

# **PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

WILMAPCO Conference Room, April 16, 2018

## **ROLL CALL**

### **Members Present:**

Dave Carter, Southern New Castle County  
Tom Fruehstorfer, City of Newark  
Mario Gangemi, Cecil County Chamber of Commerce  
Ken Grant, AAA Mid-Atlantic  
Dick Janney, Southern New Castle County  
Bill Osborne, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce  
Glenn Pusey, Bear Glasgow Council  
Gail Seitz, City of New Castle  
Barry Shotwell, 7/40 Alliance (Vice Chair)  
Vic Singer, Civic League for New Castle County  
Javier Torrijos, Delaware Hispanic Commission

### **Absent:**

Mark Blake, GHADA  
Robert Cameron, Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation  
Darlene Cole, Elderly and Disabled Transit Advisory Committee  
Carlos de los Ramos, AARP  
Maria Dziembowska, the Nature Conservancy  
Bill Dunn, Civic League for New Castle County  
Pat Folk, Cecil County  
John Ford, Cecil Board of Realtors  
Bill Lower, Committee of 100  
Barbara Mobarak, League of Women Voters  
Jeff Peters, Pike Creek Valley Civic League  
Tom Posatko, Delmarva Rail Passenger Association  
Dave Tancredi, Milltown-Limestone Civic Alliance  
Frank Vari, Chesapeake City  
Antonio Valenzuela, City of Wilmington (Chair)  
Alison Windle, Neighborhood House

### **Staff Members:**

Randi Novakoff, Outreach Manager  
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

### **Guests:**

Kathy Harris, DNREC  
John Sisson, DTC

Minutes prepared by Janet Butler from recording.

Barry Shotwell, PAC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

**6:30 PM**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**6:32 PM**

**ACTION:** On motion by Javier Torrijos, seconded by Dave Carter the PAC approved the February 12, 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion passed

**(4/16/18-01)**

**2. Public Comment:**

**6:35 PM**

None.

**3. Executive Director’s Report:**

**6:40 PM**

Ms. Zegeye reported that at the WILMAPCO Council meeting on March 8, 2018, the Council amended the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect funding changes to the SR 141: I-95 Interchange-Jay Drive project and the addition of the SR273 Bridge over Big Elk Creek project; and approved the FY 2019-2021 TIP. Presentations included the FY 2019 UPWP by Ms. Zegeye and the City of Wilmington Comprehensive Plan by Mr. Herb Inden.

Ms. Zegeye shared the following public outreach information:

- A joint DeIDOT and WILMAPCO TIP public workshop was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff attended a New Castle County Land Use Level of Service (LOS) Summit.
- Staff participated in the Advisory Committee for the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Staff attended the Maryland Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Roundtable.
- Staff participated in the Delaware Blueprint for a Bicycle Friendly Delaware Advisory Committee.
- The WILMAPCO Public Opinion Survey calling was completed.
- Staff is coordinating with New Castle County (NCC) on WILMAPCO’s Long Range Plan Update and the New Castle County’s Comprehensive Plan Update public outreach.
- Staff is attending Pedestrian Council meetings in Dover.
- Staff is coordinating Air Quality Awareness Month events, from April 30 through May 4, 2018, with the Air Quality Partnership (AQP) of Delaware.
- Several WILMAPCO Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were sent out and interviews were completed. The Newark Area Transit Needs Data Collection and Analysis project was awarded to WSP (formerly PB America) from Philadelphia. The City of Wilmington 12<sup>th</sup> Street Connector project was awarded to JMT. The Five Point Intersection Safety and Capacity Improvement project was awarded to RK&K. The 7th Street Peninsula Roadway Improvement project was awarded to Century Engineering. WILMAPCO has also received seven proposals for the Route 202 Master Plan project and interviews will be conducted during the last week in April 2018. The Southern New Castle County Master Plan project RFP is being developed and is expected to be sent out in the next few weeks.
- Staff is working on several events to celebrate National Bike Month in May.

Mr. Torrijos asked during the Air Quality Campaign if WILMAPCO had reached out to Hispanic schools and the Latin American community. Ms. Novakoff said a press release with the air quality information was sent to the El Tiempo Espano newspaper from

WILMAPCO's media list. She said she would look into sending the information to the schools and other organizations.

Dave Carter asked if the Air Quality efforts include coordinating with the Newport, proposal to see if they are using ship-to-shore power instead of diesel. Ms. Zegeye said DNREC and WILMAPCO's involvement to set the air quality targets for emissions is on mobile sources related to surface transportation. Mr. Janney reiterated that the Newport proposal is good, and now is the time to ask for this type of improvement before the infrastructure is put in.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **4. Approval of Public Outreach for FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 6:50 PM**

Ms. Novakoff distributed the draft public outreach portion of the FY 2019 UPWP. She said the UPWP is WILMAPCO's budget that outlines the tasks that are carried out for the fiscal year. There are only some minor changes in the FY 2019 UPWP since the last fiscal year.

The first section of the public outreach portion of the UPWP is Public Meetings and Outreach, which describes two strategies, one geared toward the general public, organizations, and events, and the other is a more targeted approach to match the one-size-does-not-fit-all public outreach philosophy.

The next section, Development of Public Information Documents, includes WILMAPCO's brochures, booklets, pamphlets, and flyers developed by staff to promote general efforts and individual tasks. In addition, the Newsletters and E-news section includes WILMAPCO's quarterly Transporter newsletter that focuses on transportation issues, plans, and projects, and the monthly E-newsletter that is sent out with current meeting information and brief topical stories to the e-mail address list.

The Development of Multimedia Presentations section includes presentations to civic and community groups, city, town, and county council meetings, and to other organizations. Topics may include the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process, interregional coordination, and possible freight studies.

The Webpage Development section includes updates and improves the WILMAPCO webpage which provides meeting dates, times, and locations for all upcoming WILMAPCO meetings, makes available WILMAPCO's plans and studies, and informs the public about opportunities to participate. Documents such as the UPWP, TIP, Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Public Participation Plan (PPP), and other planning documents are made available to the public along with planning data and maps.

The School Children Education and Safe Routes to School Program section includes tasks that promote programs and coordinate events with different schools and community centers for education cluster sessions, GIS days, summer camps, and other educational activities. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program helps to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools by helping to secure federal transportation dollars that fund infrastructure improvements including crosswalks, sidewalks, and sign improvements.

The Newark Bike Project Youth Program section explains that the program uses bicycle education as a means of pursuing the organization's mission to work towards sustainability through emphasizing community, education, and empowerment.

The Media Relations Coordination and Social Media task requires coordinating with various media outlets such as radio, television, and newspapers to promote meetings, events, major policy issues, document changes, and staffing changes relevant to WILMAPCO. It also includes press releases, e-blasts, and radio and TV interviews. It includes 30-second radio commercials that increase public awareness and promote WILMAPCO events. Other tasks include coordination of social media such as Facebook.

Coordination with Other Agencies on Public Outreach tasks includes coordinating our activities with other jurisdictions and agencies. It includes participating and organizing various local conferences and events. It also includes exhibiting at display booths focused on specific projects or general WILMAPCO activities.

Air Quality and Public Outreach provides for outreach efforts to the public and legislators on air quality issues. This task includes managing the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware (AQP), a public/private coalition of businesses, agencies, and individuals working to raise awareness and inform the public about practices that improve air quality and citizen health statewide in Delaware and across New Castle and Cecil Counties.

Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Justice (TJ) Outreach includes engaging minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, households without an automobile, low-literacy, and limited English speaking communities in the transportation decision-making process. EJ and TJ outreach also includes attending and helping to organize expos, exhibits, and conferences to better engage and understand the needs of the constrained populations.

The Urban Bike Project: Earn-a-Bike Program provides transportation choices and improves quality of life by engaging youth in safe, practical, and cost-efficient forms of transportation. The students become proficient in the use, identification, and maintenance of bicycle parts and tools, and safe riding skills. Students are tested on their understanding of safe riding habits before receiving the bicycles that they have built from scratch.

Mr. Torrijos said he would send Ms. Novakoff a complete list of Hispanic media. Ms. Novakoff said she would greatly appreciate the information.

Mr. Singer asked for a Rich Site Summary (RSS), which is a feature that notifies you when there are updates to a webpage. Ms. Novakoff said that most of the new initiatives are listed on WILMAPCO's homepage under the "What's New?" section. She said she would look into adding an RSS widget.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. Carter seconded by Mr. Gangemi the PAC recommended approval of the public outreach portion of the FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Motion passed

(4/16/18-02)

## **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **5. DART First State May Service Changes**

**7:10 PM**

Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) Chief Executive Officer John Sisson discussed the Mayor's and Governor's shared vision for keeping businesses in the City of Wilmington and keeping the city safe, which includes restoring Rodney Square to a public park and not a transit hub. Transit has grown over time and more and more services were added. There are challenges geographically, which puts stress on transit. We have seen businesses leave the city, which impacts DART's services.

In December 2017, DART initiated eight route combinations. New routes combinations address congestion on downtown streets; improve operational efficiency; reduce downtown bus layovers; provide more direct access to low-income communities; offer a one-seat ride; and eliminate the need to transfer.

DART has also expanded the transit footprint in downtown Wilmington, especially on Shipley, Market, and French streets. In addition, DART has improved access to major attractions. Service improvements include a expanded hours, increased trip frequencies, and improved on-time performance.

Following the service change, six Community Conversations were held in late January and early February 2018. Wilmington had 106 attendees and Newark had 11 attendees. As a result, improvements included Routes 2, 6, and 28 to Rodney Square on 10<sup>th</sup> Street at King Street. The revised Route 4 schedule now improves on-time performance and there are amenity improvements.

Public Hearing Workshops were held in March 2018 for the May 20, 2018 Service Changes. Highlights of the changes include: Routes 2 and 6 that include a new Sunday morning roundtrip; Route 13 improves the downtown routing; two rush hour express trips were added to the Route 18 bus in each direction; Routes 43, 47, and 302 Middletown routing improvements were made for faster access to Amazon; and Route 55 has improved weekday frequencies every 40 minutes.

Mr. Singer asked when the new transfer stations are going to be completed. Mr. Sisson said there is an agreement with a public/private partnership, and he hopes they will be completed by the next May service change.

Bill Osborne said Mr. Gula has been working on finding an alternative to Rodney Square for many years. It does not matter where you put the hub you are going to displace some people. However, we are finally at that point where there will be a transit hub with public restrooms near the train station, which is going to be a tremendous improvement. Mr. Sisson added the new shelters, such as on King Street are going to be helpful too.

Mr. Singer suggested that free transit during rush hour would save money, because it would reduce congestion. Mr. Sisson said if we started free transit, then the corresponding paratransit would need to be free, and that already costs about \$55.00 a trip. He added with the higher gas prices, people will be taking more transit, which increases ridership and helps to reduce congestion.

## **6. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

Ms. Kathy Harris, DNREC, Division of Energy and Climate said in 2009, Delaware joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). In 2013, Governor Markel signed an Executive Order that directed state agencies to develop recommendations to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG), which recommended a 30% greenhouse gas reduction from a 2008 baseline by 2030. In 2017, Delaware joined the US Climate Alliance, which is a group of 15 states that agreed to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets set in the Paris Accord. U.S. is the only country in the world that has not signed the agreement. The agreement is for a 25% reduction in greenhouse gasses levels from 2005 to 2025.

Alternative fuel vehicles help to reduce GHG emissions. The three major alternatives are propane (school buses), natural gas (tractor-trailers), and electric (passenger vehicles). Electric vehicles are alternative fuels under the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 1992.

The three types of electric vehicles include: 1) battery electric; 2) plug-in-hybrid; and 3) hybrid. There are 41 models available through 18 automakers. While electricity production still emits greenhouse gasses, electric vehicles reduce greenhouse gasses by up to 5,790 pounds annually.

The initiatives at the Division of Energy and Climate include the Clean Transportation Incentive Program, Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Grant, FHWA Alternative Fuel Corridor, Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund, Delaware Clean Cities Coalition, and Transportation Climate Initiative.

The Clean Transportation Incentive Program began in July 2015, and was revised in November 2016. The three components of the program are: 1) Clean Vehicle Rebate Program; 2) Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate Program; and 3) Heavy-Duty Vehicle Rebate Program. Funding was provided by RGGI.

The Clean Vehicle Rebate Program provides rebates for businesses and non-profits, counties, and municipalities. Individuals are eligible for one rebate; businesses and fleets are eligible for six rebates; and DNREC has developed a strong relationship with vehicle dealerships in Delaware.

The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate Program provides commercial properties and workplaces with six rebates in Delaware. The residential rebate covers 50% of the cost of the Electric Vehicle Charging Station up to \$500; commercial covers 75% of the cost of the station up to \$2,500; and workplace covers 75% of the cost of the station up to \$5,000. Maryland also has a rebate program that covers 40% of the cost up to \$4,000.

Program success includes 639 rebates for electric vehicles and 190 rebates for charging stations. There are 35 charging locations and 114 charging stations in Delaware. The majority of the public charging stations are in the beach areas. Gaps are in Middletown, Wilmington, municipalities, and downtowns. The Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Grant, a competitive grant up to \$500,000 per project, funds facilities for compressed natural gas, propane, and hydrogen fueled vehicles and DC Fast Charging Stations.

In 2016, an Alternative Fuel Corridor Regional Nomination was submitted and Delaware's component of 23 miles of I-95 was selected as a corridor for electric vehicle charging. In 2017, SR 1, US 113, and US 13 were designated.

A Partial Consent Decree was also finalized between the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Volkswagen (VW) Corporation. Delaware was rewarded 9 million dollars, based on the number of affected vehicles sold in the state. The Division of Energy and Climate will be managing the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station component of \$1.5 million and the Division of Air Quality will manage the rest of the funds. The first round of funding will go to Fast Charging Infrastructure.

Since 2015, 639 clean vehicle rebates were provided to individuals and Delaware businesses. Many opportunities exist for Delaware organizations and towns to reduce greenhouse gases. Businesses can install stations at town buildings or in downtown areas; encourage installing workplace charging stations; join the Delaware Clean Cities Coalition; and apply for the VW settlement funding.

Ms. Harris distributed a Delaware Clean Transportation Incentive Program Electric Vehicle Rebates brochure. She added their website is [de.gov/cleantransportation](http://de.gov/cleantransportation).

Mr. Singer asked if DNREC had ever initiated programs for pricing and metering electricity because people use less energy at night than during the day. People could pay for the energy in the hours that they use it. Ms. Harris said yes. Delmarva Power will be starting a pilot charging program for time-of-use, focused mostly on off-peak hours.

Ms. Seitz asked how far electric cars can travel before they need to get charged. Ms. Harris said the average is about 100 miles; however the new Chevy Bolt can go up to 250 miles.

Mr. Shotwell asked why charging stations are affiliated with certain dealerships and why are they not universal. Mr. Osborne said because for instance, it is part of the purchase price of the vehicle for Tesla and using their charging station is free. Mr. Grant said he is hearing at AAA from the insurance groups that there are more deer crashes because the electric vehicles do not emit as much noise.

## **7. Air Quality Partnership (AQP) of Delaware Update**

**7:30 PM**

Ms. Novakoff provided an Air Quality Partnership (AQP) of Delaware update. She said AQP is a public/private partnership working to educate Delawareans about air quality. Air Quality Awareness Week is celebrated from April 30 through May 4, 2018, and several events are planned. The week will kick-off at the Wilmington Earth Day event on April 20, 2018. The AQP will announce "Try It Day Delaware!" It is an online media campaign that encourages people to try a clean mode of travel (carpool, bike, transit, or walk), hashtag a "selfie," and post the selfie to social media that will be entered in raffle for a \$25 gift card from RideShare Delaware.

County Executive Matthew Meyer will talk on behalf of the hash-tag campaign. The two Elbert-Palmer Elementary School fifth graders, who are AQP poster contest winners, will be recognized by Senator Carper, and a proclamation will be read by Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki. Air quality-friendly business awards are also being presented. Ms. Novakoff showed a video of Tropo promoting the various air quality awareness activities.

**8. Other Business**

**7:50 PM**

Mr. Janney said on March 15, 2018, he spoke at a Town Hall meeting for Southern New Castle County and discussed how to protect and develop farmland. He also focused on how to get in touch with people to tell them about what WILMAPCO does. He also referred to a flyer that includes statistics regarding New Castle County Historic Success Making Communities Safer. The back of the flyer includes statistics on 12-month achievements in transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness.

**8. Adjournment**

**8:00 PM**