

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 21, 2019

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at WILMAPCO, The Tower at STAR Campus, 100 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 800, Newark, DE 19713.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning, brought the TAC meeting to order at 10:00 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
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment (via conference call)
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
Stacey Dahlstrom, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Tony Di Giacomo, Cecil County Land Use and Development Services
Mike Fortner, City of Newark Planning and Development Department
Stephen Miller, Maryland State Highway Administration
Brian Mitchell, City of Wilmington Department of Public Works
Jolyon Shelton, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

Lindsay Donnellon, U.S. Federal Highway Administration (via conference call)

TAC Members absent:

City of Wilmington Planning and Development
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware River and Bay Authority
Maryland Transit Administration
Town of Elkton

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

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

Guests and Invitees:

Nathan Attard, DelDOT
Kevin Racine, Citizen

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Janet Butler, Administrative Assistant
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant
Randi Novakoff, Outreach Manager
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner

Jacob Thompson, Transportation Planner

Minutes prepared by: Janet Butler

3. MINUTES

The January 17, 2019 TAC minutes were approved.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Beam and seconded by Ms. Arndt, the TAC approved the January 17, 2019 minutes.

Mr. Dahlstrom abstained because he was not present at the January 17, 2019 meeting.

Motion passed.

(2-21-19 - 01)

4. Subcommittee Updates -

a. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group (NMTWG)

The NMTWG met on February 5, 2019. Ms. Dunigan discussed the draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and draft FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). NMTWG feedback included two minor adjustments to the project aspiration list: 1) Rename Christina River Bridge project to Newport Greenway/Christina River Trail project, and 2) Add New Castle County East Coast Greenway improvements, to include bringing short gaps and older sections up to ECG standards. NMTWG recommended approval of the RTP and TIP. Mr. Andrew Burnish, MDOT, spoke about the Maryland GIS project that creates an inventory of trails and bicycle facilities to help identify and prioritize gaps and assist with bike planning activities. Ms. Dunigan discussed the status of the New Castle County Bicycle Plan, including the launch of an online survey, results of outreach to date, and next steps. Mr. Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway, discussed the Mid-Atlantic Greenways and Trails Summit, planned for April 4-6, 2019, in Philadelphia, and Mr. James Wilson, Bike Delaware, discussed initial plans for the 2019 Delaware Bike Summit.

b. Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS)

The AQS met on February 14, 2019. The AQS meeting was a joint session with Delaware's Transportation Conformity Consultation Working Group. The AQS reviewed the FY 2019 TIP amendments that are on the TAC agenda; they did not trigger a revised conformity analysis. The AQS also provided technical scores for about two dozen projects in the WILMAPCO draft 2050 RTP and recommended approval for both New Castle County's and Cecil County's conformity documents. A draft Dover/Kent MPO Conformity Determination was also reviewed at the meeting. AQS recommended that the Conformity Analysis be redone with changes to the regionally significant project list.

c. Congestion Management Subcommittee (CMS)

The CMS met on January 24, 2019. The focus of the meeting was on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). CMS is identifying freight bottlenecks for Delaware. They also reviewed technology before and after results regarding Route 301. The traffic data will be collected and DelDOT will employ a larger plan for measuring the Route 301 data. CMS has also worked on web updates. CMS reviewed what MPOs are doing for the CMP. Mr. Blevins also travelled to Oregon to gather information on Salem, Oregon's CMP process. In addition, DelDOT is using the WILMAPCO CMS intersection process to calculate measurements for five intersections statewide.

5. Public Comments -

Mr. Kevin Racine said he has experienced a big improvement in transit while traveling from Harford County, Maryland to Newark, Delaware. For instance, this morning he got on a bus in Harford County at 7:44 a.m., and arrived at the Perryville Train Station at 8:10 a.m. Then, he boarded another bus 10 minutes later to Newark. He added the transit system now has later hours, and it links all five hospitals, from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC to New York City's hospitals. Ms. Dunigan said the new bus service operates as an express route between Perryville, North East, and Newark and is timed to meet the MARC Train. This service helps to bridge the gap between MARC and Septa commuter rail services.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. To Recommend Amendment of the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Dunigan said that DelDOT has request that the TIP be amended to adjust funding for the Mid-County Maintenance Facility Expansion and Churchman's Crossing Fairplay Station Parking Expansion projects. Ms. Dennis explained that the Fairplay project would include a parking garage to be shared with the office building adjacent to Fairplay Station at Delaware Park. The total amount of the funding is \$1,252,000.

Mr. Cooper noted that the amendment form said the projects were regionally significant and asked if the amendment would trigger a revised air quality conformity analysis. Ms. Dunigan stated that the Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS), which felt that these projects are not regionally significant, reviewed the amendments.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Fortner and seconded by Ms. Smith, the TAC recommended amendment of the FY 2019-2022 TIP for funding changes to the Mid-County Maintenance Facility Expansion and Churchman's Crossing Fairplay Station Parking Expansion projects.

Motion passed.

(2-21-19 - 02)

7. To Recommend Adoption of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Mr. Swiatek said the 2050 RTP document is like the 2040 RTP because it has similar content, graphics, and layout. The document has been a collaborative effort both in-house and with partners.

In the 2050, RTP Update WILMAPCO is paying more attention to performance measures that are identified more clearly; and applicable national performance measures have been called out clearly. There is also more stress placed on the project prioritization process to select projects for funding, along with performance measures that show improvement. In addition, WILMAPCO is preparing for autonomous, self-driving vehicles.

More attention has also been paid to performance measurements where WILMAPCO may have fallen short such as with shared mobility -- the carpooling rates have been decreasing. In addition, there have been some changes with the Transportation Investment Areas (TIAs) including that North Claymont, Newport, and Churchman's Crossing has been added to the Center TIA definitions.

The Transportation Projects List is also similar to that of the 2040 RTP. There is a high percentage of Highway Upgrades, and Transit and Bike/Pedestrian projects have larger percentages than typical in Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP). Transit in the TIP has

been around 10% of all capital funding -- it is 15% in the RTP; Bike/Pedestrian is typically at 2% in the TIP -- but 5% in the RTP. There are also more fiscally constrained projects than aspiration projects, which is a positive trend.

In terms of outreach, the draft plan has been generally reviewed positively. Most of the nearly 600 participants in the online survey agreed with the plan's objectives. They were asked to rate each one on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 showing the most positive agreement. All objectives received at least an average score of 3.9/5 – the median score for all objectives was 4.3/5. Hundreds of individual project ideas were collected online and at popup events and workshops. The strongest emphasis was on system maintenance projects and public transportation improvements, both reflected well in the plan.

Mr. DiGiacomo said regarding the graphics on page 3, the City of Wilmington's boundary needs to be delineated. In addition, the maps of the roadways indicate that US Route 1 is in Rising Sun; however, it needs to be changed to Route 273. In addition, MD 22 and US 222 are very different roads that need to be labeled properly. Mr. Swiatek said these changes to the maps would be made.

Mr. Dahlstrom said regarding the funding analysis on page 14 that the footnote for #9 is covered up and needs to be corrected; and on page 30, the bottom graphic compares growth in urban and rural areas; however, he wanted to clarify if they should be listed differently. Mr. Swiatek agreed and said this graphic would be updated.

Mr. Dahlstrom also said that in the Spotlight on Rural Development, New Castle County is shown; however, Cecil County also needs to be shown. Mr. Swiatek responded that information was not included at first as it was thought it might be too much for people to process – the key issue of rural growth was more in New Castle County so that was highlighted. However, he will correct the graphic, and add Cecil County. Ms. Dahlstrom said that New Castle County could have more formalized comments before March 6, 2019, when the public comment period ends.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Arndt and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the TAC recommended adoption of the 2050 RTP.

Motion passed.

(2-21-19 - 03)

8. To Recommend Adoption of the Draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Air Quality Conformity Determinations

Mr. Swiatek said the Air Quality Conformity Analysis documents for both New Castle County and Cecil County have not changed much since the TAC reviewed them previously. On page 6 in the Cecil County document and on page 15 in the New Castle County document the analyses show they have both met their conformity budgets for ozone emissions and New Castle County has met the PM2.5 budgets.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. DiGiacomo, the TAC recommended approval of the 2050 RTP and FY 2020-2023 TIP Air Quality Conformity Determinations for New Castle and Cecil Counties.

Motion passed.

(2-21-19 - 04)

9. To Recommend Approval of the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Dunigan said the TIP has been out for public comment since January 14, 2019, through March 6, 2019. The Our Town event was very successful because 100 people attended and WILMAPCO displayed the FY 2020-2023 TIP along with the 2050 RTP Update instead of holding a standalone public workshop. Only one written comment specific to the TIP has been submitted to date.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. DiGiacomo and seconded by Mr. Fortner, the TAC recommended approval of the FY 2020-2023 TIP.

Motion passed.

(2-21-19 - 05)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

10. Southern New Castle County (SNCC) Master Plan

Mr. Blevins said the SNCC Master Plan has established a long-term, publicly supported vision for land use and infrastructure in Southern New Castle County (SNCC). The plan also provides recommendations to key planning documents such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and New Castle County Comprehensive Plan. The SNCC Master Plan includes issues and constraints, community visioning workshops, scenario development, scenario modeling and analysis, and the preferred alternative.

The demographics of SNCC have been changing. In 1970, the SNCC population was 10,040; and in 2015, SNCC grew to 60,567 people. By 2050, SNCC population will be approximately 92,322, which will be 15% of the County's population. Between 1990 and 2015, SNCC added more than 7,000 new jobs. SNCC will have more than 10,000 new jobs by 2050, and the share of jobs will grow from 1.2% to 4.6% by 2050. Mr. Blevins explained that this demographics data means that people are outpacing the number of jobs by 6 to 1; therefore, SNCC is becoming a "bedroom community." In addition, SNCC is an auto-centric society; and the jobs are primarily found in healthcare, retail, and education industries.

Of the 9,927 total jobs in SNCC, 3,595 are filled by residents (36%); 6,322 are filled by those living outside of SNCC (63%), and 22,890 (86%) of the 26,485 working residents work outside of SNCC. The people who leave SNCC to commute to work go to Newark, New Castle, and Christina in New Castle County, Delaware, as well as other parts of Delaware, Pennsylvania (Delaware County and Philadelphia), and Maryland.

A SNCC Master Plan Information Session was held in October 2018 where 50 people attended, which resulted in some broad-based comments that served as an initial conversation piece with the public. In January 2019, an additional Visioning Session was held at the Odessa Fire Hall, where more than 100 people attended, which provided comprehensive stakeholder input and sound technical analysis.

The SNCC Master Plan includes an Advisory Committee with broad representation from the community. An additional Visioning Workshop will be held on March 13, 2019, at the Middletown Fire Hall; and the workshop will be publicized on the WILMAPCO website and through various social media strategies.

At the January 2019 Visioning Session, the overall question was posed to the attendees: Where do we grow from here? -- This session also included questions such as: Are we growing too fast or too slow? Are the right things being built in the right paces? Are we adequately protecting the

environmental, agricultural, cultural, and historic resources? Will the infrastructure adequately serve our current and future needs?

A series of interactive tasks for attendees included a voting ballot. Regarding those polling results, the highest number of attendees voted for expanding transportation, trolley, rail, and taxi services. The use of Metro Quest software (online) allowed people to provide more feedback, which also includes the results of those who attend the workshops in person.

Land use and transportation scenarios are informed by the issues and constraints data; the plan is built on the Community Vision; and it will be developed and reviewed by the staff and Advisory Committees. The public workshop on March 13, 2019 will provide more comments to help make refinements to the plan.

How each scenario has performed with respect to land use, transportation modes, sewer areas, schools, and resource preservation will be included in the report. Another public workshop will be planned for summer or early fall 2019 to review results. The final report will include an Introduction to the Master Plan, Existing Conditions, Goals and Performance Measures, Scenarios (considered and selected), and a detailed Implementation Plan.

Mr. Attard commented that getting the word out that the next SNCC Master Plan public workshop on March 13, 2019, at Middletown Fire Hall is a repeat of the previous workshop that was held in January 2019 would be very helpful. Ms. Dahlstrom responded that is being done.

11. Environmental Justice (EJ) Low English Proficiency Analysis

Mr. Swiatek said WILMAPCO is condensing the work that has been done previously with the Civil Rights Act and Title VI, Transportation Justice (TJ), Environmental Justice (EJ) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) into one plan that is currently being built.

The first chapter of the analysis reviews EJ and Title VI. The second chapter covers the Mobility Challenged, which includes seniors, people with disabilities, and people without vehicles (formerly known as TJ). The third chapter encompasses the Language Assistance Plan that supports LEP and Low-Literacy (LL) communities. Today's presentation involves the third chapter.

People with LEP are considered those more than 5 years old who speak English "less than very well." In the year 2000, this population totaled 20,600, which is 3.8% of the region's population. Today, that number is 26,800, which is 4.4% of the population. People with LL are considered those that are more than 25 years old with less than a 9th grade education. This population has been in decline and totals nearly 12,400 today.

The Safe Harbor Provision of the U.S. Government stipulates reasonable interpretation, translation, and outreach to LEP communities that exceed 5% of the region's population or more than 1,000 people. Two language groups meet the 1,000 person or more thresholds – Spanish speakers and Chinese speakers.

Mr. Swiatek referred to a map of LEP clusters in the WILMAPCO Region that includes LEP-Spanish, Asian, and mix of Spanish and Asian Languages and he indicated where clusters these LEP populations reside.

These LEP clusters exceed three times the regional average. In addition, there are adjoining block groups with a percentage of the population over 5 years old, who speak English less than “very well,” which exceed two times the regional average.

Similarly, LL clusters exceed three times the national average; and there are adjoining block groups with a percentage of the population with less than a 9th grade education exceeding two times the regional average, which WILMAPCO has identified.

A four-factor analysis was conducted to understand what reasonable language assistance could be provided. These include: 1) How many are encountered (point of contact) or are eligible; 2) Frequency of contact; 3) Importance of services; and 4) Resources and the cost of providing access.

From there, WILMAPCO is proposing three tiers of outreach services. The Tiers include Tier 1: Responsive to LEP and LL communities; Tier 2: Proactive for Chinese LEP communities; and Tier 3: Proactive for Spanish LEP & LL communities. Mr. Swiatek outlined the progressive outreach services in each tier.

This report will follow the WILMAPCO 2050 RTP. Staff also expects WILMAPCO Council endorsement in November 2019.

Ms. Dunigan asked if the EJ Analysis would eventually include the vision or hearing communication challenged population. Mr. Swiatek replied, yes, because we will be looking more at the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Mr. Dahlstrom asked if there are Best Practices by other jurisdictions that utilize these outreach tiers. Mr. Swiatek responded that they were developed based on a best practice review. He noted that APA has just released a report about how planning departments can improve planning efforts with diverse communities, which was consulted.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

12. Staff Report

Ms. Dunigan reported on the following plans and events:

- The 2050 RTP public outreach is continuing with presentations and popup events through March 2019.
- A public workshop was held for the Union Street – Pennsylvania Avenue project on January 22, 2019, and 70 people attended. The Union Street Reconfiguration Project will hold a working group meeting on February 22, 2019.
- A Southern New Castle County (SNCC) Visioning workshop is scheduled on March 13, 2019, at the Middletown Fire Hall. MetroQuest online events are also being conducted.
- The East Seventh Street Peninsula Roadway Master Plan Public Open House was held on February 6, 2019, and 55 people attended. The final workshop will be held in the spring.
- The WILMAPCO “Our Town” event was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, in the Atrium of the University of Delaware STAR Campus, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event was very successful and 100 people attended.
- Staff will meet with Bayard School today to talk about Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Additional SRTS public events will be held with Eisenberg and McCullough Schools on March 5, 2019, at the Route 9 Library.
- A Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) Service Change Workshop will be held March 6, 2019, at WILMAPCO.

- Staff has been helping to coordinate The Mid-Atlantic Greenways and Trail Summit. This event will be held in Philadelphia from April 4-6, 2019. Registration is still open until March 22, 2019.
- Staff is coordinating Wilmington Earth Day Events on April 17, 2019. In addition, staff is collaborating with the Delaware Estuary and Rideshare Delaware on events during Air Quality Awareness Week, April 8-12, 2019.
- The 12th Street Connector Alignment Study Open House was held on January 7, 2019. Option B is the Preferred Alternative with the community and WILMAPCO is reviewing this option with the project partners.
- Staff has attended the Steering Committee Meeting for the EPA Brownfields Area Wide Study and has presented results.
- The Groundbreaking event for the Claymont Regional Transportation Center is being held today.
- The Concord Pike Master Plan telephone interviews were completed, and a Focus Group Meeting and Public Workshop will be held on March 20, 2019, at Brandywine High School.
- The Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee met on February 19, 2019, and the next meeting will be held on March 19, 2019.
- The WILMAPCO Transportation Justice (TJ) Working Group will meet on March 1, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at WILMAPCO.
- Staff attended the Newark Area Transit Study Management Committee Meeting on January 29, 2019. Committee feedback is being accepted until April 22, 2019, when they will present the plan to Newark City Council.
- The New Castle County Bicycle Plan Committee is collecting responses from Metro Quest, which had 130 responses. Last night's public workshop was rescheduled, tentatively to March 13, 2019, due to snow.
- Brandywine Creek Greenway Workshop dates have been set to get feedback to develop plans including at the State National Park. They will have several meetings on the following dates and locations: March 18, 2019 at Talleyville Fire Hall; March 21, 2019, at Ezion Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church; March 26, 2019, at Warner Elementary School; March 28, 2019, at DuPont High School; and April 2, 2019, at Woodlawn Library.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Smith said the DART Public Hearings would be held on March 5, 2019, at the Wilmington Library, and in Dover and Georgetown, the next day. There are minor changes regarding bus service for Routes 2, 6, 59, and 22. These changes are mostly schedule-adjustments for New Castle County.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attachments (0)