

August 24, 2021

WILMAPCO (Chair)

Rt. 9/13 All Civics

Collins Park Civic  
Association

Dunleith Civic  
Association

Hamilton / Eden Park  
Civic Association

New Castle Prevention  
Coalition

Overview Gardens /  
Garfield Park Civic  
Association

ProRank Business  
Solutions, LLC

Rep. Frank Cooke

Rosegate Civic  
Association

Rose Hill Gardens Civic  
Association

University of Delaware  
Partnership for Healthy  
Communities

YWCA Delaware

Mr. John Sisson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Delaware Transit Corporation  
119 Lower Beech Street, Suite 100  
Wilmington, DE 19805

RE: Letter of Support for the "Connecting Route 9 Corridor Communities" FTA Grant

Dear Mr. Sisson,

The Route 9 Master Plan's Monitoring Committee is pleased to support DART's Grant Application "Connecting Route 9 Corridor Communities" for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Areas of Persistent Poverty Program funding. The project aims to build off existing planning work along the Route 9 Corridor (from Southbridge to I-295) to improve transit services or facilities through planning, engineering, technical studies, or financial plans. We feel it will build nicely off the work in the Route 9 Master Plan.

According to WILMAPCO's 2018 Public Opinion Survey, about half of low-income residents report difficulty reaching everyday destinations. Moreover, a 2016 WILMAPCO Data Report found that residents of the Route 9 Corridor spend more than they should on transportation – money that could go towards better education, healthcare and housing. By examining improvements to bus connectivity, this study would address these needs by proposing a more viable transit network, a less costly and safer alternative to private car travel.

Additionally, this project will help address racial inequity in our region. Beyond better connecting residents to jobs and other key destinations to alleviate poverty, WILMAPCO's 2019 Transportation Justice Plan found that majority Black areas like the Route 9 Corridor (65% Black) have received 38% less transportation spending since 2002 than would be expected based on their population size. By setting the stage for future transit expansion and capital funding, this study is a step towards rebalancing our region's racially inequitable transportation spending pattern.

The mission of the Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee is to help guide and fulfill the recommendations of the Master Plan, which established a shared vision for the transportation and land use redevelopment of the Route 9 corridor. This work will be accomplished through a collaborative dialogue between its membership, which includes implementing agencies, local civic and community leaders, other key stakeholders, and the communities they represent.

We look forward to working with DART on this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at: [bswiatek@wilmapco.org](mailto:bswiatek@wilmapco.org), or 302-737-6205 x113.

Sincerely,



Bill Swiatek, AICP  
Chair, Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee