WILMAPCO News Release

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Transportation Agency to Host a Public Workshop to Allow Residents the Opportunity to Learn About and Have Input into Which Planned Transportation Projects Get Funding WILMAPCO Public Workshop on February 25th.

The Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) will host a public workshop on Monday, February 25th to seek comments on proposed transportation projects and associated air quality analysis. WILMAPCO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) lists all of the projects to be funded in New Castle County, Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland, including roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, bridge, and transit projects. The public comment period for the TIP and air quality analysis will extend through March 7. During the public workshop residents will have the opportunity to learn about planned transportation improvements in the TIP, have a say in which projects get funded, and learn about air quality impacts. The workshop will be held at WILMAPCO's office across from the Newark Library:

Open House Public Workshop February 25, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. 850 Library Avenue, Newark, Delaware Across from the Newark Library www.wilmapco.org/tip

Funding shortfalls remain in the region and the draft TIP shows projects deferred based on available revenue and DelDOT's goal to reduce the amount of debt. The draft TIP proposes a substantial decrease in funds, containing \$1.67 billion in transportation projects, as compared to the previous TIP that contains \$2.47 billion. Three new bridge projects have been added to the draft TIP, while funding for a variety of projects is proposed for delay. While planned transportation projects in the draft TIP do meet federal air quality standards, WILMAPCO forecasts that transportation emissions will worsen air quality in the decades to come.

Workshop participants will have the opportunity to review draft documents, ask questions of WILMAPCO and Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT) staff, and submit written comments to WILMAPCO. The format of the workshop is informal and people may attend at their convenience anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Residents wishing to submit comments on the TIP or air quality analysis can:

- Mail comments to WILMAPCO at 850 Library Ave., Suite 100, Newark, DE 19711
- Attend the February 25 public workshop, anytime from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at WILMAPCO
- Submit comments via email to <u>wilmapco@wilmapco.org</u>
- Visit our "virtual public workshop" online at <u>http://www.wilmapco.org/tip</u> to review workshop materials and maps
- Visit <u>www.wilmapco.org/aq</u> to learn about WILMAPCO's air quality analysis

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WILMAPCO is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for New Castle County, Delaware, and Cecil County, Maryland that is responsible for coordinating transportation planning in the region and involving the public to ensure that transportation projects meet its needs. For more information, visit www.wilmapco.org, call 302-737-6205, or toll-free from Cecil County at 1-888-808-7088.