



WILMAPCO's Guide to Transportation Planning



You can make a difference!



www.wilmapco.org

WILMAPCO
Wilmington Area Planning Council

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The preparation of this document was financed in part with funds provided by the Federal Government, including the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation.

About This Guide

This guide will help you to learn about transportation planning issues and how you can participate in the planning process.

In this guide, you will find information about:

- ◆ The basics of transportation planning
- ◆ Major planning issues in New Castle County, Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland
- ◆ Where you can access resources
- ◆ How you can get involved

Who is WILMAPCO?



The Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) is the transportation planning agency for the Cecil County, MD and New Castle County, DE region. As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), WILMAPCO is charged with planning and coordinating the many transportation investments proposed for this region.

WILMAPCO is dedicated to serving the residents of the region by carrying out a comprehensive and cooperative regional transportation planning process. To that end, WILMAPCO strives to inform and involve the public in all transportation planning decisions.

Who We Are

WILMAPCO Council

WILMAPCO's Council is composed of representatives of state and local governments, and public agencies responsible for transportation and land use policies. The Council consists of six Delaware and three Maryland members. They meet every other month to adopt transportation plans and studies, to set policy, and to approve funding for transportation projects in our region (New Castle County and Cecil County). These meetings are open to the public.

WILMAPCO's Council meets the second Thursday of every other month. Meetings are held at WILMAPCO's office at 6:30 p.m.

WILMAPCO Council includes:

- ~ Secretary, DE Department of Transportation
- ~ Director, Delaware Transit Corporation
- ~ MD and DE Governors' Appointees
- ~ MD and DE County Executives
- ~ NCC and CC Municipal Representatives
- ~ Mayor, City of Wilmington
- ~ Mayor, Town of Newport
- ~ Councilman, Chesapeake City

WILMAPCO Staff

The WILMAPCO staff provide technical support and expertise to the Council. Staff are responsible for producing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Staff monitor trends, educate the public on transportation issues, and strive to keep you involved and informed about projects and plans.

WILMAPCO's office hours are Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The PAC meets on the third Monday of every other month in the WILMAPCO offices at 6:30 p.m.

PAC

The Public Advisory Committee or PAC is an advisory committee to the Council. The PAC's mission is to advise the Council on public participation strategies and provide a forum for community concerns. The PAC is made up of representatives from civic umbrella organizations, business groups, public interest groups, environmental groups, transportation interest groups and agencies that represent diverse populations, including; minorities, elderly, disabled, and transit-dependent populations.

The PAC includes:

- ~ AARP Delaware
- ~ New Castle County Residents
- ~ Cecil County Residents
- ~ Municipal Representatives
- ~ Umbrella and Civic Organizations
- ~ Delaware Hispanic Commission
- ~ League of Women Voters
- ~ Chambers of Commerce
- ~ Elderly and Disabled
- ~ Rail Advocates
- ~ Committee of 100
- ~ Nature Conservancy

TAC

The Technical Advisory Committee or TAC is an advisory committee to the Council that represents federal, state, and local planning agencies in Delaware and Maryland. The TAC is responsible for overseeing the technical work of WILMAPCO staff and developing recommendations to Council on projects and programs.

The TAC meets on the third Thursday of every month in the WILMAPCO offices at 10:00 a.m.

The TAC Includes:

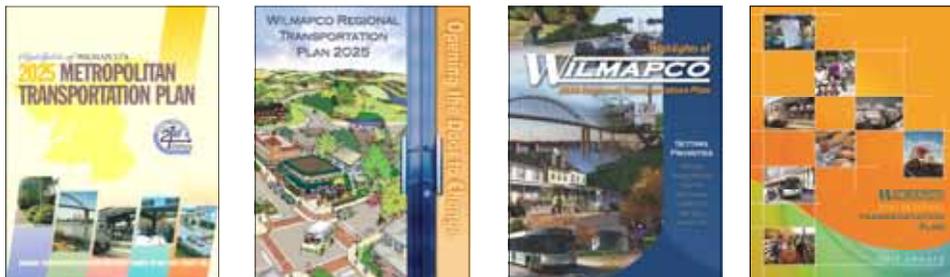
- ~ Transportation agencies (DeIDOT, MDOT, DTC, MSHA, Amtrak, MTA)
- ~ Environmental Agencies (DNREC, MD Dept. of the Environment)
- ~ Federal Agencies (EPA, FHWA, FTA)
- ~ State, County, and Municipal representatives (State Planning Coordination Office, DRBA, MD Dept. of Planning, New Castle, Cecil, Newark, Wilmington, and Elkton)

The Basics of Regional Transportation Planning

WILMAPCO is responsible for setting the direction in transportation planning. To help guide us, we produce three important documents: the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). All three documents are required by federal law and they provide numerous opportunities for public participation.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

The Regional Transportation Plan sets out a plan for our region spanning at least 20 years. It is updated every four years to incorporate new trends and demographic data. It lists the goals we will strive to achieve and the strategies we will use to accomplish them. Projects that are identified in this plan are then included in the TIP to be implemented.



The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

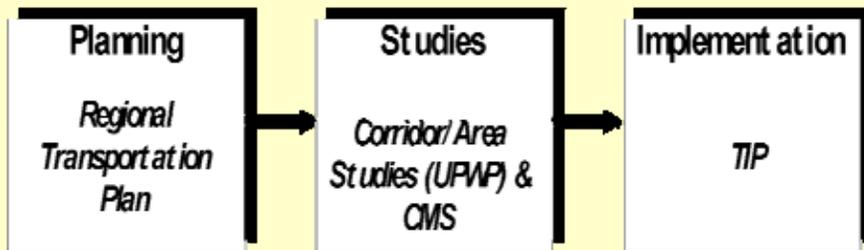
The Transportation Improvement Program is the document that details the funding for projects to be undertaken in the region for the next four years. It is updated every year, to add a fourth year's worth of projects, or to make adjustments to previously scheduled work. Comments are solicited at several key times during the process and then the final document is adopted by the WILMAPCO Council.

More information, including an interactive map of projects, can be found at www.wilmapco.org/tip.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Unified Planning Work Program is a one-year document (from July 1 to June 30) that specifies what planning activities WILMAPCO staff and member agencies will undertake in the coming year. It serves as a programmable budget and spells out the operating needs for WILMAPCO and its staff.

How Are These Documents Tied Together?



The RTP establishes regional transportation goals. Studies and initiatives at the regional and sub-regional level are pursued through the UPWP. Recommendations from these studies can then be included as part of the TIP for funding.

How You Fit into Transportation Planning

Your role in the process is very important. Without your input and ideas we cannot have a true understanding of the community's needs.

The transportation planning process is ongoing, there are several ways to make transportation planners aware of your needs and concerns, and help develop solutions. To make sure that you are following the latest developments, you can:



- ◆ Sign-up for WILMAPCO's mailing list to receive printed newsletters, E-news, updates, and other information from WILMAPCO.
- ◆ Follow us on Facebook
- ◆ Attend meetings of local transportation committees and speak during the public comment portion of meetings.
- ◆ Volunteer to serve on a public focus group or public advisory committees.
- ◆ Invite us to attend your rotary clubs, community meetings, civic or other organization meeting to talk about regional planning and local issues.

Most Importantly, Get Involved!



WILMAPCO Region in a Nutshell

Population (2014 Census)

Total Population: 655,161
Cecil: 102,383
New Castle: 552,778

Population Growth Trend
Cecil: 1,151 people/year
New Castle : 3,821 people/year

Our Region's Land Use (2010 Census)

Land Area
Cecil: 346 square miles
New Castle: 426 square miles

Density (people/square mile)
Cecil: 292
New Castle: 1,263

Urbanized Population
(2000 American Community Survey)
Cecil: 48% urban, 52% rural
New Castle: 94% urban, 6% rural

Transportation (2014 American Community Survey)

Work Commute Mode
81% Drive Alone
9% Carpool
2% Public Transit
2% Walk/Bike
5% Work at Home

Commute Time
14% Under 10 minutes
37% Ten to 29 minutes
34% Thirty to 59 minutes
10% Sixty minutes or more

Household's Vehicles
6% No vehicles
34% One vehicle
40% Two vehicles
20% Three vehicles

Regional Challenges

Projected population and employment growth, climate change, and funding shortfalls are major strains on the transportation system. More households and jobs are triggering additional vehicle and freight travel. Additionally, the doubling of our population over the age of 65 necessitates we rethink a transportation system designed with the younger generations in mind. Continued reliance on fossil fuels increases greenhouse gas emissions, which increases the impacts of global warming, especially sea level rise. Finally, locating funding to rebuild, redesign, and expand our transportation system is a chronic challenge that we explore in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Financing the transportation system:

Financing the transportation system remains a challenge. The problem stems from the primary source of transportation revenues, gasoline taxes. Following years of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and materials, and declines in per capita gas consumption, revenues are not keeping pace with needed improvements.

Working with DeIDOT and MDOT, we have developed funding forecasts for New Castle and Cecil Counties. New Castle County shows a declining percentage of funding available for capital projects, with average annual funding dropping by half between 2014 and 2040. Cecil County shows growth in capital funding availability during the late 2020s, doubling the average annual funding between 2025 and 2040.

Creating alternatives to the automobile:

In the past, transportation agencies concentrated on meeting the needs of automobile traffic, often neglecting the needs of those who walk, bike, and use public transportation. The focus of our transportation planning has been broadened to accommodate these modes. Fostering transportation choice is a priority for WILMAPCO.

Addressing Congestion:

Dispersed land use patterns, high rates of single occupancy trips, and high rate of automobile ownership all contribute to congestion. In our region, the continuing trend toward smaller household size means that more households are generating more trips from more locations.

Accommodating the needs of older and disabled residents:

Our senior and disabled communities must negotiate a transportation system designed to facilitate the movement of younger, non-disabled adults. The unfortunate result is high rates of isolation for older adults and disabled persons who do not drive. Projected increases in both populations compound the need to further address these issues.

Adapting to Climate Change

Situated on the low-lying Atlantic coastal plain, the WILMAPCO region is susceptible to rising seas as a result of climate change and geological shifts. Sea Level Rise (SLR) presents challenges to key facets of our transportation system, such as highways and rail lines. Adaptation planning is necessary to begin addressing impacts of SLR. Coordination at all levels of government, the public, and other private entities is essential to develop long-range response plans.



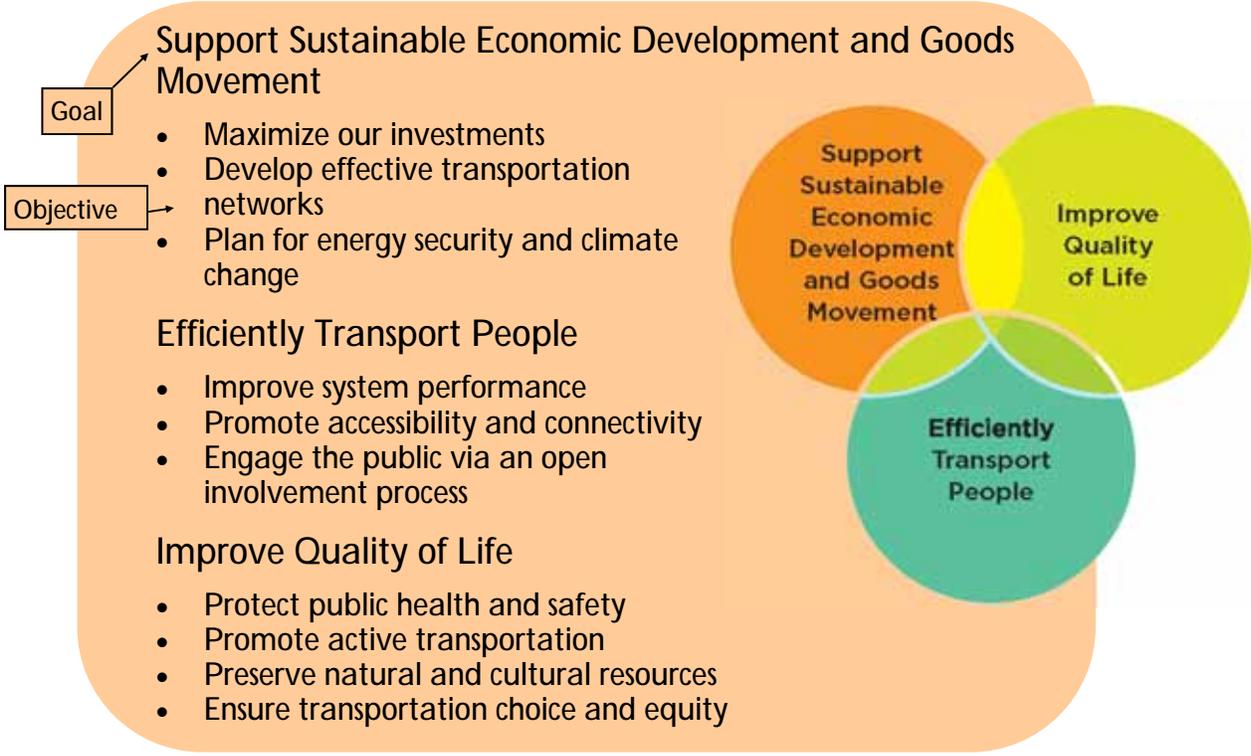
How do I raise awareness about transportation issues in my community?

- * Contact WILMAPCO
- * Teach children about the importance of these issues
- * Tell friends and family about upcoming meetings and urge them to attend
- * Bring issues up at homeowners' or neighborhood association meetings

The Regional Transportation Plan

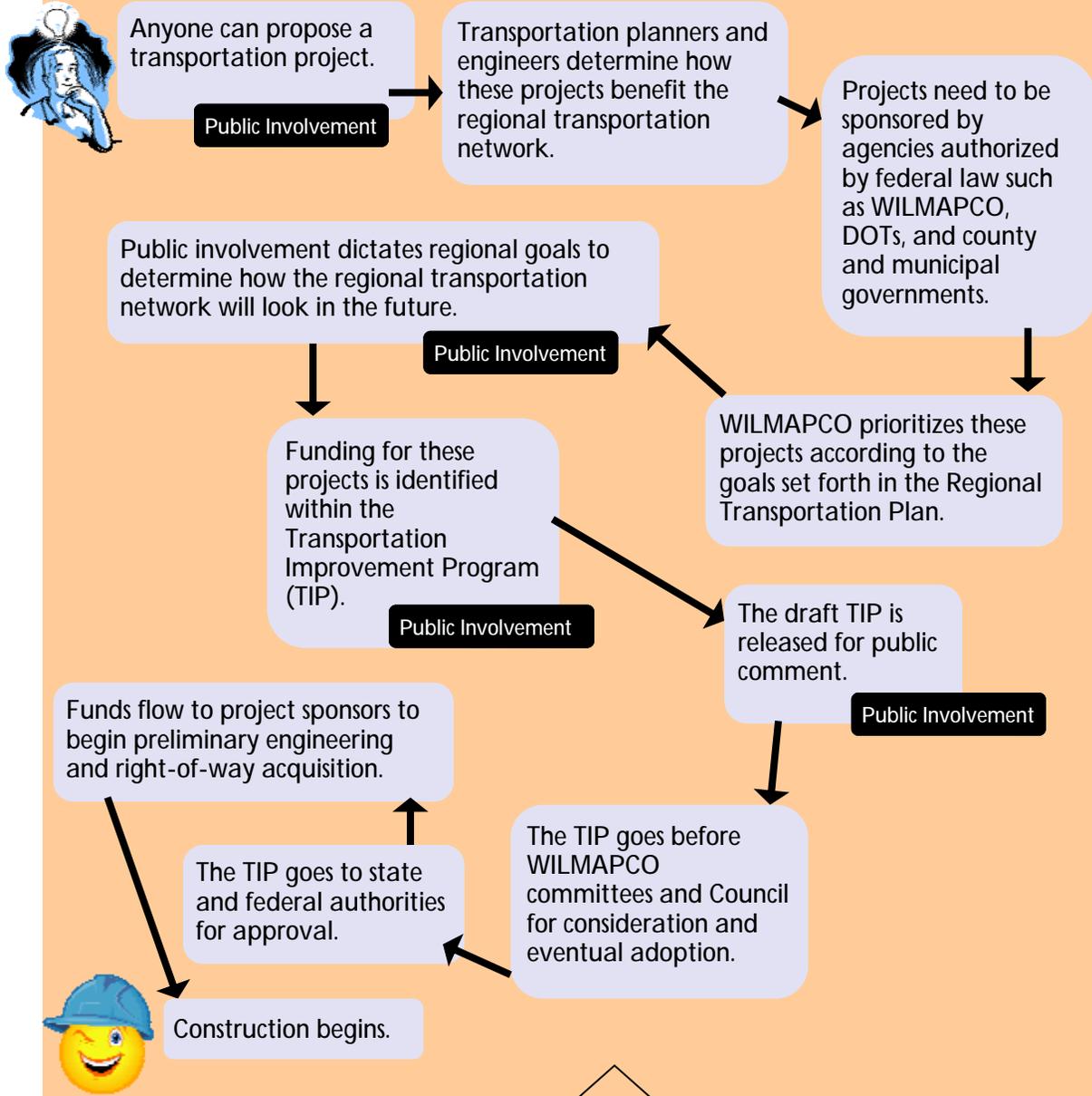
Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives have been developed to ensure that transportation plans achieve a vision for the future. These goals are considered whenever a project is brought before WILMAPCO's Council for approval. There are actions under each objective, along with performance measures.



The centerpiece of the Regional Transportation Plan is the Transportation Investment Areas (TIAs). TIA's direct transportation investment to areas with the most densely populated communities. This provides the most services for the most people.

How an Idea Becomes a Transportation Project



Tools to Help you

In order for you to be involved, you must know what is going on. We do our best to provide you with different ways to learn about upcoming opportunities to participate. Here are just a few tools to help you.

Website

Our website is updated regularly and provides extensive information on all of our projects, plans, and reports. We post upcoming opportunities for participation and we even have interactive maps where you can view information about planned projects. You can also sign up for our newsletters on our website.



Presentations

WILMAPCO is available to speak to your civic organization, community group, local business, or other meeting. We offer presentations on our general purpose or more specific topics like air quality, walkability, or suggestions for better land use practices. We also host "Our Town" events to educate you about transportation issues locally and around the U.S.

Newsletter and E-news

By signing up to be on our mailing lists, you can receive our quarterly printed newsletter, "The Transporter." The Transporter will make you more aware of what is happening at WILMAPCO including opportunities for involvement. If you would like to learn about our most up-to-date events, you can also subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, on the homepage of our website.

Data Resources

WILMAPCO regularly analyzes demographic information and creates maps that provide local transportation and land use information. We can create spreadsheets, forecasts, maps, and reports that can be helpful for your public meetings, workshops, working group discussions, or community meetings.



Reports and Plans

WILMAPCO's planning documents are designed to be user-friendly and provide details on current and long-range projects. We update these documents frequently and always strive to include public input where appropriate. Copies of our RTP, TIP, UPWP or any of our other studies are available at our office and on our website.



transportation system. We strive to make sure these populations do not bear a greater portion of negative impacts, as has traditionally been the case.

Safe Routes to School Program

Safe Routes to School is a national program that seeks to emphasize safety, health, community, and choice by encouraging elementary and middle school children to walk and bike to school. The program includes funding for infrastructure improvements and education.

Congestion Management

This annual report defines the most congested areas in our region. It provides a variety of strategies, specific to each area, that can be used to improve roadway conditions. The report encourages land use, transit, and multi-modal alternatives to be considered, before a roadway is expanded.

Community Planning

WILMAPCO works alongside local governments, civic leaders, residents, and businesspeople on community (or sub-regional) plans. While not required by federal mandate, these local plans help us to realize RTP objectives within communities, and provide us with a deeper understanding of our region's transportation needs.

Environmental and Transportation Justice

These documents outline how we monitor projects in minority, low-income, senior, disabled, and zero-car households to ensure they are receiving equal and adequate benefits from our



Get Involved!

Transportation planning involves many levels of government and results in many different planning products.

You have the opportunity to influence plans, studies and other documents that guide planning and decision making.

You can make a difference!

You can also impact local and state elected officials, and professional staff who law designates control of planning and funding. You can and do affect the outcomes.



*“To accomplish
great things, we
must not
only act, but also
dream; not only
plan, but also
believe.”
-Anatole France*



Want to find out more about planning?



Check out these resources for more information about planning concepts, principles, and practices.

The American Planning Association

www.planning.org

"APA is a nonprofit public interest organization committed to planning. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society."

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

www.ampo.org

"AMPO is a nonprofit organization that serves the needs and interests of MPOs nationwide. AMPO offers its member MPOs technical assistance and training, conferences and workshops, print and electronic communications, research, a forum for transportation policy development and coalition building, and a variety of other services."

Federal Highway Administration

www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning

"The Federal Highway Administration serves as advocate and national leader for environmental protection and enhancement, comprehensive intermodal and multi-modal transportation planning, and for fair and prudent acquisition and management of real property."

Federal Transit Administration

www.transit.dot.gov

"The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries. FTA also oversees safety measures and helps develop next-generation technology research."

Glossary

Complete Streets. Streets that provide for safe, convenient, efficient, and accessible use by pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, transit vehicles and motor vehicles.

Capital Transportation Program (Delaware). A 6-year document that lists all the projects Delaware DOT plans to undertake. It also identifies funding sources and schedules.

Congestion Management System (CMS). Systematic process for managing congestion. Provides information on transportation system performance and finds alternative ways to alleviate congestion and enhance the mobility of people and goods, to levels that meet state and local needs.

Consolidated Transportation Program (Maryland). A 6 year document that lists all the projects Maryland DOT plans to undertake. Also identifies funding sources.

Environmental Justice (EJ). Identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of transportation programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that administers the Federal-Aid Highway Program, principally providing financial assistance and technical and programmatic support to states to construct and improve highways, urban and rural roads, and bridges.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that provides financial and other resources to transit agencies (i.e., known as transit providers) in developing and improving public transportation equipment, facilities, services, techniques, and methods.

Fiscal Constraint. Making sure that a given investment program or a specific project can reasonably expect to receive funding within the time allotted for its implementation.

Glossary

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). A transportation program that identifies the highest ranking accident locations or corridors in each state and provides solutions to improve conditions.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). The application of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency and safety of roads and transit services.

Level of Service (LOS). A measurement of congestion on a road or intersection based on traffic volumes, capacity, average speed and delay. LOS ratings are usually assigned letter grades from A – F.

Long-Range Transportation Plan (RTP). A multi-year transportation plan developed by state DOTs and MPOs in collaboration with a range of stakeholders that defines a vision for the region's or state's transportation systems and services. For metropolitan areas, it includes all transportation improvements proposed for funding during the next 20 years.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). A regional agency serving urbanized areas with populations over 50,000. Responsible in cooperation with the state and other transportation providers for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The official intermodal transportation plan that is developed and adopted through the metropolitan transportation planning process for the metropolitan planning area.

Public Participation. The active and meaningful involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and programs.

Right of Way (ROW). An area reserved for future transportation facilities, or the legal right to gain access to ensure the operation of the transportation system.

Glossary

Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Empowers communities and makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). A multi-year, statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects, consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning processes as well as metropolitan plans, TIPs, and processes.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trail program projects, and safe routes to school projects.

Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ). An area designation used by state and local transportation officials for tabulating traffic-related data, especially journey-to-work and place-of-work statistics. A TAZ usually consists of one or more census blocks, block groups, or census tracts.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD). A TOD is a mixed-use residential or commercial area designed to maximize access to public transport, and often incorporates features to encourage transit ridership.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A document prepared by a metropolitan planning organization that lists projects to be funded with FHWA/FTA funds over a four- or five-year period.

Transportation Justice (TJ). Identifies and addressed the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of planning programs, policies, and activities for seniors, disabled and households without an automobile.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The management plan for the metropolitan planning program. Its purpose is to coordinate the planning activities of all participants in the planning process.

Contact Information

Local and Regional Agencies

American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

www.apta.com
(202) 496-4800

AMTRAK

www.amtrak.com
(800) 872-7245

DART First State

www.dartfirststate.com
(800) 652-DART (3278)

Delaware Department of Natural Resources (DNREC)

www.dnrec.state.de.us
302-739-9000

Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT)

www.deldot.gov
(800) 652-5600

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

www.dvrpc.org
215-592-1800

Dover/Kent MPO

www.doverkentmpo.org
302-387-6030

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

www.mdot.maryland.gov
410-865-1000

Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA)

www.mta.maryland.gov
866-743-3682

SEPTA

www.septa.org
215-580-7800

Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO)

www.wilmapco.org
302-737-6205
888-808-7088 (Cecil)

Contact Information

National Agencies

American Association of State
Highway and Transportation
Officials (AASHTO)
www.transportation.org
202-624-5800

American Public Transportation
Administration (APTA)
www.apta.com
202-496-4800

Association of Metropolitan
Planning Organizations
(AMPO)
www.ampo.org
202-296-7051

Bureau of Transportation
Statistics (BTS)
www.bts.gov
800-853-1351

Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov
215-814-5000

Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
www.fhwa.dot.gov
202-366-0660

Federal Motor Carrier Safety
Administration
www.fmcsa.dot.gov
800-832-5660

Federal Transit Administration
(FTA)
www.fta.dot.gov
202-366-4000

National Transportation Library
www.ntl.bts.gov
800-853-1351

Planners Web
www.plannersweb.com
802-864-9083

Transportation Research Board
(TRB)
www.gulliver.trb.org
202-334-2934

How to Contact WILMAPCO

- Call:** (302) 737-6205 or
(888) 808-7088 - Toll Free from Cecil County
- Fax:** (302) 737-9584
- Email:** wilmapco@wilmapco.org
- Write:** WILMAPCO
850 Library Ave., Suite 100
Newark, DE 19711
- Web:** www.wilmapco.org



WILMAPCO's offices are located on Library Ave. (Route 72) in Newark, next to Newark High School and across from the College Square Shopping Center. We are also easily accessible by DART First State bus service.

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Public Guide to
Transportation Planning
May 2018