

TRANSPORTER



Public Survey Kicks Off Outreach on Elkton Pedestrian Plan

WILMAPCO is collaborating with the Town of Elkton and the Maryland State Highway Administration to develop the Elkton Pedestrian Plan. The plan will build on years of planning work in Elkton to identify necessary improvements to the town's pedestrian network and support making Elkton a more walkable community. The steering committee has collected extensive background data for the study, including an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation of curb ramps and sidewalks, a review of pedestrian-related recommendations made in previous plans, and a

pedestrian-prioritization study that determines areas of high pedestrian activity.

The public outreach process has begun with a survey. The survey provides the public with an opportunity to share their thoughts on making Elkton more walkable and helps planners to develop recommendations that are then incorporated into the plan. In addition, the survey asks how often and where people walk in Elkton, which will help determine where improvements are most needed. To encourage participation, those who complete the survey through the end



of September will have the option to enter a drawing for a **\$25 Visa gift card**.

In addition to the survey, the steering committee held a public workshop at the Cecil County Library and conducted mobile outreach at a local Acme. These outreach activities provided residents and visitors with an opportunity to learn about the plan and share their thoughts. Dates, times, and locations for further outreach are still being planned, but activities will be ongoing throughout the fall.

For more information on the plan and upcoming opportunities to participate, please visit www.wilmapco.org/elktonpedplan or follow the plan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/elktonpedplan.



Taking Stock of Our Regional Transportation Plan Progress

The 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): 2015 Update, adopted in January 2015, set transportation policy goals and identified major transportation projects. A new RTP, the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, is on course for March 2019 adoption. As a first step, the 2017 Regional Progress Report will show how far WILMAPCO came in implementing the current Plan.

The Progress Report examines each action identified in the RTP, one-by-one. It uses data-driven performance indicators from various government agencies or qualitative assessments to measure each action's progress.

For example, one of the key actions in the RTP is to “develop and maintain a safe transportation system.” The Progress Report features numerous safety measures to continually assess the dangers of highway travel. One example, shown to the right, looks at the fatality rate per miles traveled. While Cecil County’s fatality rate continues to trend downward, New Castle County’s is trending upward. New Castle County’s 64 road fatalities in 2015 were the most it has seen in a decade. About half (41%) of those fatalities were pedestrian deaths. Clearly, more must be done to lower these figures and realize the RTP’s action. Reducing car travel, generally, and creating safer spaces where cars and pedestrians interact are two obvious steps.

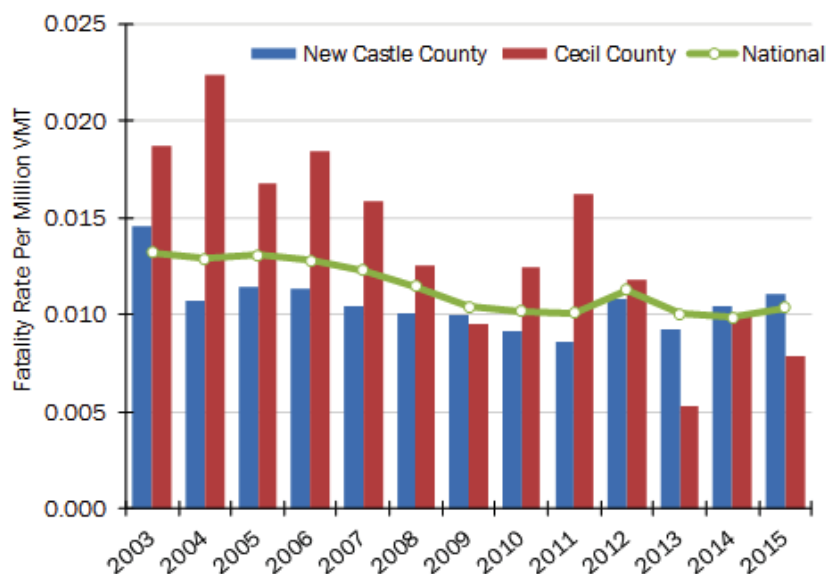
Commuting trends are another key measure featured in the Progress Report. This measure impacts many actions. Driving alone to work by car has never been more popular in New Castle County. Eighty percent

of work trips in New Castle County occur by driving alone – compared to 65% of trips in 1980. Overall, rates of driving alone are slightly higher in Cecil County (82%), although they are beginning to trend downward (see chart below).

As driving alone has gained popularity during the past decades,

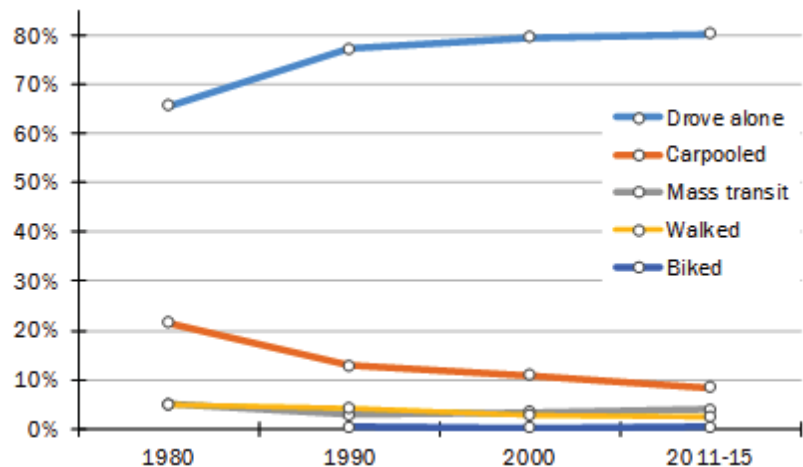
carpooling witnessed a drastic decline. Carpooling has slid from about 22% of regional work trips in 1980 to only 8% today. Regional public transit and bicycling trips, meanwhile, are slightly rebounding from overall declines since the 1980s and 1990s, while walking trips to work remain in steady decline.

WILMAPCO Crash Statistics



Data Sources: DSP, SHA, FHWA

Commuting to Work in the Region



Source: American Community Survey

The WILMAPCO region's high rates of car travel reflect its continued suburban sprawl. This is a product of land policies that discourage redevelopment and our highway-dominated transportation investments. Both will require adjustments to reverse this trend, which is called for in RTP policy.

In the months ahead, WILMAPCO will continue to examine other

indicators as we assemble the Progress Report. Council endorsement is expected in January 2018.

To view past Progress Reports and learn more, visit www.wilmapco.org/regional-progress-report.

DelDOT Begins New Long Range Plan



The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) recently kicked off its new Long Range Transportation Plan entitled “Innovation In Motion.”

DelDOT publishes a new statewide Long Range Transportation Plan every five years for the purpose of guiding the Department’s transportation decisions and strategic investments. Transformative societal changes taking place in the areas of technology, transportation patterns, and demographics, are requiring transportation agencies

to embrace innovative and cost-effective solutions for addressing future transportation challenges.

In an effort to make the Plan more readable and accessible to the public, DelDOT has taken a new approach to developing the document. The following eight topics will be presented in a unique format that allows the reader to quickly navigate to his or her particular area of interest:

- Traffic Management
- Freight Movement
- Roads, Bridges, and Other Assets
- Bicycling
- Pedestrian Travel

- Aeronautics
- Public Transit
- Planning and Land Use

Each transportation topic will be addressed within the context of a series of broad goals. These goals will guide the Department in setting priorities and policies, with the purpose of identifying the most appropriate strategies for meeting the state’s future transportation needs.

A schedule for the Plan has been established and includes the following elements:

- Part I (June 2017): Background and trend data research and formation of vision and goals
- Part II (July-September 2017): Public and internal surveys, and a public outreach event
- Summer 2018: Public review of Part II
- Fall 2018: Innovation in Motion is complete

DelDOT is actively seeking input and assistance from the public to help guide the development and completion of the Plan. Feedback and comments can be provided at plan.deldot.gov, which is an interactive website that allows members of the public to participate in a survey, share their ideas, and view interactive graphics depicting what our transportation system might look like in the future.

Walking and Biking Improvements Coming around Stubbs Elementary School

WILMAPCO has been leading a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program at Stubbs Elementary, a low-income school in Wilmington's Eastside, for the past two years. The first phase of infrastructure projects has been selected and funded, and is now awaiting construction.

A steering committee comprised of school staff, the City of Wilmington, DelDOT, parents, and WILMAPCO has guided this project from its onset. A "walking audit" with this group and other parents and students took place in March 2016. The audit uncovered troublesome areas for pedestrians and helped identify potential projects.

The key projects selected by parents and students to proceed during the first phase include:

- Enhanced school zone signage
- Bicycle sharrow and bus-only lane markings on Pine Street
- A bicycle rack at the school
- Bigger stop signs and "STOP" street markings on Pine Street at 10th Street to better slow and control traffic
- Lighting enhancements along 10th Street to improve personal safety. Crime is the number-one reason more Stubbs parents don't allow their children to walk to school

- Curb ramp improvements on Kirkwood Street at 10th Street
- New sidewalk on Kirkwood Street near 11th Street

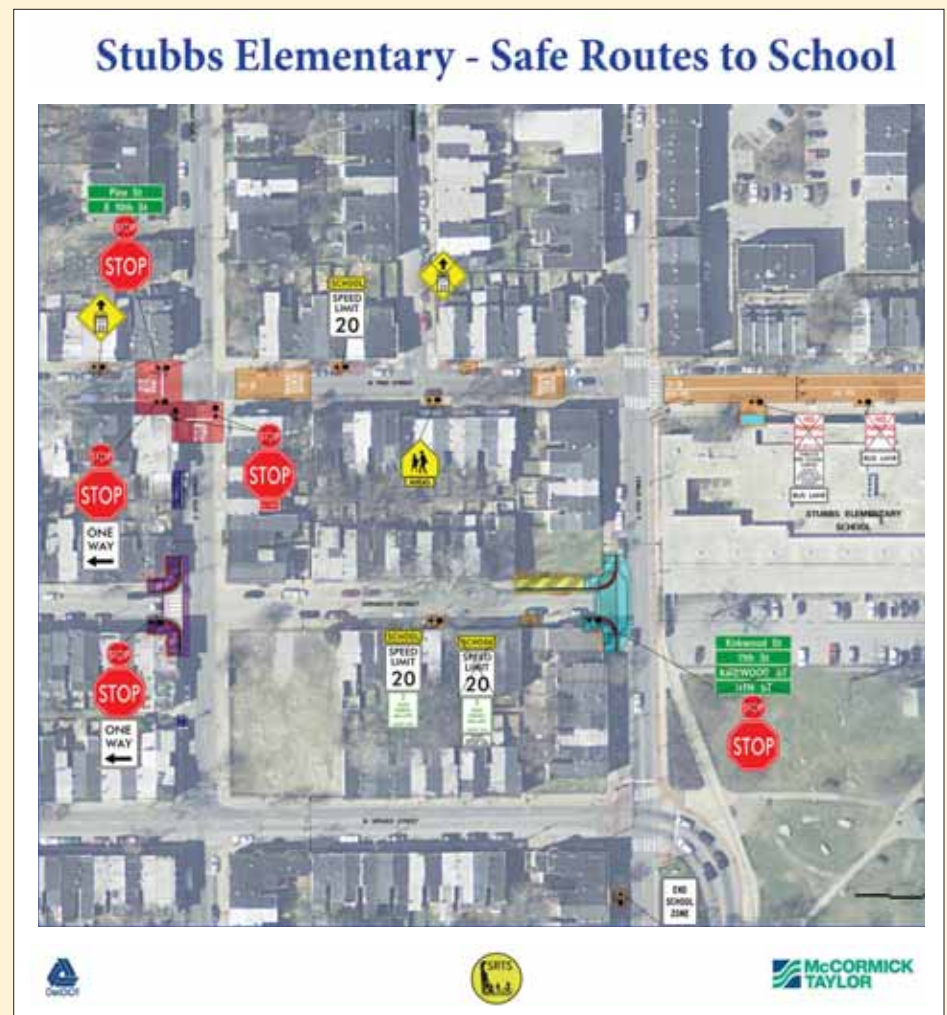
These projects should be constructed within the next year. In the meantime, Stubbs will focus on the educational elements of its SRTS Program. A Walk-to-School Day is planned for October 26 along with a poster contest and assembly.

To learn more about SRTS, or to get involved, visit www.wilmapco.org/saferoutes.



Above: Following the walking audit, potential walking and biking improvement projects were identified.

Below: Tropo, the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware mascot, shows off his dance moves at an SRTS educational event.



Transportation Projects for New Castle and Cecil Counties Are Made Available for **Public Feedback**

WILMAPCO released draft amendments to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public review and comment from July 24 through September 13. Funding the region's transportation projects, the TIP prioritizes and details \$2.4 billion in planned transportation projects, including road, bus, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements.

The amended version of the TIP contains 10% more funding than the approved version. While there are no new projects, those on the books are proceeding, or are more costly than anticipated.

Major continuing projects include:

Transit

- New rail and bus transit centers

in Newark, Claymont, and Wilmington

- Bus transit park and rides near Christiana Mall and Middletown

Road

- Bridge preservation and safety projects in Cecil and New Castle counties
- Highway projects including I-295 westbound and US 301
- Multimodal projects including US 40, Elkton Road, southern New Castle County roads, and City of Wilmington streets

Bicycle and Pedestrian

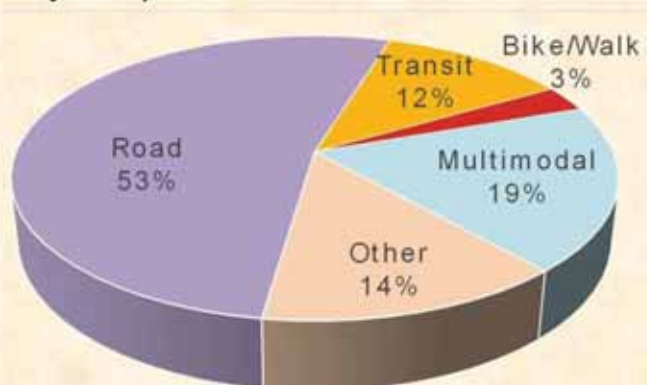
- New Castle-Wilmington Jack Markell Trail completion
- Pedestrian improvements on US 13 and US 40

WILMAPCO, in partnership with DelDOT, held a public workshop on September 11 at the Newark Free Library where WILMAPCO and DelDOT staff were available to discuss proposed projects and listen to feedback. Council adoption is expected this September.

For more information about WILMAPCO visit www.wilmapco.org, call 302-737-6205, or call toll-free from Cecil County to 1-888-808-7088.

What Types of Projects are in the TIP?

Projects by Mode



Road—Exclusively for roads and highways

Transit—Bus, passenger rail or paratransit

Bicycle/walk—Pedestrian and cycling transportation

Multimodal—Serves cars, transit, freight, walking and bicycles in a balanced way

Other—Includes aeronautics, port, contingency funds, environmental, equipment, planning, etc.

Projects by Category

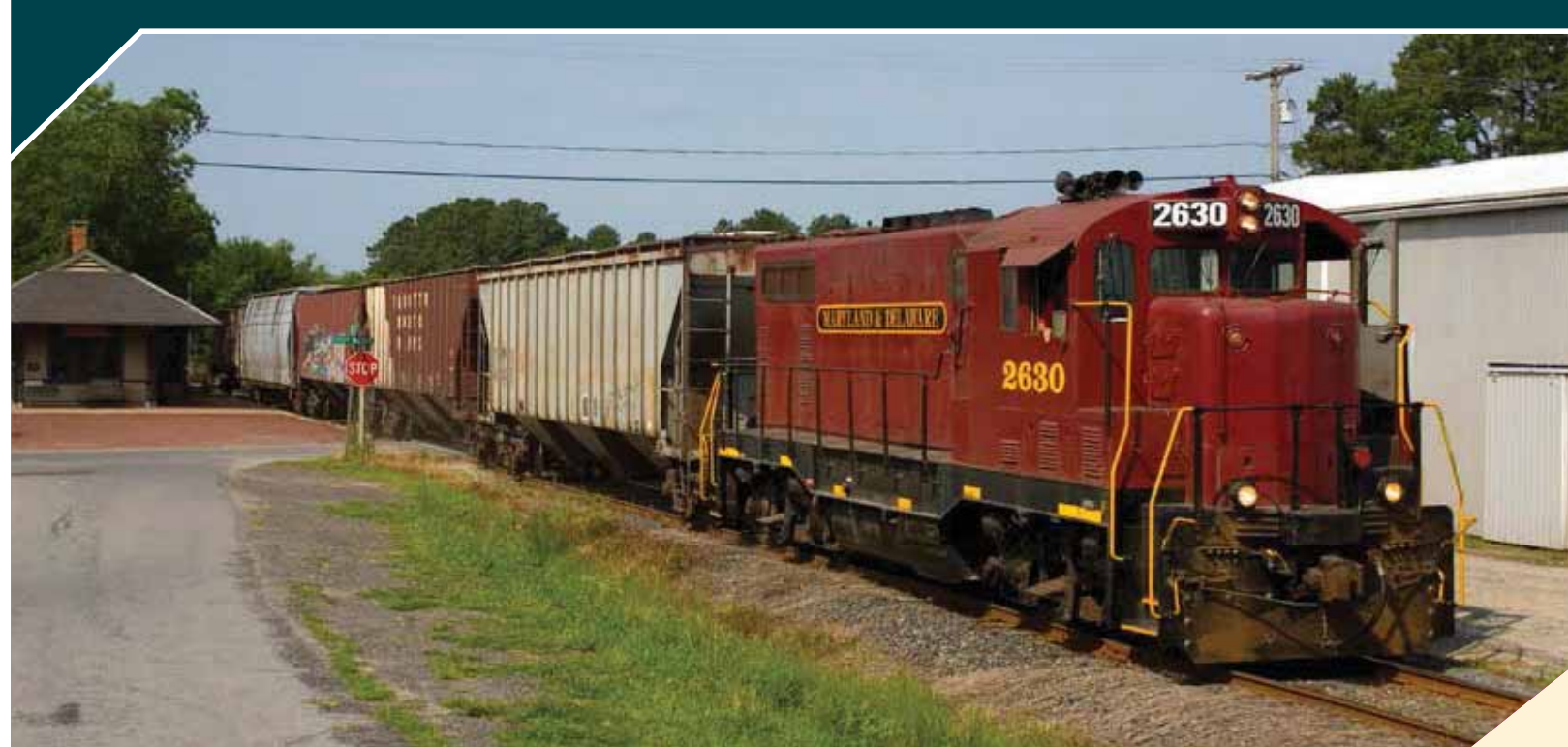


Preservation—Maintain an existing facility or service

Management—Enhance existing facility or service to sustain an acceptable level of service

Expansion—New/expanded services and infrastructure

Other—Engineering & contingency, education & training, environmental program and planning



Summit Focuses on Freight Movement Across Delmarva Peninsula

The Delmarva Freight Summit was held on June 24, 2017, at The Executive Conference Center in Newark, DE. The summit was hosted by WILMAPCO along with the Dover/Kent Metropolitan Planning Organization and DelDOT.

The half-day summit brought together both public- and private-sector freight professionals to focus on the needs and interests of freight movement across the Delmarva Peninsula. The event featured numerous speakers, including welcoming remarks from DelDOT Deputy Secretary Nicole Majeski and WILMAPCO Executive Director Tigist Zegeye.

The summit featured the freight rail system, with speakers from the Maryland and Delaware Railroad and the Delmarva Central Railroad Corporation, a newcomer to the region. Lee Derrickson closed out the first portion of the summit with a discussion on the importance of

Delaware's "Final Mile" facilities. When goods arrive at a freight station or port, they must then be transported to their final destination. This last leg of the supply chain, or "Final Mile," can include the challenge of making deliveries in urban areas to retail stores, restaurants, and other merchants, which can contribute to congestion and safety problems.

The second half of the summit focused on "Freight and Logistics Dimensions of Delmarva's Brewers, Distillers, and Winemakers." The session was kicked off by University of Delaware professor Lindsay Naylor, who spoke about the geography of beer. She was followed by a panel discussion featuring local brewers and distillers from the Painted Stave, Mispillion River Brewing Company, and the Harvest Ridge Winery.

Presentations from the Freight Summit can be found at www.wilmapco.org/delmarva.



WILMAPCO Releases the Latest Series of Demographic Projections for New Castle County

In July, the WILMAPCO Council adopted the latest version of the demographic projections for the region, which are developed by WILMAPCO's Data and Demographics Subcommittee. The process starts with the county-wide projections produced by the Delaware Population Consortium. By analyzing prior growth trends, future development activity, and other factors, a baseline projection series is developed for smaller sub-regional areas called Planning Districts and Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs).

During the next few decades, New Castle County is expected to undergo several demographic changes, including:

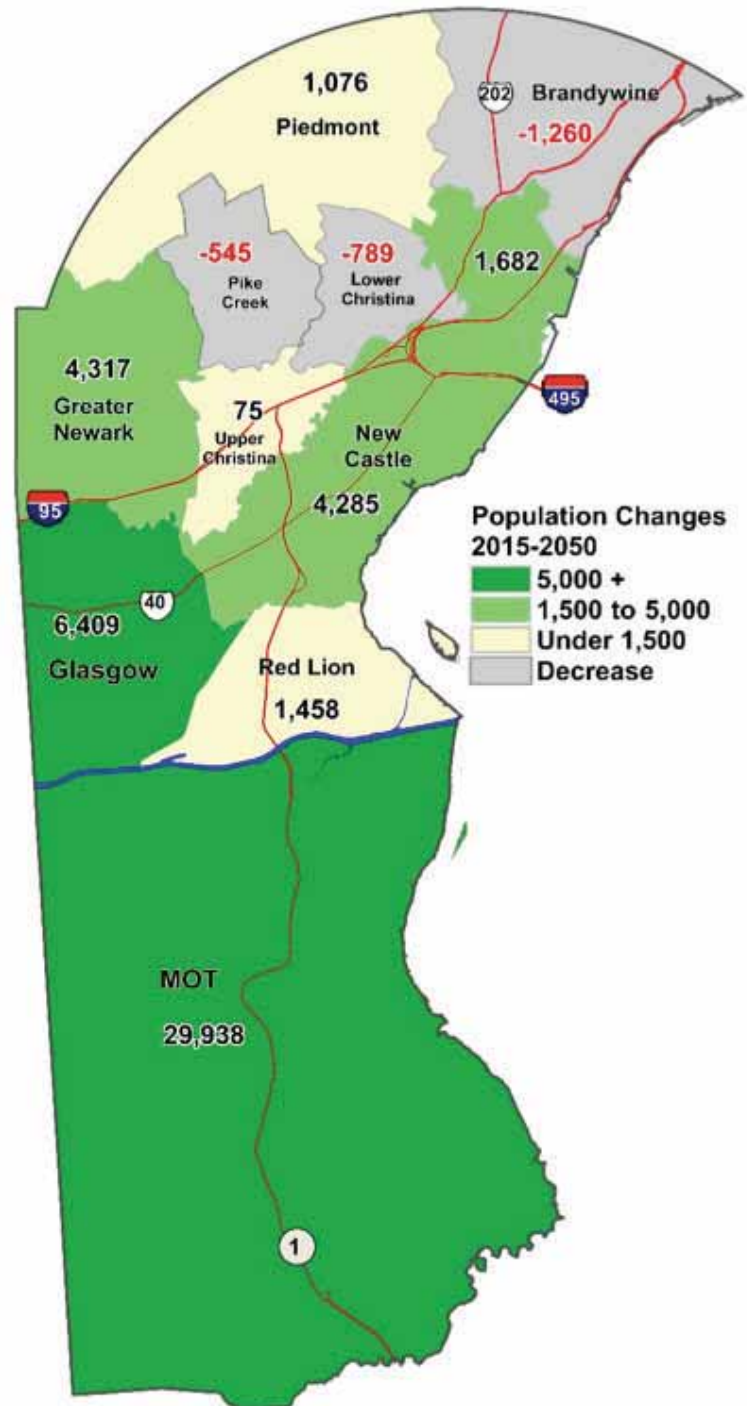
- New Castle County is expected to begin to lose population between 2040 and 2050
- Beginning around 2034, the number of deaths in New Castle County is projected to exceed the number of births, thus making net migration the only component for population growth
- Glasgow and the Middletown, Odessa, Townsend (MOT) planning districts are forecast to add more than 36,000 people between 2015 and 2050, accounting for around 78% of the total population growth
- Even with the MOT area receiving most of the expected new growth, it will still represent only 15% of the entire population of New Castle County by 2050
- While employment is expected to show a net gain during the early portions of the forecast years, by 2050 the job total is expected to

be relatively flat, with an overall increase of about 600 net new jobs

- Most districts are projected to see a net loss of jobs by 2050, with only MOT, Glasgow, Red Lion, and

Wilmington seeing any positive net employment growth

For more details, please visit the WILMAPCO data and demographics webpage at www.wilmapco.org/dds.



WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

850 Library Avenue
Newark, Delaware 19711
(302) 737-6205

- John Sisson, Chair
Delaware Transit Corporation
Chief Executive Officer
- Robert J. Alt
Mayor of Elkton
- Jennifer Cohan
Delaware Dept. of Transportation
Secretary
- Connie C. Holland
Delaware Office of State Planning
Coordination, Director
- Alan McCarthy
Cecil County Executive
- 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
- Michael Spencer
Mayor of Newport
- Tigist Zegeye
WILMAPCO, Executive Director
- Randi Novakoff
Transporter Newsletter, Editor



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEWARK, DE
PERMIT NO. 190

Transporter Newsletter Fall 2017

WILMAPCO PUBLIC MEETINGS

Unless specified, meetings will be held at WILMAPCO, 850 Library Avenue, Suite 100, Newark, Delaware.

Your participation at these meetings is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact us at (302) 737-6205 or toll free from Cecil County at (888) 808-7088. **During inclement weather, please call to verify meetings.**

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group <i>October 3, 3 p.m.</i>	Air Quality Subcommittee <i>November 9, 10 a.m.</i>	Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group <i>December 5, 3 p.m.</i>
Air Quality Subcommittee <i>October 12, 10 a.m.</i>	WILMAPCO Council <i>November 9, 6:30 p.m.</i>	Public Advisory Committee <i>December 18, 6:30 p.m.</i>
Technical Advisory Committee <i>October 19, 10 a.m.</i>	Technical Advisory Committee <i>November 16, 10 a.m.</i>	Joint Air Quality Subcommittee and Technical Advisory Committee <i>December 21, 10 a.m.</i>
Public Advisory Committee <i>October 23, 6:30 p.m.</i>		



JOIN STUDENTS, FAMILIES, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN OCTOBER TO CELEBRATE THE BENEFITS OF WALKING TO SCHOOL DURING INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH. TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.WILMAPCO.ORG/SAFEROUTES.