

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 2022

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, via video conference/conference call.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use, and TAC Chair, brought the TAC meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Tricia Arndt, Delaware Office of State Planning
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Marvina Cephas, DNREC
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
Michael Fortner, City of Newark
Gwineth Kaminsky, City of Wilmington Planning
Quinn Krenzel, Town of Elkton Planning
Matthew Littlejohn, Cecil County Division of Planning and Zoning
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Derrick Sexton, Maryland State Highway Administration
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

Lindsay Donnellon, U.S. Federal Highway Administration

TAC Members absent:

City of Wilmington Department of Public Works
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware River and Bay Authority
Maryland Department of Transportation
Maryland Transit Administration

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

Amtrak
Diamond State Port Corporation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Federal Transit Administration

Guests and Invitees:

James Coverdale, DNREC
Deanna Murphy, Cecil County Board of Realtors
Kevin Racine, Citizen
Eric Thompson, Mayor of Elsmere

Staff:

Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner

Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant
Dave Gula, Principal Planner
Randi Novakoff, Outreach Manager
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Jacob Thompson, Senior Planner
Dawn Voss, Administrative Assistant
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Dawn Voss.

3. MINUTES

a. Approval of the August 18, 2022, TAC Minutes.

ACTION: On a motion by Ms. Catherine Smith and seconded by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky TAC approved the August 18, 2022, TAC minutes.

Motion passed.

(10-20-22-01)

b. Approval of the September 15, 2022, TAC Minutes.

ACTION: On a motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky and seconded by Ms. Tricia Arndt TAC approved the September 15, 2022, TAC minutes.

Motion passed.

(10-20-22-02)

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Air Quality Subcommittee

Mr. Bill Swiatek said the Air Quality Subcommittee met on October 6, 2022. The group reviewed the SR 9 Landers Lane to A Street TIP amendment and found that it did not trigger a revised air quality conformity determination. Members reviewed the draft air quality conformity analysis results for the 2050 RTP: 2023 Update. The analysis results for ozone from Cecil County show the budget for VOCs was about two tons per summer day in 2009, and the emissions results for the analysis years from 2025 through 2050 were under that budget at less than one ton per summer day on each of those years. The budget for NOx was about seven tons per summer day, and the emissions were found to be between 1.95 down to 1.25, so easily passing that in Cecil County. In New Castle County, the budgets are about ten tons per summer day for VOCs and a little under twenty for NOx. The emissions results are well under that. We also look at PM 2.5 in New Castle County which is well under budget. We are in the process of writing conformity reports for each county that will incorporate and explain the analysis. MDOT is working on the report for Cecil County. WILMAPCO, DeIDOT, and DNREC are assembling the report for New Council County. Drafts will be reviewed at the Air Quality Subcommittee meeting on November 3rd. The TAC will see a draft at the December meeting. The draft is expected to be released for public review beginning in January to correspond with the RTP.

b. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group

Ms. Heather Dunigan said the Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group met October 4th and reviewed the draft project prioritization and submissions for the Transportation Alternatives Program and Delaware Bike Ped Pool. There was overall concurrence with the draft scoring of the projects. There were some questions about the proximity to destinations scoring for the

Commons Boulevard project. Points were not awarded for proximity to I-12 schools, however, a community college is relatively close. It is noted that there were only two submissions for the Delaware Bike Ped Pool. It may be worth considering some of the TAP applications for that. There was a presentation on the Ardens Walkable Community Workshop, which was held in August and kicked off the Ardens Transportation Plan process. Mr. Dave Gula presented on the I-95 Cap Feasibility Study.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

ACTION ITEMS

6. To recommend amendment of the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Heather Dunigan said this amendment is for SR 9 New Castle Avenue between Landers Lane and A Street in Wilmington. This project is already in the TIP, but recently received a RAISE grant and as a result there has been a change in timing and funding for the project. There is a total of \$5.2 million for the project.

Mr. Matthew Rogers asked for clarification that because of the RAISE grant, this project will move forward more quickly. Ms. Dunigan said it will be slightly expedited and there will be some slight adjustment in the funds. Mr. Rogers asked how much the funds will change. Mr. Dunigan said it was not a huge change. Mr. Bill Swiatek said the RAISE grant supports the planning of the project. DelDOT realized that the concrete needed to be replaced as well, so they increased the final cost of the project. There are no construction funds identified here. The building of it has been delayed because of the realization that it needed to be a bigger project. Still, it is good news that the RAISE grant was awarded and can support completing the engineering of the project. Ms. Dunigan said it is shown as \$14 million in the TIP, which includes the construction dollars, so the big jump in the PE funds is the difference.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Michael Fortner and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom the TAC recommends amendment of the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion passed.

(10-20-22-03)

7. To recommend amendment of the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Heather Dunigan said this project is in the TIP as part of the SR 1 project, so this is a short-term project that is coming out of that. This is new and will reassign the use of some of the lanes on the SR 1/US 13 merge area. The total for this is \$950,000.

ACTION: On a motion by Ms. Tricia Arndt and seconded by Mr. Cooper Bowers the TAC recommends amendment of the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion passed.

(10-20-22-04)

6. To recommend approval of the Technical Scoring for Project Prioritization for the 2023 New Castle County Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Delaware Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Candidate Projects.

Ms. Heather Dunigan said a total of eight submissions were received for the combined call for projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Delaware Bike Ped Pool submissions program. One is in the City of Newark. One was from Townsend. Wilmington submitted the Midtown Brandywine project and the Montessori Safe Route to School project. New Castle County submitted the North Dupont Road project, the Newport River Trail project, Commons Boulevard Trail, and the Tri-Parks Trail.

For the Transportation Alternatives Program, eligible projects are generally one million dollars or less, so the smaller end of the bike ped improvements like streetscaping are eligible for the TAP program. For the Delaware Bike Ped Pool, projects are usually in the range of one to five million dollars and exclusively for low-stress bicycle and pedestrian connections. All of the submissions went through the project prioritization process that was developed for the TAP program. That process looks at how the applications support transportation. For example, it looks at how close the project is to bus stops, particularly the most frequently used bus stops. The process also considers whether it is along a planned bicycle route, near an existing greenway, or filling a gap in the network. Bike and pedestrian crashes are reviewed, and up to five points can be awarded based on the number and severity of crashes. On the land use side, we look at whether it is close to a community center, a library, schools, parks, whether it is in a municipality or county hometown overlay, and if there is an historic element to the project. Demographics of the area are considered, with points awarded based on highly dense areas of population and jobs, as well as environmental justice and mobility-challenged populations.

The top scored project was the Tri-Parks project, which connects three parks that have some existing trails to each other and to the surrounding communities. It scored well because it provides an alternative to traveling on Route 9 through the community and avoids dangerous roads, while connecting people to numerous destinations. The First State Montessori project also scored well. This is in downtown Wilmington and includes streetscaping as well as pedestrian connections to the school and to surrounding areas. Next in the scoring was the Midtown Brandywine Streetscape project in the heart of Wilmington, which scored well in terms of connections to the neighborhoods and includes new and improved sidewalk connections as well as streetscaping. The Newport River Trail and the Pomeroy/Paper Mill Connector tied with the number of points. These are both new multi-use pathway connections. The Newport River Trail would connect the Jack Markell Trail and the Town of Newport following the river and railroad line. This project is probably too large for either program at an estimated \$20 million, but it is being taken through the process anyway. The Paper Mill/Pomeroy Connector would link the Pomeroy Trail with the recently installed bridge over White Clay Creek to create a continuous multi-use pathway. The next in the scoring order was the Town of Townsend Project. This is a grouping of several projects including the Wiggins Mill Connection, where there is no sidewalk. Staff recently did a walkable community workshop there. It also has some sidewalk improvements throughout the town as part of the application. Finally, the Commons Boulevard Pathway project received the fewest points. This would connect the Jack Markell Trail to the Corporate Commons area. This project is better than the points indicate, which shows no project prioritization process is perfect. This is a great project on paper and ties a lot of jobs into that larger investment that was made with the Markell Trail. Only the Newport River Trail and the Commons Boulevard Pathway were submitted for the Statewide Bike Ped Pool. Staff will probably recommend some of the other submissions be considered for that funding pool as well. We can add two projects in each category into the program each year. We see that the Newport

River Trail is going to be too large to meet the criteria for that program, so any of the multi-use pathway components submitted as part of the other projects would be worth considering.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky and seconded by Ms. Tricia Arndt the TAC recommends approval of the Technical Scoring for Project Prioritization for the 2023 New Castle County Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Delaware Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Candidate Projects.

Motion passed.

(10-20-22-05)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Staff Report

Ms. Dunigan reported the following updates:

- The first Southbridge Transportation Action Plan public workshop was held in conjunction with the Southbridge Civic Association Meeting on October 18th. Staff attended a health fair in Southbridge, on October 15th where we publicized the workshop and an ongoing survey.
- The Ardens Transportation Plan's first public workshop will be held October 25th, and the next steering committee meeting is November 15th.
- The Route 9 Monitoring Committee will meet this afternoon.
- Staff are scheduled to present the RTP to the Bellefonte Council on November 14th.
- Staff participated in the MDOT Cecil County Tour meeting for the CTP on September 16th.
- Staff presented on the Newark bicycle planning process at the Delaware APA event for students and emerging planners on September 28th.
- Staff presented the City of New Castle Transportation Plan to the City of New Castle Council on October 11th. They accepted that plan without any changes.
- The Charlestown Walkable Community Workshop was held October 12th.
- Staff exhibited at the Newark Community Day on September 18th.
- Staff participated in the MPO Roundtable in Maryland on September 23rd.
- Staff presented at the Delaware APA Conference on October 5th and 6th.
- Staff attended the RAISE grant announcement for the Route 9 project on October 11th.
- Staff will attend the National AMPO meeting from October 24th through the 28th.
- A public meeting for WILMAPCO's Federal Certification Review will be held November 9th at 6:00 PM. TAC members are encouraged to attend to share their thoughts on how well WILMAPCO is meeting requirements, and how we can do a better job.
- An I-95 public workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 17th. Staff are working on the location.
- RTP presentations were scheduled for Delaware City and the City of Wilmington Transportation Committee on September 19th, the Committee of 100 on September 17th, the Town of Odessa and Town of Arden on October 3rd, the League of Women Voters on October 5th, the City of New Castle on October 11th, GHADA on October 17th, the Town of North East on October 26th, and the Town of Charlestown on November 15th.
- The monthly meeting with partners and the next management committee meeting for the Churchmen's Crossing plan is expected to be November 16th.
- The Concord Pike Master Plan Monitoring Committee is scheduled to meet November 30th.

- Staff are working on the final draft of the RTP. In addition to making our tour around all the local government agencies, we like to reach out to the Council member agencies and TAC agencies to sit down and chat about it. So, many of you all will be hearing from us.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Tricia Arndt and seconded by Mr. Mike Fortner the TAC adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Motion passed.

(10-20-22-06)

The TAC adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Attachments (0)