

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 18, 2019

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at WILMAPCO, The Tower at STAR Campus, 100 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 800, Newark, DE 19713.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Gwinneeth Kaminsky, City of Wilmington Department of Planning and Development, brought the TAC meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment (via conference call)
Mike Fortner, City of Newark Planning and Development Department
Gwinneeth Kaminsky, City of Wilmington Planning and Development
Stephen P. Miller, Maryland State Highway Administration
Steve O'Connor, Cecil County Land Use and Development Services
Jolyon Shelton, DNREC
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 Department of Public Works
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware Office of State Planning
Delaware River and Bay Authority
Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Transit Administration
New Castle County Department of Land Use
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:

Benjamin Allen, Maryland State Highway Administration
Mark DeShon, BikeNewark
Joshua Thomas, DeIDOT

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Janet Butler, Administrative Assistant
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant
Dave Gula, Principal Planner

Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Janet Butler

3. MINUTES

The March 21, 2019 TAC minutes were approved.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Mike Fortner and seconded by Mr. Ian Beam, the TAC approved the March 21, 2019 minutes.

Motion passed.

(4-18-19 - 01)

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group (NMTWG)

Ms. Dunigan said the NMTWG met on April 2, 2019. Mr. Swiatek presented the 2019 Transportation Justice (TJ) Equity Analysis, which focused on the Transportation Equity report that updates the previous Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Justice (TJ) analyses. Mr. Gula discussed the draft bicycle and pedestrian recommendations from the 7th Street Peninsula Master Plan and the 12th Street Connector Alignment Study. In addition, Ms. Dunigan discussed signage for the Newark Bikeways “Central Loop”, which includes the draft wayfinding routes to promote low-stress bicycle routes in Newark, Delaware.

b. Congestion Management Subcommittee (CMS)

Mr. Blevins said the CMS met on April 11, 2019. CMS discussed Delaware’s Signal Phase and Timing (SPaT) Challenge. This challenge includes fifty dedicated, short-range signals that will tell vehicles when signals turn yellow. The signals will be on 50 state vehicles housed in the Rehoboth and Smyrna areas, and some signals will be installed along Route 40. CMS also discussed the Dilemma Zone Warning System, which uses a Wavetronix device on the signal heads of vehicles that will sense and delay the yellow signal until a vehicle passes through. There will be some devices installed on Route 13 and 113. Another discussion topic included the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Software Tool and the University of Delaware’s and DeIDOT’s Automated, “Easy Mile” shuttles that are 15-passenger, driverless vehicles that rove around campus on a fixed schedule. In addition, Subregional Project Updates were discussed regarding Southern New Castle County (SNCC), US 202, US 301, and US 40 projects. Mr. Blevins said he would send the U-Tube videos to TAC that explains the technology of the automated vehicles and signals.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. To Recommend Approval of the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Zegeye said that the first page of the TAC package is a resolution to adopt the FY 2020 UPWP, and the second page is a resolution for adopting the 20% state/local cash commitment match from member agencies. Staff was able to secure cash match with the exception of \$8,207 of In-kind services from Cecil County for the FY 2020 UPWP.

The total amount of cash commitment from the State of Maryland has been \$12,607 in cash with minimum cash matches of \$4,400 from Cecil County, \$403,632 from the State of Delaware, \$31,500 from New Castle County, and \$11,796 from the City of Wilmington, with any remaining matching obligation made in either cash or In-kind services. WILMAPCO hopes to get cash whenever possible to match federal funds. However, staff did not receive all cash from the State of Maryland; therefore, the In-kind agreement for \$8,207, from Cecil County and the Town of Elkton is on the next page of the TAC packet. Ms. Zegeye did not include the breakdown of the hours for In-kind, because that information includes salary and benefits, but, she would provide this information if it is requested.

There are corrections to the draft FY 2020 UPWP document as follows: 1) In the Table of Contents, under III-4, it should say FY 2020 UPWP Consultant Costs not Toll Credits and In-Kind Activities, and the page number should be III-3; and 2) Page VI-2 should say In-Kind Allocation, not Toll Credit Allocation, and FY 2020 instead of FY 2018.

The FY 2020 UPWP is out for public comments; however, staff has not received any comments yet. Staff expects the FY 2020 UPWP to be approved at the next Council meeting on May 9, 2019. The PAC approved the public outreach portion of the UPWP on Monday evening.

Ms. Zegeye added the Churchman's Crossing Plan Update, the Governor Printz Boulevard Corridor Study, and the Newport Transportation Plan are the three new projects in the FY 2020 UPWP.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Cathy Smith and seconded by Mr. Mike Fortner, the TAC recommended approval of the FY 2020 UPWP with corrections.

Motion passed.

(4-18-19 - 02)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. Newark Bikeways Central Loop

Mr. Mark Deshon, BikeNewark, said the Newark Bikeways Central Loop project builds upon the 2014 Newark Bicycle Plan. It includes the DeIDOT Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) analysis. He distributed a BikeNewark brochure (**Attachment A**), which states that BikeNewark is a partnership of interested cyclists and organizations working to improve bicycling in Newark, Delaware. It centers on five critical criteria including engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation, for the overall benefit of people who bicycle and those in the City of Newark. The partnership includes BikeNewark, City of Newark, DeIDOT, and WILMAPCO.

An engineering committee that deals with infrastructure formed in 2016. By 2017, the group started Phase I of the Bicycle Loop. Since then they have identified the loop, refined the concept, and had many wayfinding discussions. Mr. Deshon said BikeNewark is ready to move forward.

He reviewed the Newark Bikeways Network Map, including the Bikeways Central Loop, connecting low-stress routes, and bike lane-lined roads. The Central Loop includes a portion of Delaware Avenue, Pomeroy Trail, Hall Trail, and Orchard Road and will be the first phase of low-stress wayfinding. With wayfinding, a goal is to create a sense of place and destination for recreation and to improve the economy of the city.

An example of proposed signage is Number 3 of the Central Loop and Proposed Signage on the Locations Map, at the intersection of Orchard Road and Winslow Road. He said there are eight to nine destinations within the City of Newark that the signage will direct bicyclist to.

Next, DeIDOT will fabricate the signs and they will be installed by the City of Newark.

8. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Dunigan said the House of Representatives (March 12, 2019), and the Senate (March 27, 2019) approved House Bill 66, which is awaiting the Delaware Governor's signature. As a result, the CTP will change from an annual to a bi-annual process. Without DeIDOT completing an FY 2021 CTP, WILMAPCO would not need to complete an FY 2021 TIP.

However, WILMAPCO would amend the FY 2020 TIP during the summer after the Bond Bill is approved, and DeIDOT is expecting to still hold CTP public meetings during August and September. DeIDOT and WILMAPCO are both updating their prioritization processes. DeIDOT is considering the addition of Environmental Justice (EJ) and health factors to their process. WILMAPCO would like to incorporate the Transportation Investment Areas (TIAs) into their prioritization scoring, and will be looking into the social indicators of health that may be included, as well as the updated Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Justice (TJ) Analyses.

Therefore, the delay for the next TIP gives WILMAPCO time to improve the prioritization process and align it with the other documents being completed. Amendments would also be completed as needed. If needed, adjustments to the schedule or amendments could be made to better align the process with MDOT's CTP schedule.

Mr. Josh Thomas said DeIDOT is discussing this process now, and will work with the MPOs to see how their schedule would work for the public workshops. DeIDOT will also contact WILMAPCO to work on the schedule. Ms. Dunigan said this schedule change could also work better for MDOT. Mr. Ian Beam, MDOT, agreed that the schedule change should probably work well, but he would get back to WILMAPCO on it.

9. Maryland/Monroe/MLK Project

Mr. Gula said the Maryland/Monroe/MLK project is a safety and capacity improvement study for a five-point intersection. This five-point intersection has heavy congestion in the AM peak hours, where traffic can back up on the I-95 exit ramp and highway. This area is a challenge for pedestrians.

In 2008, Madison Street became two-way, which added a new signal phase at the intersection and created more congestion. The intersection of Maryland Avenue, MLK Boulevard, and Madison Street was studied in 2009 and 2011. However, an improvement project was not added to the TIP/CTP. In 2018, Wilmington Initiatives (WI) partners added the project to WILMAPCO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to complete the study.

A DART Operations Center is located in the project area; therefore, the project team has to take into account all of DART's operations activities, such as parking issues for DART, as well as for other businesses. DART has no plan to move from this area because they would need a sizeable space for the operation, they have invested in the current site, and they require easy access to both I-95 and downtown Wilmington. The other businesses have occupied the same space for a long time. This area is considered a Gateway to the City.

The action items that came out of the team's meetings are: 1) Develop alternatives that include examining the stormwater impacts, conducting traffic analysis, and providing ownership evaluation. 2) Meet with DTC, which includes a meeting held on April 5, 2019, 3) Speak with Parks and Recreation about the property near Liberty Street that is planned for a skatepark; a telephone conversation occurred on April 2, 2019, and 4) Develop a Focus Group Strategy.

The Focus Group Strategy format includes an introduction to the study area, which identifies the users and what is important to them, asks how alternatives would be evaluated, and tests the evaluation criteria with existing alternatives. Potential stakeholders include civic groups in Browntown, Hedgeville, Hilltop, West Center City, Quaker Hill, and Justison Landing. Current property owners will also be included. The Maryland/Monroe/MLK Project will be part of the Wilmington Initiatives (WI) Public Workshop to be held on June 19.

The proposed evaluation criteria incorporate several strong alternatives that would include Option 1, Monroe Street, which would take out a section of Maryland Avenue. Option 2, which would build a garage for buses that would keep buses covered because of the law that requires removal of snow on vehicles. Option three, which would include building a new ramp from I-95. In addition, Option 4, which would take out Madison Avenue access, but keep Maryland Avenue access. Other less popular Options are five, six, and seven.

Ms. Zegeye said that WILMAPCO is conducting the Planning and Environmental Linkage plan, (pre-NEPA), and that is why all of the Alternatives (1-7) are all still in the plan. Mr. Gula said the FY2025 TIP funding had indicated that the Maryland/Monroe/MLK project was on the Aspirations List and in December 2018, it moved to the Constrained List.

The upcoming project timeline features two project workshops and completing a final report by September or October 2019.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

12. Staff Report

Ms. Dunigan reported on the following plans and events:

- The Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee will meet on April 23, 2019.
- Staff attended the National American Planning Association (APA) Conference in San Francisco, California, from April 12-16, 2019.
- Staff will attend the Electric Vehicle (EV) Summit at DVRPC on April 30, 2019.
- Staff attended the APA Delaware Tour, Presentation, and Networking event regarding the Jack Markell Trail.
- Staff has been working with the Wilmington Health Planning Council.
- Staff attended the I-95 Public Workshop on March 27, 2019.
- Staff attended the New Castle County Land Preservation Workshop on March 28, 2019.
- Staff attended the Kick-off Safe Routes to School (SRTS) event at Bayard School held on April 1, 2019.
- Staff attended the Mid-Atlantic Greenways and Trails Summit from April 4-5, 2019, in Philadelphia.
- Air Quality Awareness Week was held from April 8-12, 2019, where attendees were encouraged to use alternative transportation modes.
- Staff exhibited at the Air Quality Partnership (AQP) Earth Day event in Wilmington on April 17, 2019.
- On April 18, 2019, the Montessori School SRTS Public Workshop is being held.

- The Advisory Committee reviewed the draft recommendations for the Newark Area Transit Study and a presentation will be provided to City Council on April 22, 2019.
- The Newark Bike Plan Metroquest Survey online results have included 243 responses and the survey will close on April 30, 2019.
- The City of New Castle Comprehensive Plan Public Sessions is being held on April 29, 30, and May 1, 2019.
- Staff participated in the University of Delaware IPA Workshop on Integrated Health in DelDOT's Prioritization Process on April 12, 2019, and the UD Partnership for Healthy Committees Workshop on Reducing Inequities, Health, and Well Being on April 17, 2019.
- The Wilmington Initiatives (WI) Twelfth Street Connector project public workshop was held on April 3, 2019. Public comments are being accepted until April 29, 2019.
- The East Seventh Street Peninsula project's final public workshop will be held on May 15, 2019.
- Concord Pike Master Plan Stakeholder interviews are being held on April 4 and April 26, 2019.
- The Southern New Castle County (SNCC) Master Plan meeting was held on April 10, 2019, to develop land use scenarios that will be presented to the community in June.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Gula said the next Concord Pike workshop has not been scheduled yet. Mr. Beam distributed brochures and other free materials regarding the Maryland Commuter Tax Credit. Ms. Smith said the May 19, 2019; Service Changes are coming up, which includes Delaware Beaches Bus Service that begins on May 20, 2019. She asked when the Bike Summit would be held. Ms. Dunigan replied the information could be found on the Bike Delaware website.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Attachments (1)



Our Partners



The Newark Partnership



Connect With Us



Check out our website to...

- learn about our work, related projects, and activities.
- learn about events with which we're involved.
- find valuable resources.
- take our interest/involvement survey.
- ask a question or share a comment or suggestion.

...and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Website: BikeNewark.org

Facebook: [/BikeNewark](https://www.facebook.com/BikeNewark)

Twitter: [@BikeNewark](https://twitter.com/BikeNewark)

Instagram: [@BikeNewark](https://www.instagram.com/BikeNewark)

Email: BikeNewark@gmail.com



BikeNewark is a partnership of interested cyclists and organizations working to improve bicycling in Newark, Delaware.

Our Mission

BikeNewark exists to improve bicycling in Newark, Delaware, by working with partner organizations on five critical parameters—engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation—for the overall benefit of people who bicycle and the city as a whole.



What We Do

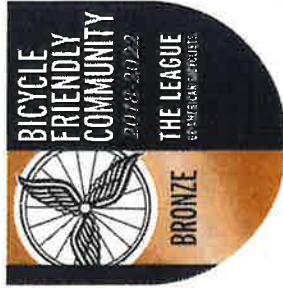
Work Collaboratively

The basis for our success—past, present, and future—is our ability to work with our foundation partners and forge ad hoc partnerships when appropriate. Whether it’s a project or an issue, when we bring together stakeholders and decision-makers, we can work both quickly and more efficiently in terms of seeking the best solutions that will help promote bicycling and further enhance the character of the city.

Focus on the Five E’s

The League of American Bicyclists rates states, communities, businesses, and universities on “bicycle-friendliness” according to five criteria. We focus on these same criteria as a means of working toward recognizable and documentable improvements for the city of Newark.

- Engineering
- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation



Our Objectives

BikeNewark strives to:

1. make biking and walking central to Newark’s culture.
2. build a movement in Newark for better biking and walking.
3. expand safe and connected bike and walk infrastructure.
4. educate community members in the safe and legal operation of bicycles.
5. make Newark the best small city for biking in the Mid-Atlantic Region.



Get Involved

Attend Our Meetings

BikeNewark partnership meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room of WILMAPCO—one of our partners—on the 8th floor of the Tower at STAR on University of



Delaware’s STAR Campus in Newark. These meetings are open to the public.

Become a Member

Attend any combination of three or more BikeNewark-related events and/or meetings within a calendar year and you’ll be a full (individual) member with voting privileges.

Donate to Our Mission

Interested in helping by making a tax-deductible donation to improve bicycling in Newark? Though we don’t take credit cards directly, you can use your credit card on the PayPal link at:

[BikeNewark.org/donate](https://www.bikewarrior.org/donate)