

Winter
2013



WILMAPCO



Quarterly newsletter of the Wilmington Area Planning Council

TRANSPORTER

Public Outreach an MPO Priority

Each year WILMAPCO does more to ensure the public is aware of opportunities to participate in transportation planning and decision making, and 2012 was no exception. WILMAPCO has been advertising its public meetings and events on WDEL and WSTW radio stations. We also created a catchy jingle to help increase awareness of the agency. In addition to radio, we've been advertising more heavily in print and have purchased several ads in the Cecil Whig, Newark Post, and News Journal advertising our events and upcoming opportunities to participate. Of course we've continued sending press releases too.

Part of WILMAPCO's outreach philosophy includes "going where the people are." To that end, WILMAPCO staff have attended more than 40 events this year promoting our plans and programs, as well as increasing

awareness of the agency itself. Included among these were the Elkton Fall Fest, Newark Community Day, Port Palooza, Wilmington Grand Prix, Platinum Picnic, 55+ Expo, and many more.

While inviting residents to attend our workshops is a strategy that we will continue to use, we also invite civic and other organizations to request that we present at their meetings and discuss planned transportation improvements. Good planning can only happen when residents take the time to get involved


and share opinions. WILMAPCO will continue to do everything it can to facilitate that involvement. For more information, please visit www.wilmapco.org/outreach. You can also learn more on WILMAPCO's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wilmapco.





The Wilmington Bicycle Plan: A Progress Report

The City of Wilmington Bicycle Plan was developed in response to a request from the Mayor's Office and was adopted in 2008. The Wilmington Bicycle Plan is a planning and policy framework to make Wilmington more bicycle-friendly, which aligns with the city's agenda for environmental and health initiatives. The plan was developed in coordination with the City of Wilmington, a steering committee, and the general public. The plan aims to lay the groundwork for Wilmington to become a first-class destination for recreational cyclists and bicycle commuters. The bike plan introduces a coordinated bicycle network that could connect residents with surrounding neighborhoods, the downtown, and other key destinations.



The document puts forth short- and long-term recommendations to enhance mobility and accessibility, remove barriers to bicycling, and promote safety. Recommendations include additional bicycle parking and way-finding signage, improved bicycle access to transit options, and considers a city-wide bike share program, among many others. To guide implementation of the plan, the Wilmington Bicycle Advisory Committee (WBAC) was created to advise and coordinate bike-related initiatives as well as advocate for bicycle transportation and recreation opportunities.

Presently, the WBAC is working with the city's public works department and other partners such as DelDOT and WILMAPCO to implement short-term recommendations including bicycle parking and signage.

Some accomplishments of the committee include:

- March 2010: Mayor Baker issued Executive Order 2010-2, which created the WBAC

- May 2010: City of Wilmington installed bicycle route signs along Market Street from "river to river"
- May 2010: City of Wilmington installed seasonal lamp post banners along Market Street stating: "Wilmington, IN with Bicycling"
- June 2010: Grand opening of the Bike Boutique
- October 2010: WBAC submitted an application for the Transportation Enhancements Program for bicycle facilities and amenities
- November 2010: sharrow markings were installed on Market Street between 10th & 11th Streets
- May 2011: the League of American Bicyclists recognized the city with an Honorable Mention for its Bicycle Friendly Community award
- May 2011: WBAC hosted its first annual Bike to Work Day
- February 2012: WBAC submitted a letter of support for the implementation of a multi-use pathway that connects the Brandywine waterfront to the Christina waterfront
- May 2012: WBAC launched the website www.bikewilmington.org
- May 2012: WBAC hosted the second annual Bike to Work Day with expanded bike commuter group rides
- June 2012: WBAC hosted family-friendly bicycle rides

For more information, please visit www.bikewilmington.org.



Community Planning in South Wilmington

WILMAPCO has continued in its role as chair of the South Wilmington Planning Network. The network is a coalition of about 40 government, private, and nonprofit agencies who work together to improve quality of life in the impoverished Southbridge section of Wilmington.

We completed both a Walkable Community Report (2006) and a Circulation Study (2008) in Southbridge, one of our Environmental Justice communities. Since then we have worked with the network to implement the recommendations of these studies, while assisting other agencies with their projects.

Key transportation-specific work this year included: planning for improved pedestrian and bicycle connections from Southbridge to the Riverfront, securing funding for a second phase of streetscape improvements along New Castle Avenue and Heald Street, and a second phase of Safe Routes to School projects and educational activities at the neighborhood elementary school.

Beyond transportation, the network helped Nemours secure a grant for a local health care worker to tackle asthma in Southbridge, and helped the Clean Air Council receive an Environmental Protection Agency grant to address local polluting industries in noncompliance with environmental standards. Additionally, the network continued its support of Southbridge Weekend, the community garden, youth trips, and a solar energy project.



Comments Sought on Air Quality Conformity

Our federal mandate requires that we ensure that transportation projects proposed in our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) conform to air quality standards. With the currently proposed projects, in the FY 2014-2017 TIP and in the amended 2040 RTP, we found a general decline in transportation emissions through 2035, but then found a slight increase as we near 2040. This is attributable to the implementation of known emission reduction technologies and our ever-increasing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Checking VMT growth through better land-use decisions and promoting alternative transportation would lower emissions now and in the long-term. Public comment is being accepted on our air quality conformity through March 7. **A Public Meeting has been scheduled on February 25 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at WILMAPCO.** For more information, please visit www.wilmapco.org/aq.

Port of Wilmington Truck Parking Study

WILMAPCO is working on a study to locate a new truck parking lot near the Port of Wilmington. This lot was identified by the port as a key transportation need to support future expansion and to address local community concerns of excessive truck idling. A steering committee comprised of officials from the port, City of Wilmington, DelDOT, DNREC, Clean Air Council, and local civic leaders is guiding the study. Much work has already been accomplished including a literature review of the best practices of other ports and truck rest stops, traffic counts and field observations of truck movements, data collection on local truck restricted roadways, and a few potential parking sites have been identified for further exploration. The Port of Wilmington Truck Parking Study is on course for Council adoption this spring. For more information, please visit www.wilmapco.org/portparking.



WILMAPCO's 2012 Our Town Event

One hundred twenty five transportation planners, local elected officials, students, business leaders, and residents gathered at WILMAPCO's Our Town event, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Newark, on November 14, 2012 to discuss rail in the WILMAPCO region. The program featured a keynote address from Legislative Assistant Collin Peppard, presented via Skype, from Senator Thomas Carper's Washington, DC office.

Mr. Peppard said, "The world is changing. The way we invest in communities and neighborhoods, and goods and services is different. Home ownership and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is going down while transit ridership, cycling, and walking are going up." Peppard emphasized the importance of multimodal alternatives, planning, and bridging the rail gap along the Northeast Corridor (NEC) between Perryville, Maryland and Newark, Delaware.

A panel discussion with representatives from regional rail organizations followed the keynote address. Delaware Secretary of Transportation, Shailen Bhatt, moderated the panel and discussed filling the rail gap. Rebecca Reyes-Alicea, Federal Rail Administration (FRA), spoke about work on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) Future, a comprehensive planning effort to define, evaluate, and prioritize future investments in the NEC. Drew Galloway, Amtrak, said "If we don't invest in these services, other parts of the nation and countries in the world will be hurt."

everything NS does in the region is geared towards increasing capacity to move products. The company is, "driven by investments and performance." NS operates in 22 states, is responsible for 20,000 miles of rail east of the Mississippi River, and is also a coal-hauling freight service. Dave Gula, WILMAPCO, highlighted the transit projects that the agency is working on, including: the Elkton Station Project, the Newport Train Station Feasibility Study, the Claymont Train Station Improvement Plan, the Chesapeake Connector Rail Study, and the Newark Regional Transportation Center.



WILMAPCO's Council presented reactions to the panel's presentations, which were moderated by Ed O'Donnell, University of Delaware. Secretary Bhatt began, "What I have heard from all the panel members is the need for funding. There is a dollar need just to keep what we have, before we can talk about more." Mike Nixon, MDOT Office of Capital Programming, wrapped up the segment and said MDOT is complying with the intent of the unsigned DE/MD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work toward filling the rail gap.

WILMAPCO has been presenting Our Town forums every other year since 1996, along with the first Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). For more information on WILMAPCO's rail projects, please visit www.wilmapco.org/plans-and-reports, or to view the PowerPoint presentations from Our Town, please visit www.wilmapco.org/ourtown.

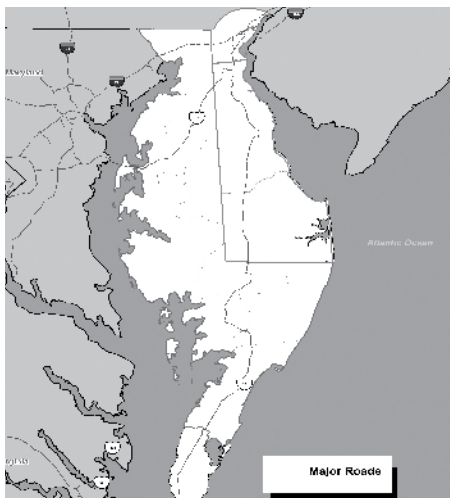


Scott Muir, Norfolk Southern (NS), spoke about his company's goals. He said that

The Delmarva Freight Study is Underway

DelDOT, in coordination with WILMAPCO, MDOT, VDOT, and numerous other agencies have started work on a regional freight plan for the entire Delmarva Peninsula. The overall goal of the plan is to comprehensively evaluate the freight transportation system on the Delmarva Peninsula, determine its effect on the environment and economic development, and develop and assess future planning scenarios to identify priorities for relevant investment and regulation changes.

One of the key elements of the plan is the development of the CUBE CARGO freight forecasting model, a tool to analyze multimodal freight options such as truck, rail, air, water/port, and pipeline. CUBE enables transportation planners to study detailed freight movements at key intermodal transfer centers (i.e. warehouses, distribution centers, rail yards, and ports). Freight origin and destination data has been purchased to give the study detailed commodity flow data. The study will look at several “what-if” scenarios that will provide us with the opportunity to test the impacts of various infrastructure investments or significant changes in mode choices by shippers and key industries that reside within the Peninsula. For more information, please visit www.wilmapco.org/fwg.



Delmarva Peninsula study area

Monitoring Growth in Cecil County

WILMAPCO has started work on a project to establish a framework for long-term transportation analysis and improvement recommendations for Route 40 in Cecil County. Modeled after the successful US 40 Corridor Monitoring Plan, established for the New Castle County portion of US 40, the report will annually provide a “state of the corridor” analysis. The report will summarize and track several critical transportation and land use trends that can impact the timing and type of transportation projects needed, including:

- Land development activities
- Traffic analysis of existing conditions in the AM and PM peak hours at the 16 signalized intersections along the corridor
- Future peak hour traffic volume forecasts to anticipate needed improvement concepts and schedules
- Performance of transit service along the corridor
- Summary of the status of previously identified road improvement
- Recommendations for further study based on trends that develop from the analysis

The plan will also be used to summarize and track the progress of the Cecil Bike Plan and the other bike and pedestrian plans that have recently been developed for each of the towns along the US 40 corridor.

Although funding limitations for this study did not permit the development of a comprehensive transportation plan, the data and trend information developed will serve as the foundation for a future plan. For more details on the report, please visit www.wilmapco.org/US40.



Town of Port Deposit Transit Feasibility Study Nears Completion

Since spring 2012, WILMAPCO has been working with the Town of Port Deposit and an advisory committee of state, county, and local stakeholders to assess the feasibility and community interest for future transit service to Port Deposit. Port Deposit is located to the north of the existing bus service, which includes the Teal Line that links Perryville and Aberdeen; and the Perryville Connection, which links Perryville and Elkton. The study supports the town's Comprehensive Plan goal to "provide for safe and efficient movement of people and goods that promotes walkability and use of non-motorized forms of transportation."

To date, the advisory committee has held two meetings; in addition, WILMAPCO held a public workshop and attended the Port Palooza Festival in spring 2012 to get feedback on the need for transit and what services would be most useful. More than 40 percent of survey respondents indicated that lack of transportation limits their ability to access work, shopping, and social interactions.

Currently, WILMAPCO is completing a draft report that details potential routes, community feedback, forecasted ridership, and costs. Since projected ridership is lower than current ridership on Cecil County transit, the report will also discuss case studies with creative funding and implementation options. The report will be available for review at www.wilmapco.org/portdeposit in early 2013.



Town of North East Transit Oriented Development Plan Draft Concept Unveiled

WILMAPCO's work with the Town of North East to identify a potential site for a future bus hub and train station continues with a second **Public Workshop scheduled for February 13 at the North East Town Hall (106 South Main Street, North East, MD)**. Attendees can stop by anytime between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., or attend the Mayor and Commissioner's meeting at 7 p.m., where a presentation will be given. During the workshop we will be sharing ideas and seeking feedback for two potential Transit Oriented Development (TOD) sites. Site one is located on MD 7 west of MD 272 and site two is located on Rolling Mill Road.

Draft concepts will be shown for both sites. The concepts were developed based on feedback from a previous public workshop last May and focus groups in August. This previous outreach found overall support for expanding transit and rail but concerns over traffic and security related to a new station. Previous outreach also showed a desire for pedestrian and bicycle improvements, an interest in preserving the historic house on site one, and an interest in site two for its direct pedestrian connection to downtown and its historic context. Additional information is available at www.wilmapco.org/northeast.



Cecil County Public Opinion Remains Largely Unchanged

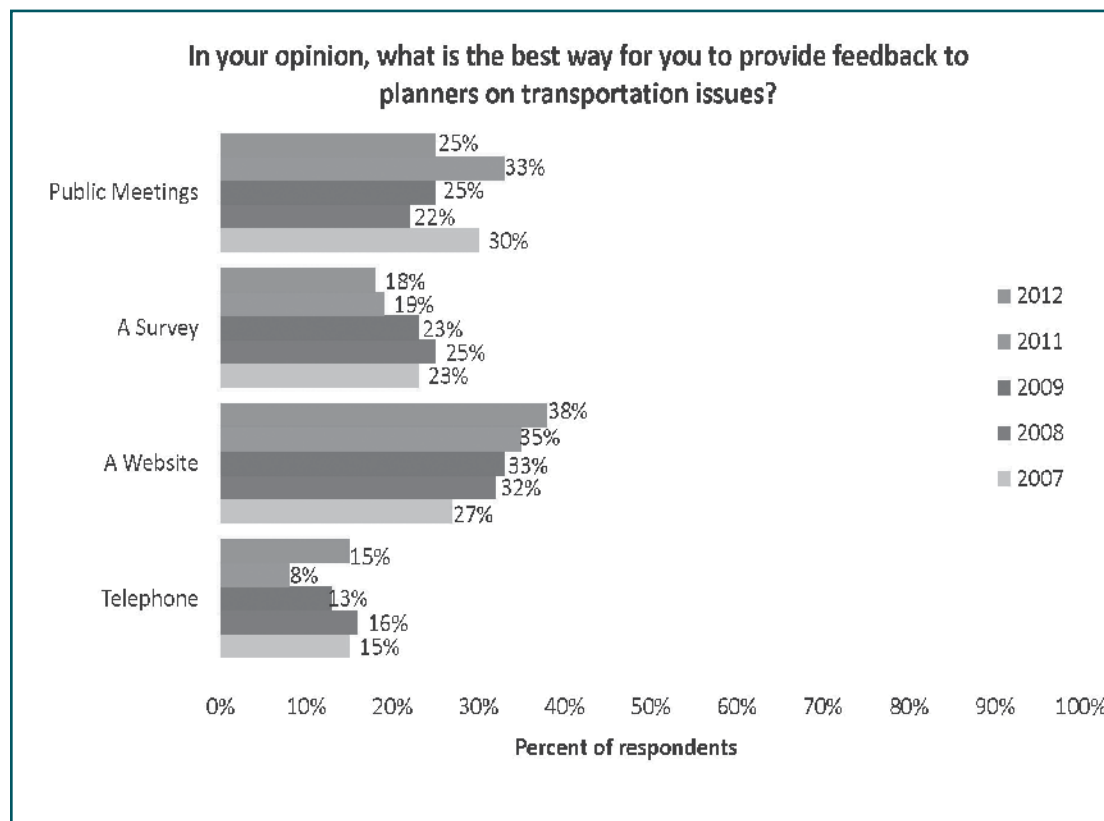
The results from WILMAPCO's 2012 Cecil County Public Opinion Survey show that as in previous years more than 80% of respondents do not feel that they have many transportation options from which to choose. Not surprisingly, 61% rely on a single occupancy vehicle to get to their place of employment.

The majority of respondents (80%) also feel they do not have good opportunities to participate in transportation planning and many commented that they feel as if decisions have already been made by the time public comment is requested. When asked the preferred method for feedback to planners, there was no clear consensus; however, preference for a website has been increasing to nearly 40% (see graph below) throughout the years.

WILMAPCO's Public Opinion Survey

is a telephone survey of 600 randomly selected Cecil County residents. The majority of respondents (55%) are between the ages of 30 and 64, have completed some college (30%), and have lived in Cecil County for more than 20 years (54%).

The survey results are used to gauge resident perceptions of the strategies and goals contained in our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as well as the preferred methods of public outreach, and familiarity with WILMAPCO itself. While only 20% of respondents were aware of WILMAPCO more than one third of respondents (33%) signed up to receive more information including newsletters and public meeting announcements from WILMAPCO. To view the survey results, please visit www.wilmapco.org/survey-results.



WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

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

- **Joseph L. Fisona, Chair**
Mayor of Elkton
- **Connie C. Holland, Vice-chair**
*Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination,
Director*
- **Shailen P. Bhatt**
*Delaware Dept. of Transportation
Secretary*
- **John P. Buchheit, III**
Mayor of Delaware City
- **Thomas P. Gordon**
New Castle County Executive
- **Donald A. Halligan**
*Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Director, Office of Planning and Capital
Programming*
- **Tari Moore**
Cecil County, County Executive
- **Lauren L. Skiver**
*Delaware Transit Corporation
Executive Director*
- **Dennis P. Williams**
Mayor of Wilmington
- **Tigist Zegeye**
WILMAPCO Executive Director
- **Randi Novakoff**
Transporter Newsletter Editor



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

Transporter Newsletter Winter 2013

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.**

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group February 5, 3 p.m.	Air Quality Subcommittee March 14, 10 a.m.	Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group April 2, 3 p.m.
Air Quality Subcommittee February 14, 10 a.m.	WILMAPCO Council March 14, 6:30 p.m.	Air Quality Subcommittee April 11, 10 a.m.
Technical Advisory Committee February 21, 10 a.m.	Technical Advisory Committee March 21, 10 a.m.	Public Advisory Committee April 15, 7 p.m.
Public Advisory Committee February 25, 7 p.m.		Technical Advisory Committee April 18, 10 a.m.

Did you know that spilling one ounce of gasoline produces the same ozone-producing volatile organic compounds as a car driving 56 miles. Stop at the "click" when you refuel your vehicle to save money and the air.

Learn more by visiting www.wilmapco.org/aqp.

