

# TRANSPORTER



## WILMAPCO Continues to Reach Out to the Region

This year is shaping up to be another busy one for WILMAPCO. Not only do we conduct regular public meetings (both virtual and in-person) for our projects, but we also help organize several regional and local conferences, including the Delmarva Freight Summer and mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Roundtable. WILMAPCO staff participates and organizes safety and health days, lectures at the University of Delaware, attends regional and local conferences, conducts summer camps and participates in many community events and festivals with the hope of involving as many people as possible in our process and raising awareness about our efforts in general.

WILMAPCO staff has already participated in a number of community events this year, including World Asthma Day at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Platinum Picnic at Banning Park, 55+ Expo at Elkton High School, Wilmington Grand Prix, Wilmington Earth Day Event and the Garfield Park Health Fair, among others. WILMAPCO staff will also be exhibiting at the Peach Festival in Middletown, Newark Community Day and Southbridge Weekend.

In addition, we've helped organize several community dinners as part

of our participation in "Healthy Kids Delaware." Dinners typically include cooking demonstrations and health education exhibits in addition to a free dinner for attendees. We've participated in two community dinners at the Fraim Boys and Girls Club in Wilmington and at the Neighborhood House in South Wilmington. Other community dinners were held at Springer Elementary School, Absalom Jones Community Center in New Castle and the Elbert-Palmer Elementary School Healthy Family Fun Night. Several more community dinners are planned for the rest of the year.

In addition to exhibiting at community events, WILMAPCO works with several elementary schools on bicycle and pedestrian safety education through its Safe Routes to School program. WILMAPCO has been working with Claymont Elementary for the past several years. Claymont conducts a "Walk to School Week" that includes frequent walker punch cards, morning safety announcements,

karaoke pizza party for frequent walkers, scooter giveaways, a bike rodeo and the Golden Sneaker Award for the class with the most students walking during the week. WILMAPCO is also helping to coordinate a "Safety Day" during another "Walk to School Week" at Elbert-Palmer Elementary. During the safety day several organizations, including AAA Delaware, local police, Urban Bike Project and others will be speaking to students about safety.

*For more information about WILMAPCO's outreach efforts, please visit [www.wilmapco.org/public-outreach](http://www.wilmapco.org/public-outreach).*





## Locust Lane Sidewalk Feasibility Study

While there are many continuous stretches of sidewalk in Elkton, the town aims to enhance existing pedestrian infrastructure and create new connections where they are missing. The desired result is a robust, comprehensive pedestrian network connecting to numerous destinations. Areas such as downtown and newer subdivisions are well served by sidewalks. However, not all neighborhoods have sidewalks and those that do may be underutilized, such as the sidewalk on Locust Lane, which is located near the intersection of Main Street and Delaware Avenue, an eastern gateway into Elkton.

This study will evaluate the feasibility for a new and improved five-foot-wide sidewalk on Locust Lane, and bring the current sidewalk into compliance

with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing upright curbing, adequate clear width and other elements. The Feasibility Study will help develop sidewalk alternatives that will achieve improved pedestrian safety.

Sidewalk alternatives will address the existing constraints in the project area, accessibility standards and guidelines. It will also consider connections between the East High Street and Locust Lane sidewalk project currently underway. Five alternatives were developed and evaluated; they are described briefly below:

- **Option 1** – Roadway narrowing: due to existing lane widths, the roadway can be narrowed slightly to provide an adequate sidewalk within the existing right-of-way.

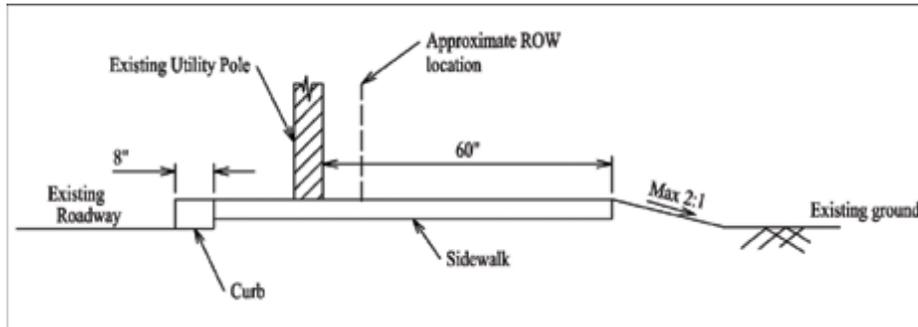
- **Option 2** – Upgrade sidewalks without utility relocation: This option provides a five-foot-wide sidewalk, only in some sections, and behind four of the existing utility poles, outside of the public right-of-way.
- **Option 3** – Upgrade sidewalks with utility relocation: Relocating or undergrounding the four existing utility poles in this area would allow for a continuous five-foot-wide sidewalk within the public right-of-way.
- **Option 4** – Sidewalk upgrades and extension: The current project limit ends at the intersection of Locust Lane and High Street. This option would extend where sidewalk is missing and connect to an existing sidewalk further north.

- **Option 5** – Upgrade sidewalks, west and eastbound: In addition to the reconstructed sidewalk on the east side, this would provide a new sidewalk along the west side of Locust Lane. However, this is not warranted at this time.

Following input received during an open house public workshop held on May 6, a final draft of the report was presented to the town in June. The report documents existing conditions,

including identification of right-of-way concerns and utility conflicts; assessment of each of the sidewalk alternatives; preliminary cost estimates for planning purposes; and final recommendations. WILMAPCO's Council is slated to endorse the study this July.

For more information, please visit [www.wilmapco.org/locustlane](http://www.wilmapco.org/locustlane).



## WILMAPCO's Work Plan

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the document that describes the transportation planning projects to be performed by WILMAPCO staff during the upcoming fiscal year. The document also lists the agency's funding source and the allocation of funds: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the States of Delaware and Maryland, Cecil and New Castle counties and the City of Wilmington.

The program budget was \$2.76 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). The program is now more than 70% complete. WILMAPCO staff is continuing to work on several projects.

These include:

- Town of Elkton: Locust Lane

Sidewalk Feasibility Study (see article on page 2 of this newsletter)

- Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway Standards Overlay (see Spring 2015 *Transporter* Newsletter)
- Glasgow Avenue Planning Study (see Spring 2015 *Transporter* Newsletter)
- Regional Freight Performance Data Collection (see Spring 2015 *Transporter* Newsletter)
- Walnut Street Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements
- Cecil County-Route 40 Program Development Support (see article on page 7 of this newsletter)
- SR-141 Corridor 20-Year Transportation Plan (see Spring 2015 *Transporter* Newsletter)

The FY 2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) UPWP was drafted and made available for public review and

comment from April 6 through May 5, 2015. The document was reviewed by the WILMAPCO's Technical Advisory (TAC) and Public Advisory Committees (PAC), and was unanimously adopted by WILMAPCO's Council on May 14. Available funds for FY 2016 are similar to the previous year. The FY 2016 program will include new projects submitted by DeDOT, New Castle County, Village of Ardentown and the City of Wilmington. Some of the projects include managing and monitoring transportation and land use plans; reviewing a path plan; working to increase walkability and livability; and assisting with local bicycle safety educational programs.

For more details on the UPWP, please visit [www.wilmapco.org/upwp](http://www.wilmapco.org/upwp).



## Choices for the Northeast Corridor

**N**EC FUTURE is the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) comprehensive program to define, evaluate and prioritize future investments in the Northeast Corridor (NEC), the rail spine from Washington, D.C., to Boston. The NEC is the nation's busiest rail corridor. It is vital to the economy and cities of the Northeast. Today, the NEC is constrained by aging infrastructure

and inadequate capacity, affecting the railroad's reliability and performance. In response, the FRA is developing both a long-term vision for the NEC and near-term actions to improve passenger service.

The FRA is currently evaluating four alternatives in the NEC FUTURE Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which will be released for public comment later this year:

- **No Action:** Includes planned and programmed projects to keep the NEC operating.
- **Alternative 1:** Maintains the role of rail, increasing service to keep pace with population growth through 2040.
- **Alternative 2:** Grows the role of rail, with service to new markets.
- **Alternative 3:** Transforms the role of rail, with a major increase in capacity, service to new markets and dramatic reduction in trip times. Each of the three Action Alternatives would improve service on the existing

NEC, achieve a state of good repair and expand the range of service offerings to fill gaps in existing service. These alternatives would also protect freight rail access and the opportunity for future expansion.

The decisions made as a result of NEC FUTURE could have far-reaching effects on transportation in the Northeast, potentially changing the mix of rail services offered, reducing travel times, increasing service frequency and adding new stations. These changes could in turn affect local economies and provide development opportunities. The FRA is encouraging a broad public dialogue on NEC FUTURE.

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*To learn more and find out how you can participate, please visit [www.necfuture.com](http://www.necfuture.com).*



# WILMAPCO Council and PAC Changes

Jennifer L. Cohan was welcomed to WILMAPCO's Council in February. Ms. Cohan was sworn in as the secretary of the Department of Transportation on February 4, 2015, replacing Shailen Bhatt, who departed to head the Department of Transportation in Colorado. Ms. Cohan has worked in Delaware state government for 25 years. She was appointed director of the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles in 2007 and has served as acting director of the planning, finance and technology and support services divisions.

In recent months, WILMAPCO's Public Advisory Committee (PAC) has seen a few new additions as well. Gail Seitz is replacing David Bird, who served on the PAC for six years and most recently as PAC chairperson.

Gail Seitz is an active resident in the City of New Castle, serving on multiple committees in her hometown. Seitz has worked in the Delaware District Office of Congressman John Carney, for companies such as DuPont and Accenture, as well as taught in elementary schools, middle schools and at the University of Delaware. Seitz's community service includes the Board of Directors of the Wilmington YMCAs, the New Castle Senior Center and the New Castle Historical Society; Session of the New Castle Presbyterian Church; mentoring in public schools and Boys and Girls Clubs for over 15 years.

Javier Gilberto Torrijos has also joined WILMAPCO's PAC this year. Mr. Torrijos is a registered professional engineer in Delaware with more than 28 years of experience in roadway and bridge construction management. He is the assistant director of construction for DelDOT. He has also served on the Delaware Hispanic Commission since its inception by Gov. Jack Markell in September of 2011, and in late 2012 was named the chair of the Delaware Hispanic Commission. In 2013, he received the Latin American Community Center's Distinguished Hispanic Delawarean Award.

Mr. Torrijos believes in serving others and building communities. He has volunteered for various non-profit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, Amazing Grace and Team Upward. He loves soccer and has volunteered coaching at the Kirkwood Soccer Club and Central Delaware Soccer Association youth recreational and travel teams for over 10 years. He has been blessed with two wonderful boys, Gilberto and Natanael, and his lovely wife, Deborah.

Decade-long PAC member Roy Podorson will be replaced by Maria Dziembowska, director of Community Outreach and Partnerships for the Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Ms. Dziembowska is a Wilmington resident, avid cyclist and a former employee of Cadence Cycling Foundation and Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia.





## Municipal Populations Grow in the WILMAPCO Region

Population residing in municipalities has been rising steadily in the WILMAPCO region – New Castle and Cecil counties. Since 2000, nearly 30% of the region’s population growth has taken place within the municipalities in both counties. In total, the region has added more than 26,000 people to its cities and towns, out of the 90,000 added to the region, since 2000. A few other changes include:

- Middletown, Del., has increased by the largest amount, more than tripling its population.
- Elkton and Newark have shown sizeable gains, both adding roughly 4,000 residents.
- Townsend, Del., has grown a whopping 500%, from 346 people in 2000 to nearly 2,100 in 2013.
- Port Deposit, Chesapeake City, the Ardens, Bellefonte, Newport and Wilmington have experienced slight losses in population.

To review all the municipal population estimates, please visit the U.S. Census website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

### MUNICIPAL POPULATION CHANGE 2000-2013

Town	2000 Population	2013 Population	Change 2000-2013	% Change 2000-2013
Cecilton	474	668	194	41%
Charlestown	1,019	1,194	175	17%
Chesapeake City	787	688	-99	-13%
Elkton	11,893	15,718	3,825	32%
North East	2,733	3,695	952	35%
Perryville town	3,672	4,412	740	20%
Port Deposit town	676	658	-18	-3%
Rising Sun town	1,702	2,878	1,176	69%
<b>Total Incorporated</b>	<b>22,956</b>	<b>29,911</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>% Within Incorporated areas</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>		

City	2000 Population	2013 Population	Change 2000-2013	% Change 2000-2013
Arden village	474	447	-27	-6%
Ardencroft village	267	235	-32	-12%
Ardentown village	300	268	-32	-11%
Bellefonte	1,249	1,198	-51	-4%
Delaware City	1,453	1,725	272	19%
Elsmere	5,801	6,164	363	6%
Middletown	6,161	19,600	13,439	218%
New Castle	4,862	5,385	523	11%
Newark	28,547	32,549	4,002	14%
Newport	1,122	1,057	-65	-6%
Odessa	286	369	83	29%
Townsend	346	2,076	1,730	500%
Wilmington	72,664	71,525	-1,139	-2%
<b>Total Incorporated</b>	<b>123,532</b>	<b>142,598</b>	<b>19,066</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>% Within Incorporated areas</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>		

Source: U.S. Census

# US 40 Corridor Visioning Workshops

In March, WILMAPCO held two visioning workshops for the US 40 corridor in Cecil County. The goal was to seek public input on the current and future transportation needs along Route 40, which is continuing to change as employment and population grow. With the unique character of US 40 traveling through three towns and two large unincorporated areas of land, conventional solutions such as widening and interchanges are not financially reasonable and may not be consistent with the long-term interests of communities in the corridor.

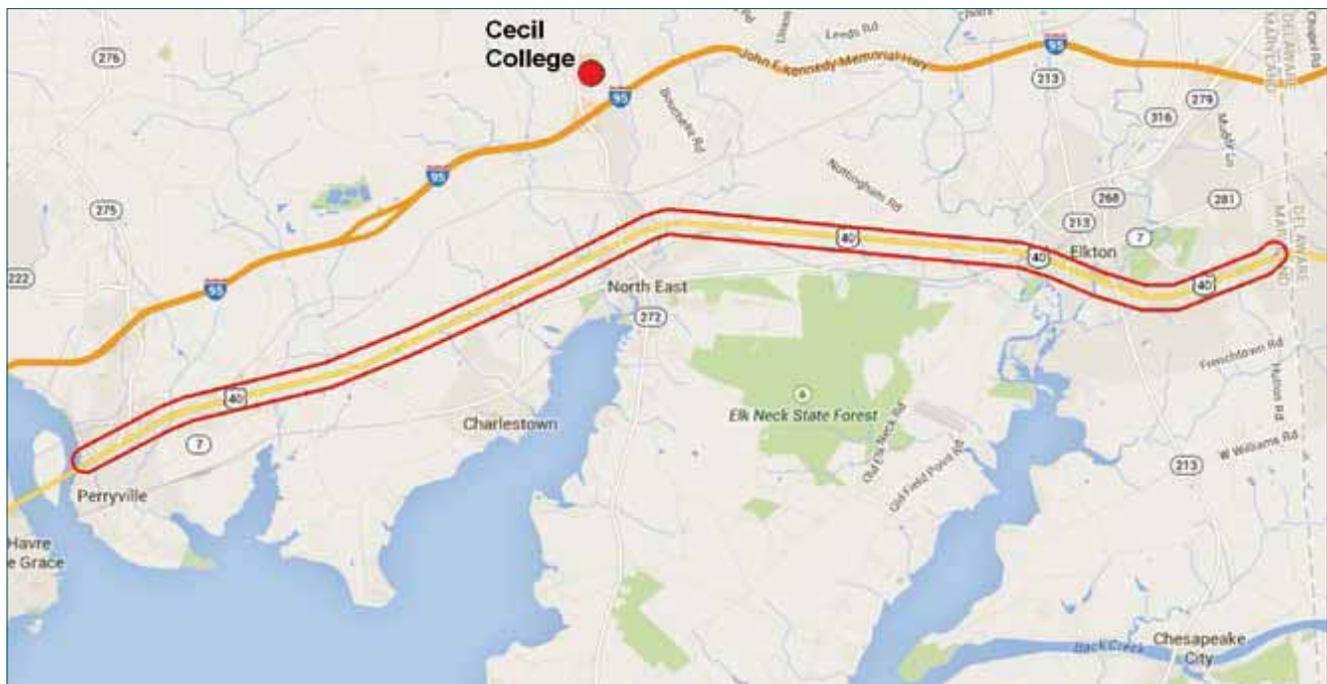
In order to accomplish a cohesive vision, a two-day interactive workshop was held to allow the public to interact with staff, draw on maps, fill out surveys and provide their thoughts and opinions on how the corridor should grow and function in the future.

The next steps include analyzing resulting alternatives, selecting and implementing the preferred alternative and incorporating these into the corridor's long range plans and MDSHA highway needs inventory.

For more information, please visit [www.wilmapco.org/cecil40](http://www.wilmapco.org/cecil40).



## CECIL COUNTY ROUTE 40 TRANSPORTATION VISION PLAN



**WILMINGTON AREA  
PLANNING COUNCIL**

850 Library Avenue  
Newark, Delaware 19711  
(302) 737-6205

- *Connie C. Holland, Acting Chair  
Delaware Office of State Planning  
Coordination, Director*
- *Jennifer L. Cohan  
Delaware Dept. of Transportation,  
Secretary*
- *Thomas P. Gordon  
New Castle County Executive*
- *Donald A. Halligan  
Maryland Dept. of Transportation  
Director, Office of Planning and  
Capital Programming*
- *Bill Miners  
Chesapeake City, Councilman*
- *Tari Moore  
Cecil County, County Executive*
- *John Sisson  
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Mayor of Newport*
- *Dennis P. Williams  
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WILMAPCO, Executive Director*
- *Randi Novakoff  
Transporter Newsletter, Editor*



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**WILMAPCO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Unless specified, meetings will be held at WILMAPCO, 850 Library Avenue, Suite 100, Newark, Delaware. Your participation at these meetings is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact us at (302) 737-6205, or toll free from Cecil County at (888) 808-7088. **During inclement weather, please call to verify meetings.**

<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
WILMAPCO Council <i>July 9, 6:30 p.m.</i>	Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group <i>August 4, 3 p.m.</i>	Air Quality Subcommittee <i>September 10, 10 a.m.</i>
Joint Technical Advisory Committee and Air Quality Subcommittee Lums Pond State Park <i>July 16, 10 a.m.</i>	Air Quality Subcommittee <i>August 13, 10 a.m.</i>	WILMAPCO Council <i>September 10, 6:30 p.m.</i>
WILMAPCO Summer Picnic Lums Pond State Park <i>July 16, 12 p.m.</i>	Public Advisory Committee <i>August 17, 7 p.m.</i>	Technical Advisory Committee <i>September 17, 10 a.m.</i>
	Technical Advisory Committee <i>August 20, 10 a.m.</i>	



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