road and Street Sections
- 3. Major Kirkwood Highway Intersections
- 4. Other Kirkwood Highway Intersections
- 5. Churchman's Road Extended
- 6. Transit
- 7. Other Roads in the Study Area
- 8. Ped/Bike Network Connections



# New Castle County Redevelopment Initiative

- Planning element within the NCC2050 comprehensive plan
- Ordinance 24-057, implementing legislation to streamline investment on infill / redevelopment sites via the Unified Development Code, adopted by County Council in September
- Commercial properties along Kirkwood Highway already classified as a Type 1 Corridor Area for commercial corridor development
- Additional incentives available for Community Development Areas that have a Land Use and Transportation Plan (to date only applied in North Claymont and Route 9)



### Kirkwood Corridor Future Land Use

- All of Kirkwood Highway currently classified as Type 1 Corridor
- Mixed use development most feasible and efficient at crossroads with larger, deeper parcels and a greater range of nearby goods and services
- Two Community Redevelopment Areas Proposed: Midway, and Prices Corner

Note: One Community Redevelopment Area under further review/ consideration: Red Mill



### Community Redevelopment Area Concept Plans

Each of the Community Redevelopment Areas will be described in the final report, including a concept plan graphic that shows a high-level vision to guide future development and its relationship to key transportation elements



### -- QUESTION --

Do the two proposed Community Redevelopment Areas (Midway, and Prices Corner) adequately address the Vision Statement?



# **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:** ROAD and STREET Sections

# It is proposed that Kirkwood Highway be characterized as either a ROAD or a STREET within the following segments:



#### ROAD

- Newark to St. James Church
- Farrand Drive to Elsmere

#### STREET

- St. James Church to Farrand Drive
- Elsmere to Wilmington



#### ROAD

#### Newark to St. James Church





#### ROAD

#### Farrand Drive to Elsmere





#### STREET

#### St. James Church to Farrand Drive





#### STREET

#### Elsmere to Wilmington



-- QUESTION --

• Do the selection of ROAD and STREET segments adequately address the Vision Statement?



Potential grade-separated intersection (GSI) improvement at SR 2 / SR 7

Center Turn Overpass ("Elevated Lefts") Concept

SR 2 Over SR 7





Potential grade-separated intersection (GSI) improvements at SR 7 / Milltown Road

#### SR 7 Thru Overpass Concept





Options to reconfigure the SR 2 and SR 141 interchange when the existing bridges reach the end of their service life

Options will provide more efficient access between SR 2 and SR 141 and a "gateway" to and from Elsmere including speed control

In addition to right-sizing the intersection, reconfiguration options would help motorists to bypass the at-grade railroad crossing on Centerville Road and Newport Gap Pike





-- QUESTION --

• Do the recommended long-term reconfigurations/grade-separations of these locations adequately address the Vision Statement?







It is proposed that six (6) intersections be recommended for future Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE)

- Detailed, Data-Driven, Performance-based framework to screen intersection alternatives and identify optimal solutions for an intersection
- Looks at many different types of intersection control (unsignalized intersection improvements, signals, restricted movements, roundabouts, etc)
- 6 candidate intersections at eastern & western ends of the corridor:
  - Possum Park Road
  - Brewster Drive
  - Green Valley

- Meadowood Drive
- Linden/New/Sanders (Elsmere)
- SR 100 (DuPont Rd)

## -- QUESTION --

- Do the 6 recommended ICE Evaluations for the intersections on Kirkwood Highway adequately address the Vision Statement?
  - Possum Park Road
  - Brewster Drive
  - Green Valley

- Meadowood Drive
- Linden/New/Sanders (Elsmere)
- SR 100 (DuPont Rd)

### DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: Churchman's Road Extended

Due to the changes in traffic patterns that are anticipated following the completion of the Churchmans Road Extension, the following roadway modifications are proposed:


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#### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Churchmans Road Extended

-- QUESTION --

• Do the recommended roadway modifications between Delaware Park Blvd and Milltown Rd adequately address the Vision Statement?



### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Transit

Enhanced transit elements:

- New Route 56 to connect Prices Corner with the Churchman's Crossing area
- Micro-transit services
- Enhanced bus shelters
- Improved pedestrian access to stops/shelters
- Transit signal priority
- In-line bus stops and pullout bays





#### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Transit

-- QUESTION --

• Do the recommended transit enhancements adequately address the Vision Statement?







#### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Other Roads In Study Area



LAND USE and TRANSPORTATION PLAN

#### DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: Other Roads In Study Area

#### -- QUESTION --

• Do the recommended improvements to the other roads in the study area adequately address the Vision Statement?



#### Path / Trail Framework

The New Castle County Bicycle Plan provides key recommendations for connections between Newark and Wilmington:

In the SR 2 corridor, bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be provided:

- Along Kirkwood Highway west of Marshallton
- Along parallel streets between Marshallton and Wilmington that have a lower level of traffic stress
- With a focus on closing gaps at both eastern and western ends of Elsmere

The Newport to Newark Pathway System is a separate parallel facility currently under design which will also serve some longer-distance trips



#### **Multimodal Connectivity**

- "Bicycle islands" represent areas where most adults feel comfortable traveling without encountering high-stress segments.
- This approach helps us understand barriers to low-stress bicycle travel.
- The goal is to create safe connections, expanding the opportunity for most adults to feel comfortable traveling within the corridor area.



#### **Neighborhood Access**

The review of the Multimodal scenario included identification of several types of connections that will be reflected in all alternatives:

- Key sidewalk gaps along roads intersecting SR 2
- Use of remnant rights-of-way for sidewalks/paths
- Opportunities to strengthen interparcel connections
- Recognition of improvements in related studies, notably the Marshallton circulation study and the Millcreek Area Pathways study.



#### -- QUESTION --

• Do the recommended ped/bike network connections adequately address the Vision Statement?



LAND USE and TRANSPORTATION PLAN

#### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS - Open Discussion**

- 1. Land Use & Economic Development
- 2. Road and Street Sections
- 3. Major Intersections
- 4. Other Intersections
- 5. Churchman's Road Extended
- 6. Transit
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- 8. Ped/Bike Network Connections



### NEXT WORKSHOP

- November 14<sup>th</sup>; 4pm-7pm
- **Cranston Heights Fire Co**
- Registration on Project website at www.wilmapco.org/kirkwood

#### YOU'RE INVITED!

The Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO), Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC), and New Castle County Department of Land Use are continuing the development of the Kirkwood Highway Land Use and Transportation Plan.

The plan will include both short and long-term improvements and initiatives for the Kirkwood Highway corridor between Newark and Wilmington.

Help shape the way people live, work, and play in the Kirkwood Highway Corridor.



to help meet your needs.

WILMAPCO encourages all members of the

community to participate in this event.

If you need language or disability assistance,

please let us know. Contact our office at

wilmapco@wilmapco.org or 302-737-6205 no

later than three business days before the event. We will endeavor to provide a service

For more information and to register in advance for the Workshop, please visit: wilmapco.org/ kirkwood

**KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY** 

#### DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS WORKSHOP

IRKWOOD

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

HIGHWAY

Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cranston Heights Fire Co. 3306 Kirkwood Highway Wilmington, DE 19808

The in-person workshop will have a presentation at 4:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. but you can attend any time between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

- Learn about the proposed draft
  recommendations for improvements to transportation and land use policy strategies
- Provide input on the draft recommendations
- Learn about next steps
- Share your thoughts



## S INVITADO!

icación del Área de

elaware (DelDOT), la

APCO), el Departamento

sito de Delaware (DTC)

de Uso de Terrenos del

v Castle continúan el

un Plan de Transporte y

e Kirkwood Highway. El

ramientos e iniciativas a

> para el corredor de la

od entre Newark y

la forma en que las

abajan y juegan en el

Para más

información y

para el Taller,

kirkwood

Visite:

odos los miembros de la

wilmapco@wilmapco.org o s tardar tres días antes del mos por proporcionar un satisfacer sus necesidades.

ar en este evento. Si n el idioma o alguna oslo saber. Comuníquese

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para registrarse por adelantado

wilmapco.org/

pista Kirkwood.



#### Taller de Borrador de Recomendaciones

Jueves, 14 de noviembre de 2024 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

> Cranston Heights Fire Co. 3306 Kirkwood Highway Wilmington, DE 19808

4:15 p.m. y 5:45 p.m., pero puede asistir en cualquier momento entre las 4:00 p.m. y 7:00 p.m.

 Conozca el borrador de recomendaciones propuesto para mejorar las estrategias de políticos de transporte y ordenamiento territorial

recomendaciones

Infórmate de los siguientes pasos





Presented by:

## **NEXT STEPS**





# **PUBLIC COMMENT**





LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN