

July 26, 2022

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

Delaware Working
Families Party

Delaware Chapter of the
Sierra Club

Ms. Wendy Henry
Civil Rights Administrator
Delaware Department of Transportation
800 Bay Road
PO Box 778
Dover, DE 19901

Ms. Henry:

On behalf of the Route 9 Master Plan's Monitoring Committee, we would like to express our gratitude to your Civil Rights Department for holding a DBE Certification Training Workshop at the Route 9 Library last month. This training increased awareness and knowledge of gaining a DBE certification in an underserved community, promoting small business growth and workforce development. We hope the training will soon be made available online to continue its positive effect.

We understand the Department is working through the potential implementation of Section 25019 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which authorizes local hiring preferences on transportation construction projects. This provision opens the door for the creation of more living wage jobs and transferable trade skills in communities that need them most. The *Route 9: Landers Lane to A Street* project, which recently received a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant on the strength of its positive equity impacts, would be an ideal pilot project.

Our Small Business and Workforce Development Subcommittee stands ready to assist DeIDOT's Civil Rights Department in your examination of this initiative and its potential application. The Subcommittee enjoys the strong participation of area civic leaders and DBE business leaders working together to promote workforce development along the Rt. 9 corridor.

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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at: 302-737-6205 x113 or at bswiatek@wilmapco.org.

Sincerely,



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