Envision a transit-ready North East... North East Transit Oriented Development Plan

Please join us NORTH EAST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORKSHOP

February 13, North East Town Hall

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Open House Workshop **7 p.m.** Presentation at Town Board meeting

We invite you to the second Public Workshop to shape the future of downtown North East. The concerns and ideas you express will be the basis for readying North East for successful future bus transit and commuter rail service and developing a strategy to enhance North East as a unique community. During this interactive event, comment the draft concepts and share your ideas for North East TOD.

Since the first Public Workshop last May, the project team has worked with an Advisory Committee to narrow the original three sites to two potential locations and developed preliminary recommendations. In August, focus group meetings were held with property owners around the two potential locations.

What type of future development can best enhance North East, which services and facilities are most needed, what transportation improvements will give safe, appealing travel choices, and how can public art, landscaping and infrastructure nurture North East as a desirable place to live, work and play?

Visit between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at your convenience, to discuss ideas for the Plan and make comments to the project team. A presentation will be made at 7 p.m. during the meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners, followed by question & answer and discussion.

This project is a partnership of the Town of North East and the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO).

For information:

Call 302.737.6205 Toll free from Cecil County 888.808.7088 Or visit www.wilmapco.org/northeast

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Attend the Public Meeting on February 13th. Come at your convenience between 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., or stay for the presentation at 7 p.m. Meeting will be in the North East Town Hall, 106 South Main Street, North East, MD.
- Schedule an individual interview or a presentation to your group. Call 302.737.6205 or toll free from Cecil County 888.808.7088.
- Visit project website <u>www.wilmapco.org/northeast</u> to learn more or submit your comments.



WHO IS THE **PROJECT TEAM**?

This plan is being developed by the WILMAPCO, in partnership with the Town of North East, Cecil County and the Maryland Department of Transportation. WILMAPCO is the regional transportation planning agency for Cecil County, Maryland and New Castle County, Delaware. Throughout the planning process, we will be coordinating with local leadership, land owners, major employers, residents and other interested stakeholders. Outreach and technical support is being provided by KSK Architects Planners Historians, Inc., Pennoni Associates, and Real Estate Strategies.

WHAT IS TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT?

Transit-oriented development (TOD) creates compact, walkable neighborhoods around transit or planned transit. It helps make transit successful by creating many destinations within a short walk, offering convenient access to jobs, shopping, services and recreation.

North East has great TOD potential. Currently along the 460 miles of commuter rail between Richmond, Virginia and New London, Connecticut, there is one major gap: the 20 miles from Perryville to Newark. Filling this gap has been a top local and regional priority. Maryland is promoting transit-oriented development to increase the number of riders and get a better return on transit and rail investment.

While TODs come in many sizes and types, successful TODs share a few characteristics:

- Pedestrian-friendly environment with wide sidewalks, well-marked crosswalks, good lighting and narrow streets to slow traffic.
- Landscaping, inviting public spaces and interesting architecture to enhance walkability.
- Greatest density of land use is closest to transit and tapers off as you get farther out.
- Limited surface parking to efficiently use prime locations closest to transit
- Shared or structured parking to reduce impact of parking areas.
- Provides a mix of housing, jobs, shopping and recreation choices.
- Increases community value for public and private sectors, residents and visitors.
- There is no one-size-fits-all TOD; design and scale must complement desired community character.

What are we planning?

Transit oriented development (TOD) is a mixed use residential and commercial area designed to make transit successful, walking and bicycling convenient and safe, and provide for a vibrant, livable community.

We have developed **preliminary ideas** for two sites that:

- ◆ Identify potential locations for a future train station / transit hub.
- Form recommendations for future land uses.
- ✤ Identify future transportation needs.

Area 1 is along W. Cecil Ave. west of the MD 272 bridge over Amtrak.



Area 2 is on Rolling Mill Road east of the MD 272 bridge over Amtrak.



Tell us how you envision North East in the future!