

**JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
April 21, 2022**

A joint meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) was held on Thursday, April 21, 2022, via video conference/conference call.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Matthew Rogers, TAC Vice-chair, brought the joint TAC and AQS meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Tricia Arndt, Delaware Office of State Planning
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Nick Cannistraci, Town of Elkton
Marvina Cephas, DNREC
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
Dan Janousek, Maryland Department of Transportation
Gwinneth Kaminsky, City of Wilmington 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:

TAC Members absent:

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

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

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

Air Quality Subcommittee Members present:

Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Marvina Cephas, DNREC
James Galvin, Dover/Kent MPO
Deanna Morozowich, DNREC
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

Guests and Invitees:

Malcolm Jacob, Dover/Kent MPO
Kevin Racine

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

Minutes prepared by: Dawn Voss

3. MINUTES

The March 17, 2022, TAC Minutes were approved.

ACTION:

On motion by Ms. Tricia Arndt and seconded by Mr. Cooper Bowers the TAC approved the March 17, 2022, TAC Minutes.

Motion passed.

(04-21-22 - 01)

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group

Ms. Heather Dunigan said the Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group met on April 5th and Mr. Paul Moser, from DeIDOT, presented about his analysis of the prioritized list submitted by WILMAPCO for the bicycle pedestrian funding pool within DeIDOT. Mr. Moser analyzes that information to show how many people will have improved connections between their households and major destinations. From that analysis, out of the list of ten projects submitted, DeIDOT will move forward with design and implementation of Route 4 gaps in the East Coast Greenway as well as a connection along Old Baltimore Pike. Mr. Swiatek presented the analysis of Health Risks and Conditions data. Ms. Dunigan presented on the nonmotorized portion of the draft TIP. The members were pleased to see new bicycle/pedestrian projects included, as well as the emphasis on multimodal projects.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ACTION ITEMS

6. To recommend adoption of the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program

The draft UPWP was reviewed at the last TAC meeting and is unchanged. Ms. Heather Dunigan said there are two related resolutions. The first is adopting the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which has been out for public comment. No comments have been received yet. The

second resolution relates to the funding share by source. Staff are pleased that partner agencies made cash commitments to provide the 20% match for the federal funds.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Mr. Dan Janousek the TAC recommends adoption of the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

Motion passed.

(04-21-22-02)

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

Ms. Heather Dunigan said the TIP has been out for public comment since March 18th and that will continue through April 29th. There was a public workshop on April 6th, and DeIDOT, MDOT, Cecil County, and DART assisted with it, which made for better discussion with the public. The TIP will go to Council for their review and adoption on May 12th.

The workshop was via Zoom in a two-part format, beginning with a brief presentation from each of the agencies. Then, the Zoom breakout room feature was used to allow people to select which rooms they wanted to enter. DeIDOT and DART were in one room, MDOT and Cecil County in another, and WILMAPCO had an air quality discussion in the third. The hope was that people would be able to go in and out of the rooms. If someone wanted to learn about air quality and Cecil County projects, they could go in one breakout room for a while and then another. It was lightly attended, but visitors entered each breakout room and had nice discussion. In Cecil County's room there was discussion about the extension of MARC rail service and the challenges of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Delaware room had discussion about pedestrian safety and crash concerns, particularly related to a closed bridge around Biddle Avenue connecting to Route 40, which forces people into dangerous traffic because that connection is not available. Also, in the Delaware room there was discussion about how people can submit their comments and concerns using the DeIDOT Report a Concern website. In the air quality room, there was discussion about the general trends, what changes are needed, and expectations for the future.

The workshop was advertised through the WILMAPCO webpage and Facebook page. The Facebook event page reached 3,690 people. During the public comment period the TIP page on the website had two hundred web visits, which makes it the third most visited page over the last month, after the homepage and the I-95 Cap page. We have not received any written comments. Staff suggests the document remain as it has been put out for public comment and ask for TAC recommendation for Council adoption. It will be brought to Council in May.

Mr. Dan Janousek asked if this is the first year WILMAPCO did an Environmental Justice scan or if the previous TIPs had one. Ms. Dunigan said an Environmental Justice analysis is always included and can be found in the introduction of the document. You can see where the project saw the different Environmental Justice and mobility challenged areas. We also show which projects fall within the CMS areas, the Congestion Management areas. Other things you will find in the document appendices are the Performance Measures Analysis, which is where we house all the federally required performance measures and the self-certification, which shows that we meet all federal requirements for MPOs. The self-certification documentation shows where you can find documents that show how WILMAPCO is meeting federal requirements for the work we do. Mr. Janousek said the document looks great.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Dan Janousek and seconded by Ms. Tricia Arndt the TAC recommends adoption of the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion passed.

(04-21-22-03)

8. To recommend approval of the New Castle County Air Quality Conformity Determination

Mr. Bill Swiatek said the Air Quality Conformity determination was completed over the fall, but staff waited to release it to correspond with the public comment process for the 2023 to 2026 TIP. It was presented at the TIP public meeting, where there were a few questions about it. Overall, it has been received positively or there have been no questions about this analysis. This has been presented to TAC in terms of the analysis meeting the budgets of record in New Castle County, and staff asks for TAC recommendation for endorsement for the conformity determination.

Mr. Matt Rogers said they will be bringing the report along with them as they get questions from the public to explain things that they have at New Castle County.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Cathy Smith the TAC recommends approval of the New Castle County Air Quality Conformity Determination.

Motion passed.

(04-21-22-04)

9. To recommend endorsement of the Union Street Reconfiguration and Streetscapes Improvement Study

Mr. Dave Gula said in October, the full list of alternatives was presented to the TAC. In February, the preferred alternative was presented. Since then, there has been a public workshop on March 16th and an advisory committee meeting. The advisory committee, Wilmington Initiatives partners group, and the public are in favor of the preferred alternative. Since that workshop, Mr. Gula has been talking to businesspeople to make sure all of their comments are in the report. The report and appendices can be found on the WILMAPCO website.

The public comments have been very favorable. Even those who have minor issues and the businesspeople who have concerns are very happy that this street will be much more pedestrian comfortable, bike friendly, and will slow the traffic, which the public has been asking to have addressed from the beginning. The staff of WILMAPCO, based on the advisory committee, Wilmington Initiatives partners, and comments from the public, recommend endorsement of this study to take it to the WILMAPCO Council.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky and seconded by Mr. Dan Janousek the TAC recommends endorsement of the Union Street Reconfiguration and Streetscapes Improvement Study.

Motion passed.

(04-21-22-05)

10. To recommend endorsement of the Port Circulation Study

Mr. Bill Swiatek said this study evaluated and recommended a series of possible improvements in and around the Port of Wilmington area to improve the truck circulation. The recent completion of several subarea studies generated several proposed improvements, all of which needed to be further evaluated. The study evaluated these possible improvements, as well as others through technical benefits analysis, using a measure of effectiveness model to assess the benefits of each possible improvement against the defined purpose and needs. Staff recommend endorsement of this port impact/benefit analysis for truck access at the Port of Wilmington.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Gwinneth Kaminsky and seconded by Mr. Cooper Bowers the TAC recommends endorsement of the Port Circulation Study.

Motion passed.

(04-21-22-06)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

11. New Castle County Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Matt Rogers said that over the course of the COVID period the New Castle County Comprehensive Plan team explored virtual engagement, reached out through social media, and have had many different opportunities for people to participate via Deep Dive meetings and forums that were held. Many community groups were met in person, as well as virtually, so the use of Zoom and other technologies allowed the team to reach many more people than was originally anticipated. Whether it was the Deep Dive sessions, the forums, or other opportunities, the virtual participation was very important.

More public outreach was done during this than in any planning effort the County has had in the past, and there has been great attendance. Valuable input has been received from individuals throughout this process. Groups that they have worked with include the Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters, Open Space Advisory Board, municipalities, and neighborhood groups. There were a lot of one-on-one meetings. The participation of the Route 9 Monitoring Committee has been spectacular. The team has worked with many other groups and are looking to find ways to make the plan durable and enduring, while addressing the most important needs countywide.

On March 2nd, the plan was presented to the State Cabinet Committee, where a few comments were made. Adjustments are being made in the most recent draft, which was posted online at the end of January. The plan was introduced as an ordinance on March 8th. It was presented to the Land Use Committee on March 15th and at PLUS on March 23rd. It is on the agenda for the Planning Board Meeting on May 3rd. Everybody is encouraged to attend and participate in that process, preferably in person, but if not, virtually. There are a lot of good things in the plan that will benefit a lot of people and so everyone is encouraged to participate. The record will be held open, at least from the planning board perspective, after that meeting. They are hoping for a thirty-day extension to make sure as much valuable input is received as possible, while still allowing the team to address changes in the document as needed.

The first of two sessions will be April 19th at seven o'clock. Registration is online. If anyone has any questions, information can be found on their website or email Mr. Rogers. This will largely be an in-person session which will begin with going through these select elements: intergovernmental coordination, economic and community development, mobility, community planning and design, housing, and environmental and social justice. A brief five-to-seven-minute presentation will describe what is required by county code or by state code to be in these

sections and where the plan takes it from that point. The hope is to take on additional things and really strive to achieve the goals that are set in the state code and the county code. After those brief presentations, attendees will be able to visit stations set up around the Gilliam Building and speak to a planner regarding these individual topics. The goals, objectives, and strategies will be printed out. There will be boards with what was discussed in the presentations. Comment forms will provide attendees the opportunity to provide comments about what is in the plan. This will be a live broadcast and the intention is to make a video, break it up by element, and provide a comment form on the GIS hub, so anyone who is interested in one particular area can view that element and provide a comment.

The second session will be on April 27th at 7:00 pm and will tackle the elements of conservation; open space and recreation; utilities, water, and sewer; historic preservation; and climate change and hazard mitigation. The format is intended to be the same. Most importantly, May 3rd is going to be the Planning Board public hearing. There is an opportunity to make comments and have them heard in real time and put into the public record.

12. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Schedule

Mr. Bill Swiatek said it is time to update the Regional Transportation Plan, which is something that WILMAPCO does every four years. The 2050 RTP will be updated for 2023. The Regional Progress Report is the first step in this process, and that was completed over the past year. The Progress Report provides a snapshot of where WILMAPCO is in meeting the goals of the previous and current RTP. The next step is analyzing the results of the public opinion survey, and Ms. Novakoff is working on an analysis of that. The results of the public opinion survey will likely be presented to the TAC soon. Next, project lists will be drafted, and all the policy objectives, goals, and actions will be reviewed and adjusted based on the results of the public opinion survey and the results of the Progress Report. That process will begin in May, and the adjusted goals, objectives, and actions will be presented to the TAC in the July to August timeframe. The air quality analysis will begin in August. The update of the Plan triggers a conformity determination for both counties. A public comment portion of the process begins in late summer through the fall, where staff will do outreach. The draft document will be developed and then a public comment period is expected to run from January through March with Council adoption in March of 2023.

Ms. Dunigan said the TIP can move up on the schedule because TAC just approved it. That is up for Council adoption this May. There will not be a TIP next year because they are only being done every other year now. Mr. Swiatek said that line item can be ignored then, and we will still be moving through this process for the RTP with a target March adoption.

For air quality, the regionally significant projects should be finalized by August, using the latest land use and transportation data, and model inputs. The first couple of months after August will be used to do the conformity analysis with the results due in the October timeframe. It is anticipated that those results will be approved in November. Then, in step with the RTP public comment period, our conformity documents will be released to the public. An Our Town even would occur in February, and Council adoption will be sought in March of 2023.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Staff Report

Ms. Dunigan reported the following updates:

- Staff partnered with the City of Wilmington and DelDOT to submit a RAISE grant for the 12th Street Connector. Ms. Dunigan thanked everybody helping submit it on time.
- The Union Street Reconfiguration Draft Report is on the website for public comment.
- The I-95 Cap Feasibility Study had a public workshop on April 19th.
- The Concord Pike Master Plan Monitoring Committee will meet on May 11th.
- The Port Circulation Study had a public workshop on March 23rd.
- Staff attended the Marshallton public workshop on April 19th.
- Staff will kick off the City of Wilmington Open Street events, which will be held monthly through the summer and into the fall. The first one is this Saturday on Market Street in coordination with the Wilmington Earth Day celebration, and the Air Quality Partnership.
- The 4th Street public workshop will be on May 3rd.
- Staff are preparing for May National Bike Month. Bike to Work Day events will be May 20th in Newark and Wilmington. A Walk/Bike to School Day will be May 4th at Downes Elementary School.
- Staff presented to the Academy of Lifelong Learning about our Transportation Justice Plan on April 19th.
- The Route 9 Monitoring Committee is meeting on April 21st.
- Staff presented our Transportation Justice Plan to the Delaware Chapter of Women Leading Government Conference.
- The TIP workshop was April 6th.
- Staff participated in a City of Newark Planning Charrette from March 21st to 25th.
- Staff attended the Cecil County Strategic Highway Safety Plan Executive Committee on April 6th.
- Staff attended the Northeast Comprehensive Plan kickoff for the transportation section on April 19th. Staff will be assisting with this plan.
- Most of WILMAPCO's committees, including the TAC, are moving to a hybrid format. Members will have the option of attending the next meeting via Zoom or in person. Members are asked to RSVP if planning to come in to avoid having too many people crowd into the conference room. Staff suggests bringing the picnic back in September. We are hoping that the digital packets that we have been doing are still acceptable. A couple of paper copies will be available in the office for those who come in person.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Gwinn Kaminsky and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom the TAC adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Motion passed.

(02-17-22-03)

The TAC adjourned at 10:40 AM

Attachments (0)