

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WILMAPCO Conference Room, December 17, 2018

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Mark Blake, GHADA
Dave Carter, SNCC
Pat Folk, Cecil County
Tom Fruehstorfer, City of Newark
Mario Gangemi, Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Ken Grant, AAA
Dick Janney, Southern New Castle County
Bill Osborne, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Tom Posatko, Delmarva Rail Passenger Association
Glenn Pusey, Bear Glasgow Council
Barry Shotwell, 7/40 Alliance (Vice Chair)
Vic Singer, Civic League for New Castle County
Eugene Truono, Centreville Civic Association

Absent:

Carlos de los Ramos, AARP
Bill Dunn, Civic League for New Castle County
Bill Lower, Committee of 100
Givvel Marrero, Delaware Hispanic Commission
Gail Seitz, City of New Castle
Dave Tancredi, Milltown-Limestone Civic Alliance
Antonio Valenzuela, City of Wilmington (Chair)

Staff Members:

Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Randi Novakoff, Outreach Manager
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Guests:

Ricardo Ardila, Citizen
Kevin Caneco, SNCC
D. Dwight Walters, DSCC

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

A correction will be made to the October 15, 2108 PAC minutes on Page 2, in the second paragraph under Public Comments that Tanglewood Road should say Harmony Road through Tanglewood.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Osborne, seconded by Mr. Carter the PAC approved the October 15, 2018 meeting minutes with correction.

Motion passed

(12/17/18-01)

2. Public Comment:

6:35 PM

None.

3. Executive Director’s Report:

6:40 PM

Ms. Zegeye reported that the WILMAPCO Council met on November 8, 2018, and adopted the WILMAPCO Performance Measures for Cecil County and New Castle County; amended the FY2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding for the SR-7 Median Barrier Replacement project; the SR 141 Improvements, I-95 Interchange to Jay Drive; and the Claymont Train Station project. Presentations included the DelDOT Long Range Transportation Plan; Maryland Transportation Plan; and the WILMAPCO 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

Ms. Zegeye shared the following public outreach information:

- Staff supported and attended the American Planning Association (APA) Delaware Conference in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, in late October 2018.
- WILMAPCO’s Certification Review by FHWA and FTA was completed on November 7 and 8, 2018. Ms. Zegeye thanked PAC members who spoke with the federal officials.
- On November 13, 2018, staff attended the Memorial Drive Road Diet Public Workshop, and 40 people attended.
- Also on November 13, 2018, staff attended the Newark Area Transit Study Public Workshop, and 15 people attended.
- On November 14, 2018, staff held a Concord Pike Visioning Workshop, and 100 people attended.
- On November 19, 2018, staff attended the Wilmington Transit Center ground breaking ceremony.
- On November 28, 2018, staff hosted the Delaware Clean Cities Coalition meeting.
- The WILMAPCO Office moved on November 30, 2018, to the UD STAR Campus after being at the 850 Library Avenue, Newark location for 22 years.
- Staff attended the Transportation Justice (TJ) Working Group on December 6, 2018.
- The Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2019.
- The Maryland MPO Roundtable Conference Call will be held on January 18, 2019.
- The Pedestrian Council meeting will be held on January 22, 2019, in Dover.
- A coordination meeting with DVRPC, Penn DOT, and DelDOT to discuss East Coast Greenway implementation at the DE/PA line will be held on January 22.

- WILMAPCO's Bi-annual "Our Town" event will be held on February 7, 2019, at the STAR Campus (first floor) Atrium, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (A flyer was distributed).
- Staff is continuing to hold public outreach meetings and provide presentations on the 2050 RTP to Council members, municipalities, and civic groups. If you would like a staff member to present the 2050 RTP to your organization, please let Ms. Randi Novakoff, Ms. Janet Butler, or Ms. Tigist Zegeye know as soon as possible.
- Ms. Zegeye presented the following status of information requested at the previous PAC meeting:
 - 1) Mr. Dunn wanted to know if the Albertson Blvd. and Kirkwood Highway project was associated with WILMAPCO. This project was recommended through DeIDOT's Safety Program. WILMAPCO is a member of the safety program; however, not involved in the public outreach. DeIDOT had two public workshops.
 - 2) Mr. D. Marque Hall asked about the Number 28 bus and why it was being removed from Rodney Square. Mr. Sisson will hold a meeting directly with Mr. Hall to discuss the Number 28 bus and how the route has changed.
 - 3) Mr. Singer asked for more details regarding the new Wilmington Transit Center. The ground breaking ceremony for the Wilmington Transit Center was held on November 19, 2018. The Transit Center is a \$10 million project, being constructed as part of a public-private partnership. They are using 100% state and private funds. DTC expects the transit center to be completed in December, 2019.

Eugene Truono asked what will happen with Rodney Square. Ms. Zegeye said Rodney Square will continue to be a transit stop, but it will not serve as a bus hub. Ms. Zegeye said she would ask a DTC representative to contact him to answer more of his questions.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. PAC Chair Nomination

Mr. Carter, PAC Nominating Chair, reported the committee nominated Mr. Thomas Fruehstorfer to serve as PAC Chair and Mr. Mark Blake to serve as PAC Vice Chair.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Gangemi, seconded by Mr. Grant Mr. Fruehstorfer will serve as PAC Chair, and Mr. Blake will serve as PAC Vice Chair.

Motion passed

(12/17/18-02)

5. Recommend Release of the Draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Public Comment

Ms. Novakoff said the first step in the public outreach process was to develop the 2050 Public Outreach Goals, which are 1) Test public support for RTP objectives to gain greater understanding of any needed changes to the objectives. 2) Develop a better understanding of which types of projects are most desired. 3) Develop a better

understanding of preferred public outreach methodologies. 4) Educate people on the current state of transportation.

WILMAPCO typically conducts the Public Opinion Survey with New Castle County and Cecil County residents. Presentations are usually made to 30 municipal and civic organizations, member agency briefings are held, and newsletter articles, press releases, and radio interviews are completed. For the 2050 RTP, new strategies were used that include a Metroquest Survey, Virtual Workshops, Popup Events, Social Media, the WILMAPCO "Our Town" event (February 2019). Ms. Novakoff encouraged PAC members to take the Metroquest Survey.

Ms. Novakoff added Metroquest has attracted 470 participants and 353 comments. Some of the demographics include that 271 participants use a car as their primary mode of transportation; 256 are white, 23 are black, 20 are other, 4 are Asian, and 2 are Hispanic. Ages range from, the most (66) are age 45-54, and the least (16) are between 18-24 years old.

The first Virtual Workshop was held on Friday, November 2, 2018, from Noon -1:00 p.m., where 125 people were registered and 75 people attended. The agenda included an overview of the RTP, polling questions, white board activities, and question and answer sessions.

The Virtual Workshop poll results revealed that 63% viewed the workshop from work and 26% viewed the workshop from home; 30% were government employees (18% general public/18% other); and 74% drive alone. The most importation objectives are that 54% would like developing effective transportation networks, 37% would like providing accessibility and connectivity, and 34% would like ensuring transportation choice and equity.

The following popup events were conducted in 2018: Wilmington Train Station (October); Delaware Decision makers Forum (November); and Christiana Mall (December). Upcoming events are scheduled at the Perryville Train Station and the Wilmington Public Library. In addition, staff is working to schedule YMCA's/community centers and grocery stores. Results from popup funding priorities include Transit (84); System Maintenance (84); Congestion (62); Roadway (34); Pedestrian (32); and Bicycle (24).

Some of the comments from popup events include the need for better sidewalks, better maintenance such as potholes on roadways; lessen I-95 congestion, better communications about Wilmington destinations, and more investment in the overall transportation system; and more money spent on transportation than on food. Additional requests are to improve bus service, for instance bus numbers 13/15 take too long; bus numbers 1, 13, 5, and 25 are not stopping for riders, there needs to be better handicapped accessibility and better lighting at stops. In addition, trains need to be more frequent, on-time, and provide more service, and the Elkton Train Station needs to be reopened.

The Virtual Workshop received 155 event responses on Facebook, 900 people saw the advertisement, and 49 individuals were liked, commented, or shared the advertisement. Metroquest had 791 survey clicks, 386 total surveys were completed, 49% was the completion rate, and the total number of people reached was 30,910. In addition, the

proposed public comment period will be from January 14 through March 6, 2019, with the expected Council adoption date of March 14, 2019. Additional comments will be tabulated and there are a few more months left of public outreach.

Mr. Osborne said he would like a fare box discussion held to educate people about how much service costs. Ms. Dunigan suggested asking the University of Delaware officials to speak about the fare boxes at the WILMAPCO “Our Town” event in February.

Mr. Carter said perhaps some popups could be done in Southern New Castle County, such as at the Metro Diner on Route 301 and at the Appoquinimink Library. He said he could participate at that library. Another suggestion was to try the Hockessin Acme. Ms. Novakoff explained that staff has not had much luck with grocery stores, but staff would look into them.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Shotwell the PAC recommended approval of the public outreach portion of the draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to release for public comment.

Motion passed

(12/17/18-03)

6. Recommend Release of the Draft FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Public Comment

Ms. Dunigan reviewed the draft FY 2020-2023 TIP project spreadsheet. New proposed projects include:

- Glasgow Avenue project that helps implement the WILMAPCO Glasgow Avenue Corridor Plan improvements.
- Southbridge Transportation Network project that will build on the Garasches Lane project.
- SR2 / Harmony Road Intersection project that will improve safety and efficiency in that location.
- SR 7 Median Barrier Replacement that is a preservation project.
- SR896: US 40 – I-95 Widening project that will address congestion and safety issues, and will include bicycle and pedestrian connections.
- Tyler McConnell Bridge, SR 141: Montchanin Road – Alapocas Road project that is a bridge replacement project.
- US 40 / SR 7 Intersection project that was identified through the Highway Safety Improvement Program.
- I-95 / Belvidere Road Interchange, a new interchange for economic development in Cecil County, funding in part by a BUILD grant.

The public comment period will be held from January 14 through March 6, 2019. The draft TIP Quick Guide was reviewed and Ms. Dunigan noted that the maps will be updated to include the new projects.

Mr. Singer asked where on the list is the project for replacing the exit for I-95 southbound to Route 273 westbound. Ms. Dunigan said she is not aware of that project, but she would check with DeIDOT.

Mr. Osborne asked why funding decreased for Rehabilitation of I-95 from I-495 to North of Brandywine River Bridge and US 301 projects. Ms. Dunigan responded that the funding decrease was relatively small as a percentage of the total cost and likely reflected project bids coming in lower than expected.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Osborne the PAC recommended release of the FY 2020-2023 TIP for public comment.

Motion passed

(12/17/18-04)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. New Castle County Bicycle Plan

7:00 PM

Ms. Dunigan said the New Castle County Bicycle Plan builds upon past planning, which includes the Blueprint for Bicycle-Friendly Delaware, the 2005 Delaware Bicycle Facility Master Plan, the First State Trails and Pathways Plan, the Future Trails and Pathways in Northern Delaware Coalition, and local and corridor plans. Planning is collaborating with local/county government and bicycle/trail stakeholders on better safety, access, and comfort, as well as prioritization of improvements, programs, and policies for education, enforcement, and encouragement.

The New Castle County Bicycle Plan's vision is that everyone in Delaware has front-door access to a bicycle network that is safe, comfortable, and conveniently connected to places people want to go. It also includes a seamlessly integrated transportation and land use decision-making process, with many partners working together, while it encourages a culture where people choose bicycling in their daily lives for transportation, recreation, and improved health.

The plan's objectives include 1) Identify a bicycle transportation network; 2) Provide equitable bicycle access including to transit; 3) Encourage bicycle parking and other end-of-trip facilities; 4) Improve safety through design, maintenance, and enforcement; 5) Incorporate bicycle elements into land use planning; and 6) Develop an implementation and evaluation plan.

Public outreach has included the following events: Townsend - June 6; Delaware Bicycle Council – October 3; Southern New Castle County - October 17; CCOBH Halloween – October 20; Brandywine 100 – December 11; Elsmere – December 13; and additional communities will be decided.

Public workshop surveys utilized sticky notes for participants to write comments. For example, the following questions/statements were included: I would bike more if; my favorite place to ride is; and the most difficult place to bike is. The Bicycle Facility Toolbox section also asked participants to use stickers to note what types of bikeways they prefer such as a shared lane, a conventional bike lane, a buffered bike lane, a cycle track/protected lane, or a pathway/trail.

An online survey will ask participants to share their ideas for improving bicycling, and suggested bicycling and pathway projects and priorities. The online survey will ask what types of bikeways participants preferred. In addition, the online survey will include an interactive map, allowing participants to drag and drop markers on the map for preferred destinations, challenges, favorite places, project ideas, or other comments.

Next steps for the plan include continuing the technical analysis and outreach, refining recommendations, and prioritizing recommendations.

Mr. Singer asked if there is a significant fraction of transportation that is reflected by bicycle transportation, and if the funding for bicycling facilities contribute a good portion of funds. Ms. Dunigan said we do not have a quota for any of the categories of projects, but the transportation agencies do believe that the equity and affordable transportation benefits are important. Bike/Ped projects are generally only about 2% of the TIP budget, however most roadway projects include bicycle route improvements, if feasible.

Mr. Singer also asked if DeIDOT is recording data on the numbers of people who are walking and biking. Ms. Dunigan said yes, trail counters are now included in pathway projects. Mr. Carter said we need to change the code to keep roads bicycle friendly, and he would appreciate any feedback on that as data becomes available.

8. Other Business

7:50 PM

None.

9. Adjournment

8:00 PM