

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WILMAPCO Conference Room, October 15, 2018

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Dave Carter, Southern New Castle County
Bill Dunn, Civic League for New Castle County
Tom Fruehstorfer, City of Newark
Ken Grant, AAA
Bill Osborne, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Tom Posatko, Delmarva Rail Passenger Association
Gail Seitz, City of New Castle
Barry Shotwell, 7/40 Alliance (Vice Chair)
Vic Singer, Civic League for New Castle County
Dave Tancredi, Milltown-Limestone Civic Alliance
Antonio Valenzuela, City of Wilmington (Chair)

Absent:

Mark Blake, GHADA
Carlos de los Ramos, AARP
Pat Folk, Cecil County
Mario Gangemi, Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Bill Lower, Committee of 100
Dick Janney, Southern New Castle County
Glenn Pusey, Bear Glasgow Council
Givel Marrero, Delaware Hispanic Commission
Eugene Truono, Centreville Civic Association

Staff Members:

Randi Novakoff, Outreach Manager
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Guests:

Nate Attard, DeIDOT
John Flaherty, Citizen
Jay Gerner, DeIDOT
D. Marque Hall, Citizen
Allysha Lorber, JMT
Douglas Simmons, JMT

Minutes prepared by Janet Butler from recording.

Antonio Valenzuela, PAC Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:30 PM

Approval of Meeting Minutes

6:32 PM

Corrections to the August 13, 2108 PAC Minutes:

- 1) Page 1: Javier Torrijos should be listed as “present.”
- 2) Page 5: Correct the spelling to “Osborne” not Osborn.
- 3) Page 5: Change sentence to read “which now has been approved.”
- 4) Page 4, 5th paragraph, delete: “He concluded that” at the beginning of the sentence.
- 5) Page 7: Delete “daily”
- 6) Page 5: Mr. D. Marque Hall referred to the sentence that said “He is aware that a new hub is being planned, but he wants to make sure it is welcoming for everyone.” Mr. Hall said the fact that Rodney Square needs to be restored has nothing to do with the “new hub.” Therefore, the minutes need to reflect that the new hub also needs to be changed and welcoming to all people. Ms. Zegeye said that staff would need to verify what was said during the meeting. Ms. Novakoff said she will go back to the tape to verify what was said.

ACTION: On motion by Bill Osborne, seconded by Dave Carter the PAC approved the August 13, 2018 meeting minutes with corrections as stated above, contingent on reviewing the tape recording of what was actually said.

Motion passed

(10/15/18-01)

2. Public Comment:

6:35 PM

Mr. John Flaherty said we were in the process of collecting petitions regarding restoring bus service at Rodney Square. He read a letter regarding the disruption that the removal of the transit hub at Rodney Square has caused. The letter expresses that bus riders have been blamed for many things including crimes and other problems at Rodney Square that have nothing to do with people trying to get where they want to go. At the December PAC meeting he would like to submit the petitions to the PAC.

Bill Dunn said he attended a DeIDOT meeting on a new bridge on Harmony Road that will be shut down for three months. DeIDOT discussed alternatives to deal with the traffic load, to take traffic through Tangelwood Road to Route 4. He said DeIDOT is interested in coming up with an alternative route through the neighborhood for transferring traffic to Kirkwood Highway. The proposal is to replace the bridge decking, 3-million dollar project. He said there is plenty of room for water flow under the bridge. His concern is that eventually Harmony Road will have some level of expansion made to it. He said the pilings can support additional lanes, perhaps even two lanes in both directions. Since this change would come up in six to eight years, it doesn't seem fiscally responsible to replace the bridge decking.

Mr. Dunn said DeIDOT changed the configuration of Albertson Boulevard and Kirkwood Highway. Now the only way to make a right turn is a green arrow because of a significant number of traffic accidents from people leaving the Sears parking area. He looked at a map on google, and there is plenty of area where it could be reconfigured so right turns could continue. This could be done by moving the police access to their property, so that traffic could continue to flow. There have been about 40 comments regarding this configuration. He asked does WILMAPCO have anything to do with this project. Ms. Zegeye said she will check to see if it is a bridge or a safety project, and she

mentioned that those types of projects usually go to the design and construction phases a lot faster than non-safety projects.

Mr. D. Marque Hall thanked WILMAPCO, the Council, and the State of Delaware for allowing him to speak about the bus hub issues. He said he rides the bus and knows what it is like not to be able to get where he needs to go. The bus riders don't deserve to be treated as criminals. He said he wanted to make a statement about inclusion of all people. During the Mayor's Love Event in Wilmington, which was held to celebrate diversity and inclusion, he was handcuffed and injured. He is a boxer and was supposed to fight in a national boxing championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but his injury prevented him from being there.

Mr. D. Marque Hall said Bus 28, which goes to A.I. Dupont Hospital, should not be removed from Rodney Square. Mr. Carter said he can look at ridership data to see who is and is not being served through the Transportation Justice analyses to help to answer this question.

Vic Singer asked that WILMAPCO ask DTC what their plans are regarding the new transit hub. He wants to know the status of the southern bus shelter that would take over some of the function of Rodney Square bus hub. Is the funding secure, are the plans approved, was the construction started, and what is the expected completion date. Ms. Novakoff said that WILMAPCO staff would follow-up.

3. Executive Director's Report:

6:40 PM

Ms. Zegeye reported that the WILMAPCO Council met on September 13, 2018, and amended the FY 2019 UPWP with Carryover Tasks and UPWP Member Agency Tasks. They also amended the FY 2019 -2022 TIP, New Castle County/DE Statewide Elements and approved the Proposed Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Reappointments. In addition, staff presentations included the WILMAPCO Interregional Report and 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Ms. Zegeye shared the following public outreach information:

- Staff will attend the Newark Sustainability Plan meeting on October 16, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (flyers were distributed)
- Staff attended the Wilmington Climate Resilience Plan meeting
- Staff attended "A Better Plan Maryland" state development meeting
- Staff attended the Jack Markell trail ribbon cutting event.
- Staff and DeIDOT held a joint TIP/CTP Public Workshop at the Newark Library
- Staff attended the Cecil County CTP tour meeting
- Staff exhibited at Elkton Fall Fest and Newark Community Day in September
- Staff presented the Elkton Pedestrian Plan to the Elkton Chamber Alliance
- Staff attended the New Castle County Level of Service (LOS) Forum
- The Route 9 Master Plan Steering Committee meeting will be held on October 16, 2018
- Staff will participate in the Northeast Brandywine Riverfront Brownfields Area-wide Plan public open house on October 16, 2018 at the Achievement Center (flyers were distributed)
- The Kirkwood Pedestrian Improvement Workshop will be held on October 16, 2018 from 4 to 7:00 p.m. at Mill Creek Fire Hall. (public notices were distributed)

- The Southern New Castle County (SNCC) Information Session will be held on October 17, 2018 from 4-7 p.m. at Odessa Fire Hall. (flyers were distributed)
- The Delaware American Planning Association (APA) Conference will be held from October 23 – 24, 2018 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware
- WILMAPCO's Virtual 2050 RTP Update Workshops will be held on November 2, 2018
- The Federal Certification Review of WILMAPCO's planning process by FHWA and FTA is completed every four years, which will be held from November 7 to November 8, 2018. The public meeting will be held at WILMAPCO on November 7, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (flyers were distributed)
- Staff has been working on the New Castle County Bike Plan.
- Staff has been working on the Route 202 Corridor Master Plan. A Visioning Session will be held on November 14, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. PAC Chair Nominating Committee Appointment

Mr. Valenzuela asked for volunteers to serve on the Chair Nominating Committee. The committee will consist of Mr. Carter, who will serve as Chair, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Fruehstorfer. The Nominating Committee will report on the nominations for PAC Chair and Vice Chair at the next PAC meeting.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5. DeIDOT Long Range Transportation Plan

7:00 PM

Mr. Jay Gerner, DeIDOT, said the Long-Range Transportation Plan is updated every five years and it is a policy-based plan. He introduced Ms. Allysha Lorber, JMT, who presented the update. She said the plan has a broad vision, which starts with where Delaware has been and includes innovations that DeIDOT has initiated. It also shows what DeIDOT is doing to help improve transportation in the state. Delaware has been ranked as one of the most bicycle-friendly states; however, Delaware has one of the highest pedestrian fatality rates in the nation. There is also a lot of freight that is helping to grow business; however, there are more trucks on through streets and more congestion.

Public outreach included meeting with different groups, including WILMAPCO. The public engagement program is different than our traditional program. DeIDOT exhibited at various public events and festivals and created a YouTube video featuring the Secretary of Transportation, Jennifer L. Cohan.

The broad goals, from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), are reflected in the ten Long-Range Plan goals, which include: 1) Economic Vitality; 2) Safety and Security; 3) Connectivity; 4) System Preservation; 5) Quality of Life; 6) System Management and Operations; 7) Resiliency and Reliability; 8) Environmental Stewardship; 9) Travel and Tourism; and 10) Customer Service and Communication.

The implementation plan contains challenges and constraints, efficiencies and innovations, assessments of needs; partnerships; strategies and action items; performance measures, baselines, and targets. This plan will be updated every year with

a status report, where DeIDOT can assess the targets and monitor what has been accomplished.

An implementation plan chapter has been created for each of the following eight elements: 1) Planning and Land Use; 2) Roads, Bridges, and other Assets; 3) Traffic Management; 4) Bicycle Transportation; 5) Pedestrian Transportation; 6) Freight Movement; 7) Aeronautics; and 8) Public Transit.

Next steps are to complete the stakeholder outreach in October 2018 and publish a draft for 30-day public comment. Based on a review of the comments, the plan will be refined and finalized in December 2018.

Mr. Carter said he is concerned about highlighting the first goal, and that DeIDOT should not be driving itself by economic development. Ms. Lorber said she agrees that safety is probably the number one goal. Bill Osborne said I would suggest that you make a note on your slide that the goals are not in rank order.

Dave Carter asked if there are criteria for ranking projects. Ms. Lorber said many of the policies in the plan regarding the goals have come from reaching out to the different divisions within DeIDOT.

Mr. Dunn asked if New Castle County Civic League and the civic umbrella organizations were spoken with. Ms. Lorber said no. Mr. Dunn said DeIDOT needs to speak to the civic league and umbrella organizations before releasing a draft plan. Ms. Lorber said DeIDOT has not completed public outreach yet. DeIDOT has been presenting information at various events and has used social media.

Mr. Singer added that nothing out ranks safety in transportation. Mr. Osborne said he agrees with Mr. Singer. He would also like to see more discussion on construction and infrastructure maintenance.

6. WILMAPCO Transportation Justice (TJ) Analysis Update

8:00 PM

Mr. Swiatek said WILMAPCO is updating the TJ Report; and he thanked PAC members, Dave Carter and Bill Dunn for serving on the Working Group. The TJ Update Report will include Environmental Justice (EJ), regarding fair treatment and meaningful involvement; TJ, historically an extension of EJ at WILMAPCO, includes needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and households without vehicles. The Update will also incorporate Title VI, regarding the Civil Rights Act, which defers to the FTA/FHWA interpretations of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income, and limited-English proficiency. In addition, what used to be known as TJ in this combined report is now referred to as “mobility challenged, or MC.” Instead, the overall effort -- encompassing mobility challenged populations (seniors, the disabled, and zero car households) environmental justice populations (low income and racial and ethnic minority) and the Title VI requirements – will be known as Transportation Justice, or TJ.

This TJ analysis is also more streamlined than the previous version, it will incorporate all the requirements, and it will be guided by a working group. The new analysis will also be focused on multimodal connectivity, accessibility, and public engagement.

The report includes an Executive Summary; Background; Part 1: Environmental Justice and Part 2: Mobility Challenged; as well as a Summary of Recommendations. Some of the data that was reviewed is from the WILMAPCO Public Opinion Survey, which is conducted each year with New Castle and Cecil Counties, and includes a sample of 600 residents that are reflective of the population, has stronger demographic quotas, and includes opinions on the regional transportation systems and policies. This survey was revamped for the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update.

Survey participants were asked about whether or not transportation sometimes keeps them from their daily activities. Some of results included that 47% of respondents saying “yes” lived in households which earned under \$25 K, 20% earned \$25K to \$50 K, 18% earned \$50 to \$100K, and 9% earn more than \$100 K.

The Spatial Analyses includes using the new EJ and MC area definitions and using the latest available data from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS).

The planned multi-modal connectivity analysis includes accessing low-wage employment, grocery stores, libraries, hospitals, senior centers from EJ areas; food deserts, bus connectivity to supermarkets, location of efficiency of travel time, health impacts, TIP project equity, public bus affordability, crash rates, and Sea Level Rise (SLR) exposure. The report also incorporates the Age Restricted Community Connections Analysis (ARCCA) public transit and pedestrian analyses.

There will be recommendations regarding improving inclusivity in our planning outreach. This will include enhanced analyses depicting where limited English proficient populations, and low literate populations reside, so as to better inform outreach methods when working within those communities.

The timeline for the new TJ report is to complete the analyses by spring 2019, and produce a draft by summer 2019. This report will follow the WILMAPCO 2050 RTP Update release. Staff also expects Council to endorse the report in November 2019.

7. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Public Outreach

7:40 PM

Ms. Novakoff said WILMAPCO staff is taking a different approach to public outreach for the 2050 RTP, which includes both technological and non-technological methods. WILMAPCO typically makes presentations to all the municipal and civic organizations (30-40), conducts a telephone public opinion survey, hosts an “Our Town” event, and partners with New Castle and Cecil Counties, DeIDOT, and MDOT. WILMAPCO also exhibits at public events such as Newark Community Day, Elkton Fall Festival, and senior events. We publicize the RTP in the WILMAPCO Transporter newsletter, E-news, advertise on the radio, and send press releases to the local media.

WILMAPCO has applied for funding from an FHWA program to conduct innovative RTP public outreach. A Request for Proposal (RFP) went out and WILMAPCO received six proposals back. WILMAPCO hired four consultants, which include: 1) Remline, to design the RTP itself, 2) Public Engagement Associates, to help design a popup workshop; 3) JMT to help with Virtual Workshops; and 4) Metroquest, to create a highly interactive online survey. In addition, staff developed an extensive social media campaign with the help of Sharp and Company.

The Metroquest survey home page includes a blurb about the RTP, and adds bubbles with facts and information about what the region is like, and what the RTP does and how it prioritizes projects. The first screen includes the three goals of the RTP and the objectives. People can rank the importance of each of these. It also shows funding priorities, and it is highly interactive where people can put coins in different project categories. At the end, zip codes are requested, and this helps to tie all the data together.

Pop-up events will be targeted to areas where WILMAPCO has not gotten feedback or Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Justice (TJ) neighborhoods. The popup will be a live version of the Metroquest Survey. WILMAPCO will feature poster boards, where participants can put a dot where they live, and stickers that represent different modes of transportation and types of projects. For budgeting feedback, poker chips will be available to put in a jar, and a final postal board with sticky notes will be available for comments.

Flyers will also be distributed through e-mail and on social media. In addition, staff expects to get a lot of people interested in the WILMAPCO 2050 RTP Update during the virtual workshops on November 2, 2018. Staff has created a white board exercise for the virtual workshop, where people will have a map to draw on and give additional feedback. Afterwards, there will be a live Q & A. The workshop will be translated into Spanish, if needed.

A pilot pop-up event will be held at the Wilmington Train Station on October 24, 2018. Ms. Novakoff asked PAC for suggestions for pop-up locations: Mr. Carter suggested the Sausage House in Southern New Castle County.

Ms. Novakoff said the public comment period will run from mid-January, through early March, 2019. Staff is expecting that Council will adopt the 2050 RTP Update in mid-March, 2019.

7. Other Business

7:50 PM

None.

8. Adjournment

8:00 PM