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City of Newark Transportation Plan

INTRODUCTION

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is prepared and distributed by the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) in cooperation with the City of Newark and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT).

WILMAPCO is designated by the Governors of Delaware and Maryland as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Wilmington, Delaware metropolitan planning area, which consists of New Castle County, DE and Cecil County, MD and is responsible for transportation planning in the region. The City of Newark provides some transportation services such as local roads, parking, transit, multiuse pathways and sidewalks. DelDOT is responsible for providing transportation services throughout the State of Delaware. Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) administers all DelDOT transit programs, including service in the predominantly urbanized area north of the Chesapeake & Delaware canal in New Castle County. This study will be a joint effort between WILMAPCO and the City of Newark in coordination with DelDOT and a steering committee, with WILMAPCO as the managing agency.

This plan will update the Newark element of the *Newark/Elkton Intermodal Transportation Plan* completed in 1998 and the *Newark/Elkton Intermodal Transportation Plan Short Range Analysis* from 1996. These plans made recommendations regarding transportation-land use measures, travel demand management, bicycle and pedestrian circulation, transit, traffic operations, and multimodal connections with the goals to:

- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve mobility
- Enhance and promote Newark's attractiveness as a livable community by making full use of multimodal transportation opportunities

Objectives identified in previous plans include:

- Provide better connections between trips modes and purposes
- Reduce the number of trucks through Newark's downtown except those vital to commerce
- Plan for better transit service
- Reduce local single occupant vehicles travel
- Provide better facilities and connections for all modes, including walking and bicycling

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

Objective

The City of Newark Transportation Plan will develop an updated transportation plan for the City center and surrounding areas. The plan will further analyze issues raised in the *City of Newark Comprehensive Development Plan* and update recommendations from previous transportation plans.

The plan will also help to implement the *WILMAPCO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* by supporting economic development through planned transportation investment, promoting efficient transportation system, providing transportation opportunities and choices. The RTP recognizes that strengthening our communities through improved traffic flow, transit, walking and bicycling facilities along with improved visual appearance can encourage visitors and residents to use non-automobile modes, promote tourism, and reduce the need for costly roadway expansions.

Scope of Work

Based upon public input and technical analysis, this study will:

1. Confirm and identify transportation issues and opportunities
 - Review relevant transportation data
 - Review relevant land use and transportation data
 - Review existing plans and reports
 - Review past stakeholder outreach and conduct additional outreach to identify issues
2. Work with stakeholders to identify, analyze and prioritize potential solutions including traffic operations/system management strategies, freight strategies, transit strategies, and bicycle/pedestrian strategies. Strategies from existing plans should be reviewed and expanded upon and potential new strategies may be identified. Existing strategies include:
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian:
 - Implement integrated Newark bicycle route system and regional greenway system
 - Enhance pedestrian amenities
 - Implement traffic calming measures
 - Improve bicycle facilities along South College Ave. and Delaware Ave.
 - Provide bike safety programs and better bikeway maintenance
 - Improve signage, marking and signalization to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists
 - Transit
 - Enhance bus stop facilities
 - Increase circulator services
 - Enhance intermodal connections at Newark Train Station and evaluate potential extension of commuter rail
 - Traffic operations and system management
 - Continue parking management initiatives
 - Upgrade synchronized traffic signal system
 - Evaluate intersection and roadway improvements and expansions
 - Implement planned Elkton Road improvements
 - Freight strategies
 - Study alternatives for CSX rail line
 - Designate new Delaware 896 truck route
 - Examine improvements at existing Newark train station site to improve NEC operations, currently being completed through separate Newark Train Station study of passenger and freight needs
3. Reach agreement on a transportation plan for the City of Newark that includes the best set of multimodal solutions and implementation plan.

Public Involvement

Public involvement should be a part of each stage of the study. We will seek public input through media coverage, City meetings and joint public workshops and/or charrettes of Newark, DelDOT and WILMAPCO. Workshops will give the community an opportunity to comment on transportation issues and discuss possible solutions. A steering committee will consist of representatives from Newark, DelDOT and WILMAPCO and a variety of stakeholders including the University of Delaware, civic and business groups. The steering committee will guide the study process by proposing potential solutions, determining how information is presented to the public and reviewing technical analysis.

Deliverables




Items that will be produced by the consultant will consist of:


- Draft report – one high-quality copy and one electronic MS Word document
- 3-4 poster boards for presentation purposes and pdf electronic versions for WILMAPCO maintained web site
- Attendance at 4-5 meetings at WILMAPCO or Newark to discuss the project and to review draft reports as identified in the project schedule
- Produce an MS Word document of final report - one high-quality copy and one electronic document
- GIS layer of all proposed improvements

The final report will include discussion of transportation problems in the City of Newark, relevant transportation and land use data, recommended solutions and discussion of public involvement during the study process. Steering committee meetings and public workshops with display materials will be held at key points in the planning process.

Schedule

Work will begin in FY 2010 and be completed within one year. Following completion of the plan, the recommendations will be adopted by the Traffic Committee, Newark City Council and the WILMAPCO Council.

TASK	MONTH									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Refine scope of work/sign contract										
Data Collection & Analysis										
Development of strategies										
Develop implementation plan and Report										

 Public Workshop