

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING  
December 19, 2019**

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Air Quality Subcommittee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at WILMAPCO, 100 Discovery Blvd., 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  
Marvina Cephas, DNREC  
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning  
Stacey Dahlstrom, New Castle County Department of Land Use  
Michael Fortner, City of Newark  
Gwynn Kaminsky, City of Wilmington Planning  
Stephen Miller, Maryland State Highway Authority  
Jeanne Minner, Town of Elkton  
Steve O'Connor, Cecil County Land Use  
Jolyon Shelton, DNREC  
Catherine Smith, DTC

**TAC Ex-Officio Members present:**

**TAC Members absent:**

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:**

Ian Beam, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Marvina Cephas, DNREC  
Jolyon Shelton, DNREC  
Catherine Smith, DTC

**Guests and Invitees:**

Ben Allen, Maryland State Highway Authority  
Tyson Byrne, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Jane Dilley, League of Women Voters  
Kevin Racine  
Philip Strom, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Jacque Williamson, Brandywine Zoo

**Staff:**

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner  
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner  
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant  
Dave Gula, Principal Planner  
Randi Novakoff, Outreach Manager  
Jacob Thompson, Transportation Planner  
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Sharen Elcock

**3. MINUTES**

Ms. Dahlstrom requested a change in wording on the City of Wilmington Comp Plan presentation given by Herb Inden. On page 3, Stacey Dahlstrom asked, is the current land use the existing use or currently adopted future land use instead of previous future land use? The November 21, 2019 TAC minutes were approved with the noted correction.

**ACTION:** On motion by Ian Beam and seconded by Ms. Dahlstrom, the TAC approved the November 21, 2019 TAC minutes as corrected.

Motion passed.

**(12-19-19 - 01)**

**Air Quality notes:** There were no edits to the AQ notes. The minutes were approved.

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**a. Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group**

The Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group met on December 3, 2019. There was a presentation from Ken Grant of AAA on the Autonomous Technology. The NMTWG found the information useful in terms of upcoming outreach strategies for pedestrians and drivers.

Bridgitte Carty, the new Executive Director of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, gave an update on their recent work as well as some of the future planned trail projects and grant funding.

Randi Novakoff gave an Air Quality Partnership of DE update and ways that they are promoting clean transportation choices.

Dave Gula gave an update on the Southern New Castle County Master Plan, particularly the bicycle and pedestrian recommendations.

A meeting of the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be hosted at WILMAPCO on 1/24 at 10:00 a.m., for the first time.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Racine asked for assistance with finding alternate public transit for his commutes. Unicity Transit and DTC's rider/travel trainer program was recommended.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **6. To recommend amendment of the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Ms. Dunigan said that this amendment is to amend the FY 2020 -2023 TIP to include the Cecil County Mid-County Transit Hub project. She stated that this was a joint request from MDOT and Cecil County. This will help the efficiency for transit in Cecil County. It is a \$1.5 million total budget with 10% match from the state and 10% from the county.

**ACTION:** On motion by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Fortner the TAC recommended amendment of the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Cecil County Mid-County Transit Hub project.

Motion passed.

**(12-19-19-02)**

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **7. Urban Wildlife Planning**

Ms. Jacque Williamson, Curator of Education and Conservation Programs at Wilmington's Brandywine Zoo, presented on Wilmington area urban wildlife monitoring. The zoo, which is one of about 230 accredited zoos will be celebrating its 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020. Ms. Williamson stated that she got involved with the Urban Wildlife Information Network and has been monitoring activities across northern New Castle County for about two years. The Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN) is a network of cities across North America, that are championed by the Lioncoln Park Zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute. There are 30 project partners in 24 cities. Wilmington was the first city on the Eastern seaboard to join the network. The purpose is to study, monitor and understand animal behavior and ecology in urban species to compare across cities. The urban environment is the largest ecosystem in the world and the number one threat to animals is habitat loss as a result of urbanization or agriculture. UWIN works to provide city planners, wildlife managers and researchers with the tools needed to make cities part of the solution to the biodiversity crisis. They educate city planners and dwellers on how create natural and structural spaces for urban wildlife. The network aims to instill an atmosphere of shared learning through citizen science projects, educational programming, and outreach that connects communities to their local wildlife. Delaware utilizes an app called 'inaturalist'. With this app citizens can take photos of wildlife, load them onto the website and, have the animal identified. Delaware's camera trap photos are loaded to the website as well. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/urban-wildlife-monitoring-of-delaware> The Tacoma partners are looking at social sciences and environmental justice issues with wildlife and cities and how wildlife diversity changes based off of socio-economic status. Ms. Williamson provided the following link to an article regarding social science and environmental justice in Seattle, WA <https://magazine.washington.edu/feature/ecologist-christopher-schell-sees-himself-in-the-science/> Going forward, Ms. Williamson stated that Delaware would like to see our urban areas more wildlife friendly and supportive.

## **8. Concord Pike Master Plan**

The project started in July 2018 with a Public Information Session that was attended by 200 people. The study area which is a 6-lane arterial of mixed-used corridor with heavily commercial with a lot of residential, is about 6 miles long. Roughly 45,000 to 55,000 cars travel on the corridor on a given day. Mr. Gula stated that some of that traffic is commuting between Delaware and PA while others are traveling on parts of the corridor in Delaware for local trips. Pedestrian crossings and bicycling are difficult because of the volume of traffic, the speed of travel and the lack of amenities. Some of the goals of the master plan are:

- to create a corridor that's attractive to the community by improving streetscapes
- make the corridor more transit and bike friendly by improving/establishing strategies to reduce speeding and relieve heavy traffic and by incorporating additional pedestrian and bicycle trails and crossings.
- improve access management and connectivity to public transit with service and signal improvements and, better access to bus stops.
- to develop implementation strategies that will protect the existing neighborhoods.

Mr. Gula stated that protecting the existing neighborhoods and connectivity were both concerns to area residents. He stated that multi-modal connectivity is a challenge because driving is required to get to most places in the area.

Some of the activities of the master plan, so far:

- Concord Pike Market Study in 2017 that gave them an idea of what to expect on the corridor
- A community visioning session was held on November 14, 2018, with 100 attendees.
- 2 days of stakeholder focus group meetings were held on Nov 14-16, 2018
- Developed Wiki Map Public Engagement which provides online project information and updates, allows residents to share ideas and recommendation on how to improve community connections and amenities.
- 2 additional public workshops were held on March 20 and December 7, 2019. Residents voiced concern on how the new development and traffic will impact/effect the existing neighborhoods and the corridor.

Mr. Blevins gave overviews of the proposed land use scenarios that will be tested: 1) By-Right Development with Existing Zoning; 2) Proposed Zoning with "Low Growth"; 3) Proposed Zoning with "High Growth". He also explained the proposed traffic analysis scenarios that will be utilized: 1) Baseline conditions with no changes; 2) Additional Road Connections; 3) Additional Road and Bike/Ped Connections. These scenarios will be used to project traffic conditions to the 2050 horizon year.

Testing these scenarios will give us the data we need to compare potential future conditions on this corridor, analyze the results and share with the public. Currently, we have modeled the results for the existing land use conditions and the By-Right scenario, and these data were shared at the workshop on December 5. We will work to complete the traffic analysis in early 2020 to present the full results to the public later in early 2020.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **9. Staff Report**

Ms. Dunigan reported on the following plans and events:

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> staff, along with DeIDOT & New Castle County, participated in a community meeting with Mill Creek area residents working to improve pedestrian safety.

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> staff participated in a panel hosted by Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation, along with DTC and a developer, in the area to discuss updates on the status of the North Claymont Area Master Plan.
- January 13<sup>th</sup> staff will give a presentation to Concord Pike businesses and property owners to give a status of the
- December 10<sup>th</sup> staff met with the Baynard SRTS planning team and are working on a parent survey
- January 8<sup>th</sup> staff will be discussing planning as a career Rose Hill Community Center teen program
- January 16<sup>th</sup> will meet with other MPOs in the north east to discuss transportation and climate change initiative at Washcog
- January 21<sup>st</sup> the Rt 9 Corridor Master Plan Monitoring Committee will meet
- 1/24 WILMAPCO is hosting MD Ped & bic advisory council
- 1/29 Gov Printz Corridor Study Public Workshop
- SNCC MP draft plan was out for public comment through 12/15. Now working to prepare a comprehensive traffic analysis for the selected scenarios, there will be one more public workshop and, the project will wrap up in the spring.
- Five responses to the Churchmans Crossing RFP have been received and, interviews are being scheduled for late January.
- The Maryland/Monroe/MLK Safety Project will wrap up with an advisory committee mtg, in January, at the Wilmington Initiatives meeting and, a final public workshop will be held as part of the Wilmington Initiatives June workshop.
- The Newport Transportation Study is working on scheduling a public workshop for late January.
- The Public Participation Plan is working to incorporate recommendations from the Transportation Justice study, that may be on the next TAC agenda.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Staff and attendees viewed a video of the Claymont Train Station.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The TAC meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Attachments (0)**