

**JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
August 19, 2021**

A joint meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021, via video conference/conference call.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Mike Fortner, City of Newark, brought the joint TAC and AQS meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Tricia Arndt, Delaware Office of State Planning
Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Nick Cannistraci, Town of Elkton
Marvina Cephas, DNREC
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
Michael Fortner, City of Newark
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, DTC

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

Lindsay Donnellon, U.S. Federal Highway Administration

TAC Members absent:

City of Wilmington Department of Public Works
City of Wilmington Planning
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 Transit Administration

Air Quality Subcommittee Members present:

Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Virginia Burke, MDOT
Marvina Cephas, DNREC
Lindsay Donnellon, U.S. Federal Highway Administration
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Jolyon Shelton, DNREC

Catherine Smith, DTC
Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO

Guests and Invitees:

Jane Dilley, League of Women Voters
Kevin Racine
Joshua Thomas, DeIDOT

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
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. The July 15, 2021 TAC Minutes were approved.

ACTION:

On motion by Ms. Cathy Smith and seconded by Mr. Cooper Bowers the TAC approved the July 15, 2020 TAC minutes.

Motion passed.

(08-19-21 - 01)

- b. The May 6, 2021 AQS Notes were approved by unanimous consent. **(08-19-21 – 02)**

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group

Ms. Heather Dunigan said the Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group met on August 3rd. Mr. Jake Thompson presented the Route 9 Paths Plan, and the Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group recommended endorsement of the plan. Mr. Mike Hahn from DeIDOT presented the federal use of funds for FY 2022, focusing on the specific uses of the TAP funds and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program funds, which use CMAQ money. After review, the group recommended its adoption. MDOT presented the Maryland Walktober Program, which WILMAPCO will cosponsor. This is a series of webinars and programs to educate and promote safer walking. This will be included in WILMAPCO's next e-news and will be posted on the website. ACIP members will earn credit for attending the webinars live, though not for viewing the recording. Mr. Dave Racca from the University of Delaware Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research (CADSR) presented an analysis of pedestrian crash data in relation to land use information to estimate crash exposure and pedestrian activities, which is a useful GIS tool for future analysis.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ACTION ITEMS

6. To recommend use of Federal STBG, CMAQ, FTA Urbanized Area, FTA 5310, and TAP Funds in FY 2022

Ms. Dunigan said this is part of the appendix in the TIP in years when the TIP is adopted. With the biennial TIP process, on the years when the TIP is not adopted, this is approved independently. The approval of this is part of WILMAPCO's MOU with DeIDOT. The first page is the resolution. The second page is a letter to be signed by WILMAPCO and DeIDOT, which summarizes how funds will be used in different categories. This includes the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; the FTA Urbanized Area funds, FTA 5310 funds, CMAQ funding, and TAP funding. CMAQ funding use was reviewed by the Air Quality Subcommittee. The Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group reviewed the CMAQ-funded because of the bicycle and pedestrian improvements and TAP projects.

Projects in New Castle County from the Statewide bike/pedestrian program include the Miller Road Streetscape Improvement, which is ready for construction. There are two projects from the New Castle County Bicycle Plan Priority Projects, which were submitted by municipalities and local governments. The Augustine Cutoff Pathway Project straddles New Castle County and the City of Wilmington line and was submitted by both of them. The planning study began in July. The School Lane bike/ped facility will convert a paper street in the City of New Castle to a pathway. Design and wetlands analysis is scheduled to begin this month.

Several projects in the TAP program have been underway for a while. Some new projects are phase three of existing projects including the Southbridge Streetscape Phase III and the Brandywine Village Phase III. Lovering Avenue and N. Dupont Street Triangle Reconfiguration is a proposed new project that would link Brandywine Park with Trolley Square. There is continuation of existing projects including Phase II of the Southbridge Streetscape Improvements, Brandywine South Pedestrian and Trail Improvements, Walnut Street, and many City of Wilmington projects. The White Clay Bridge in the City of Newark is under construction. One that is not TAP but listed is use of Federal Lands Access Program and the First State National Historic Park, which is there as an FYI. The Route 9 improvements tie in with the Route 9 Paths Plan. H. Fletcher Brown Park is in Wilmington, but on hold due to I-95. St. George's Streetscape is ready for construction. Safe Routes to School projects are listed. Wilmington Bike Improvements was added years ago but is now being terminated for inactivity.

The last category, the ITMS program, was reviewed by the Air Quality Subcommittee. DeIDOT provided a spreadsheet that differentiates what is STP and CMAQ.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Matthew Rogers and seconded by Mr. Cooper Bowers the TAC recommended the use of Federal STBG, CMAQ, FTA Urbanized Area, FTA 5310, and TAP Funds in FY 2022.

Motion passed.

(08-19-21 - 03)

7. To recommend endorsement of the Route 9 Paths Plan

Mr. Jake Thompson said the latest draft of the Route 9 Paths Plan can be found online at <http://www.wilmapco.org/route9pathsplan/>. This plan is an expansion and refinement of the bicycle and pedestrian recommendations from the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan. This plan was requested by and guided by the Health Subcommittee of the Route 9 Monitoring Committee. The planning process began with collecting existing conditions data including transportation, demographic, and public health data. We then took a closer look at the bicycle and pedestrian recommendations from the Master Plan and identified missing links in the study area where better connections could be made between neighborhoods. This data was then used to develop a technical prioritization process, which identifies the areas in the corridor that would benefit the most from these types of recommendations. The plan employed a thorough and extensive public outreach process. This included a public survey, which was available online, but also distributed door to door in a field survey to ensure participation from every neighborhood and especially from people who might not have access to the internet. The plan includes a thorough analysis of the public survey results, which were used to ensure the plan best meets the corridor's needs. Based on prior work on the Route 9 Corridor, technical analysis, and public feedback, the Route 9 Paths Plan proposes a network of walking and biking paths for the corridor. This network includes mixed use paths, off road paths, and neighborhood bikeways, and the recommendations are ranked based on a technical prioritization process and public feedback. The plan also includes general recommendations such as completing and repairing sidewalks, making path connections contiguous, improving path lighting, and naming and signing the paths. The "Next Steps" section includes estimates of timeline and costs, as well as potential funding mechanisms to get the path network built. The Route 9 Monitoring Committee will continue to oversee the implementation of transportation projects within the Route 9 Corridor including the Route 9 Paths Plan. The draft Route 9 Paths Plan has been reviewed by the Route 9 Monitoring Committee, Route 9 Health Committee, the TAC, PAC, Council, and has also been recommended for endorsement by the Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group. This latest draft includes the edits received from each of those committees.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Tricia Arndt and seconded by Mr. Matthew Rogers the TAC recommended endorsement of the Route 9 Paths Plan.

Motion passed.

(08-19-21 - 04)

8. To recommend endorsement of the Delaware Statewide Truck Parking Study

Mr. Dan Blevins said the Delaware Statewide Truck Parking Study was designed to satisfy the Jason's Law requirements at the federal level, but also delve into the shorter-term truck parking and staging issues occurring throughout Delaware. The study was guided by staff and planning partners as well as a focus group made up of those in the trucking industry along with local planners and businesses. The Delaware Statewide Freight Plan is about to be updated so much of this material will carry over into that plan.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Cathy Smith and seconded by Ms. Tricia Arndt the TAC recommended endorsement of the Delaware Statewide Truck Parking Study.

Motion passed.

(08-19-21 – 05)

9. To recommend endorsement of the First/Final Mile Freight Network Development Study

Mr. Dan Blevins said this effort set out to better understand and identify first and final freight route segments off arterials and determine how they impact communities. This study was steered by a focus group with many of the same members as the truck parking study. This is mainly a technical document but includes materials that will bring this into the broader planning process. For example, a freight consideration checklist for planning was proposed to assist with land development activities that may create some of these truck generating issues. Delaware is getting a few more distribution centers. This checklist suggests considerations for freight-related development such as the proximity of the facility to an existing freight route to attempt to abate some of the impacts this development may have on these areas.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Ian Beam and seconded by Mr. Matthew Rogers the TAC recommended endorsement of the First/Final Mile Freight Network Development Study.

Motion passed.

(08-19-21 – 06)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

10. Air Quality Conformity Analysis for 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Bill Swiatek said the Air Quality Subcommittee created a timeline to execute this conformity analysis that was triggered by a horizon year change to the I-295 project in the FY 2023 TIP. This conformity analysis will include New Castle County only. It is not going to include the Cecil County portion, although some of the project years for some Cecil County projects will be updated because they run at the same time with the model.

The regionally significant project list, the Land Use TAZ data and other model inputs will be used in the conformity analysis, which will run through October 5th. The Air Quality Subcommittee will review the results in October, and a draft document should be ready for review by November. The draft document should be approved and released for public comment in December. The official comment period is expected to be between January and February. Then, a public meeting will be scheduled. Then the document will be brought to TAC and AQS for recommendation of adoption. In the March timeframe it will be brought to Council for adoption and submitted to the federal agencies.

At the last Air Quality Subcommittee meeting, the model years were decided. They will be changed as we move into the future. Right now, they are 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050. They will be switched to 2025, 2035, 2045, and 2050. We went through an exercise to look at all of the projects that are modeled and took the current year and adjusted it to a proposed year. This is not exactly the year that the project will be in service. In most cases, it will be in service before that year, but it will be in service by that year for the modeling analysis.

The Cecil County projects were all kept in this draft with the year adjusted. For most of them the year was pushed back. For MD 213 and MD 272, the year 2050 was kept the same. On the New Castle County side, DeIDOT reviewed the projects. The US 301 project, Christina River Bridge, Road A, and Eagle Run Road are all in service, so they will be removed from the

analysis. SR 72 - McCoy Road, SR 299, the Elkton Road project, SR 141 will move up from 2030 to 2025. The US 301: Spur was pushed back from 2030 to 2045. US 40/896 interchange, 896/I-95, 896/Bethel Road, US 40 widening, SR 1 widening, SR 4 project in Newark, Boyd's Corner Road, and Center Boulevard all went from 2030 to 2035. Tyler McConnell Bridge went from 2040 to 2045. The I-295 Northbound project went from 2040 to 2035. Eagle Run Road was pushed back from 2040 to 2045. US 40 to SR 7 went from 2040 to 2035. The SR 1: Tybouts Corner widening and the SR 896 widening from US 40 to I-95 went from 2050 to 2035. There were many adjustments to the list but nothing major. The analysis is expected to begin this month and hopefully results will be ready for the subcommittee to review in the October timeframe.

11. WILMAPCO Video: Transportation Justice

Ms. Randi Novakoff said this is the latest video from the series of five public outreach videos that are being created. The videos are to explain transportation planning in a simple and easily understood way, and emphasize the importance of public involvement in the planning process. The videos focus on pedestrian and bike planning, the RTP and the TIP, What's an MPO, transportation justice, and the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan. Today's video is about transportation justice. It is about five minutes long and features staff and local leaders sharing information on transportation justice. *Video was shown.* The videos are being shared throughout Cecil County and New Castle County libraries, WITN shared it through their social media. Staff is working with the County to share it on their social media. Everyone is encouraged to sign up to WILMAPCO's YouTube page, where all of the videos can be found, and share them throughout your networks.

From the chat:

Ms. Tricia Arndt- OSPC: Good job all, well done!

Ms. Randi Novakoff: WILMAPCO YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmztA5cpe7p8vYkDXAHAM5w>

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. Staff Report

Ms. Dunigan reported the following updates:

- Staff continues to partner CADSR at the University of Delaware to work on an analysis of bus connectivity in transportation justice areas. As part of this, the Transportation Justice Working Group has reformed to guide the study. To join, contact Mr. Bill Swiatek.
- A Walkable Community Workshop was held in Townsend on July 12th. Staff will present the draft report to their Council on September 1st.
- The City of New Castle Transportation Plan had a pop-up outreach event in conjunction with a concert in Battery Park on July 28th. The next virtual workshop will be September 13th. Registration is on our website. An in-person meeting is planned in conjunction with the New Castle City Council meeting in October.
- Staff is supporting Collaborate Northeast with the implementation of an EPA grant that will examine emerging mobility solutions in the Prices Run area.
- Staff is supporting DART with their Areas of Persistent Poverty FTA grant.
- The Transportation Justice Plan will be presented at the North Carolina Public Transportation Association Conference on August 27th and at TRB's annual meeting on September 13th.

- The Churchman's Crossing Plan Update will have an Advisory Committee meeting on September 27th and a public meeting on October 25th.
- The I-95 Cap Study is finalizing their scope and contract. The Kick-off meeting will be August 30th.
- Staff met in person and virtually with Cecil County local elected officials, MDOT, MTA, and MARC staff on July 22nd regarding the MARC Extension.
- Concord Pike Monitoring's kick-off meeting was August 17th.
- WILMAPCO will be partnering with DeIDOT on a joint TIP/CTP meeting on September 15th in-person at the Wilmington Library. A virtual version of this meeting is being planned.
- The pre-tour for the MDOT CTP will be on September 8th.
- The Air Quality Partnership is planning a car-free week for the week of September 20th. This will be a social media campaign with a scavenger hunt and prizes.
- A second Walkable Community Workshop will be held in Middletown on September 29th. Registration can be found on WILMAPCO's webpage.
- The Transporter, WILMAPCO's quarterly mailed newsletter, will now be online. To receive it, please sign up on our webpage.
- Our next meeting for TAC will be the picnic at Lums Pond. It will not be at our usual pavilion so please read the meeting materials carefully.
- In October, TAC will be hybrid with both in-person and Zoom options. The Zoom link will be the same one that we have been using. To control capacity, you may be asked to sign up in advance if you prefer to come to the office. We will follow up on procedures for that. We are debating keeping agenda materials all electronic or mailing them out.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Ian Beam and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom the TAC adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Motion passed.

(08-19-21 - 07)

The TAC adjourned at 10:44 PM

Attachments (0)