

Quarterly newsletter of the Wilmington Area Planning Council
TRANSPORTER



Air Quality Partnership to Launch ‘Try It Day Delaware’

The Air Quality Partnership (AQP) of Delaware — a coalition of public and private organizations including RideShare Delaware, Delaware Transit Corporation (DART) First State, Dover/Kent Metropolitan Planning Organization, Delaware Department of Environmental Resources and Control, Chesapeake Utilities, WILMAPCO, and many others — is organizing **Delaware Air Quality Awareness Week**, which will be held from April 30 through May 4, 2018. Several events are planned as part of the week, kicking off at Wilmington’s Earth Day event on April 20.

During Earth Day, the AQP will announce “Try It Day Delaware.” Try It Day is your chance to try a greener mode of transportation (walk, bike, carpool, or public transit) just one day during the week. Individuals who post selfies of themselves using the hashtag #TryItDayDE will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift card for Wawa, Target or Walmart.

Tropo, the mascot of the AQP, will also participate in Wilmington’s Earth Day and Dover Day, promoting Try It Day with a series of videos of himself trying the various modes. Visit AQP on Facebook, during Air Quality Awareness Week, to view the videos. Local elected representatives will

also join Tropo in trying cleaner commuting options throughout the week.

In addition to the hashtag campaign, the partnership will be awarding Air-Friendly Business awards to local businesses that make efforts to encourage employees to make greener transportation choices or

take other measures to improve air quality and raise awareness of air quality matters. If you know of any local business taking measures to improve air quality, please email rnovakoff@wilmapco.org.

To learn more, please visit www.wilmapco.org/aqp.



Report Measures Long-Range Plan's Progress

WILMAPCO's 2017 Regional Progress Report showed that while most policy actions in our 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) have progressed positively, some still need work.

The 2040 RTP is the region's long-range transportation plan. It contains dozens of strategic actions to help the region achieve the goals of improving quality of life, transporting people efficiently, and supporting sustainable economic development and goods movement.

The Progress Report assesses the progress of each of these actions using qualitative and quantitative indicators. A longtime staple at WILMAPCO, the report goes beyond recent federal requirements for performance measurement, meaningfully tracking trends by uncovering their drivers and fostering accountability. Overall, 50% of the actions showed good progress, 29% experienced partial progress, and 21% had poor progress.

One important area of success has been developing and implementing sub-regional plans. These community-based plans support local transportation improvements and revitalization initiatives. Since 1995, WILMAPCO has produced more than three dozen sub-regional plans, most of them during the past decade. These plans have not collected dust. Most (82%) have seen some implementation or have had implementation funding earmarked. Nearly half (40%) are mostly or fully implemented, with major projects fully constructed from the plan.

Conversely, a major area of poor progress has been an inability to encourage more redevelopment

along the I-95 corridor in New Castle County. Our two biggest cities — Wilmington and Newark — are expected to add just 6% more households by 2040. Rural areas in that county, however, are expected to add 32% more. Transportation has a direct role in this.

More than \$1 billion, or 60% of all planned transportation spending for new projects, is identified for 10 major projects along or south of US 40 alone through 2040. About half of that funding is going towards the construction of the US 301 Expressway, a new high-speed road north of Middletown.

Along with major planned upgrades to Route 1 and US 40, these projects were triggered by population growth, and the safety and congestion issues additional traffic creates. They open the door for more sprawling growth and development, as Kirkwood Highway did in the 1950s and Route 1 did in the 1990s. They also raise concerns about the social equity of transportation spending. The

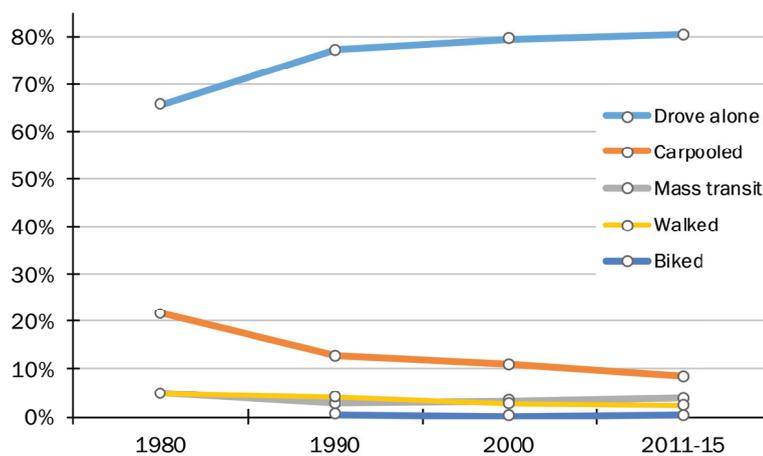


continuing suburban sprawl is also increasing single-occupancy vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled, both of which are at odds with the 2040 RTP.

Together with WILMAPCO's Public Opinion Survey, the 2017 Progress Report will greatly inform our new 2050 RTP, due in March 2019. Planners will be looking closely at the results of both efforts to begin informing the new draft actions.

If you would like to learn more about the Regional Progress Report, or view a copy of it, please visit www.wilmapco.org/regional-progress-report.

COMMUTING MODE SHARE, WILMAPCO REGION



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey

Wilmington 2028 Plan to Reflect Resident and City Goals

by: City of Wilmington

This past fall, the City of Wilmington began a yearlong process of developing a new citywide comprehensive plan — Wilmington 2028: A Comprehensive Plan for Our City and Communities — that will guide growth and development across the city for the next decade.

Currently, Wilmington has a citywide plan along with 11 neighborhood plans that provide the framework for setting land-use policy throughout the city. The new comprehensive plan will combine all of the existing plans into one document in a new format that will better reflect the goals and aspirations of residents and city government for Wilmington's future.

In a more practical sense, Wilmington's Department of Planning & Development is developing a community document that will be used as an everyday tool to:

- **Provide justification for decisions.** Plans provide a factual and objective basis to support zoning and other land-use decisions and can be used by communities to defend their decisions if challenged in court.
- **Allow, through public dialogue, stakeholders to**

express a collective vision for the future. The plan provides opportunities for the stakeholders of the community to create their vision for the community.

- **Allow the community to balance competing interests.** The plan provides for the preparation of a balanced economic and community development strategy involving the communities' physical, environmental, and social needs.

In September 2017, the Wilmington 2028 plan began with the establishment of a steering committee to help guide the plan through the entire process. There are 24 members on the committee, which includes local agencies, businesses and civic/neighborhood groups, as well as regional and state partners. The next step was a public outreach process that included a survey for residents, non-residents who work in Wilmington, and visitors. The other key component was a series of five public forums, held in different neighborhoods throughout the city in the month of November, to maximize exposure and public input.

Wilmington 2028 has completed the research and analysis phase of the process and is now transitioning into the visioning and recommendations phase. The city hired a consulting team to facilitate the development of the plan: Interface Studio for urban

planning and design, EConsult for economic development, and Sam Schwartz for transportation. So far, as part of the public process, the consultants have facilitated the survey, which generated more than 2,300 responses, conducted stakeholder interviews, and held the five public forums to hear from residents and stakeholders about the issues that impact their lives.

The consultants are now facilitating a series of focus groups with the aim of sharing findings from their research and public input, and brainstorming goals and ideas for the comprehensive plan. The focus groups will explore issues and ideas pertaining to economic development, arts and entrepreneurs, community development/blight/safety, community health and services, environment, youth, connectivity, parks and recreation, and the Hispanic community. The plan, when completed, will translate the vision, hopes, dreams, and priorities of the city's residents into tangible and realistic action steps for the city to follow over the next 10 years.

To learn more, please visit www.wilmingtonde.gov.





WILMAPCO-Chaired Committee Makes Truck Traffic Recommendations Along the SR 7, 41 and 48 Corridors

WILMAPCO recently chaired a committee tasked with making recommendations to improve truck traffic along the SR 7, 41 and 48 corridors in New Castle County. The committee worked to develop strategies aimed at reducing the number of trucks traveling along these roadways and improving quality of life for the area's residents. The committee included representatives from Diamond State Port Corporation, Delaware State Police, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Secretary and Chief Traffic Engineer, six representatives from the corridors, and WILMAPCO's Executive Director.

WILMAPCO arranged nine meetings from July 2017 through January of this year. First, subject matter experts presented information to the committee to assist with framing the issues, which included the quantity and speed of truck traffic, safety, and noise concerns of local residents.

Next, the committee brainstormed ideas and approaches to address issues identified along each corridor.

Following the initial brainstorming, ideas and approaches were refined to establish a list of potential recommendations for discussion and voting. Subsequently, the committee discussed and voted on the potential recommendations to identify those that would become, by majority vote, final recommendations to DelDOT and the Delaware General Assembly. Following the voting process, and recognizing that it may be difficult to move all recommendations forward at one time, the committee conducted a prioritization exercise to provide guidance to the General Assembly and DelDOT on which of the recommendations should be focused on first.

The committee made 24 recommendations to DelDOT and the General Assembly. The top five included:

- Conduct a feasibility study on constructing a bypass between US 1 and I-95.
- Perform a Road Safety Audit on SR 7, SR 41, and SR 48.
- Perform a traffic engineering study to determine appropriate speed limits on SR 7, SR 41, and SR 48.
- Continue enhanced truck enforcement on SR 41 and SR 48, and expand enhanced truck enforcement to SR 7.
- Establish a bi-state working group to discuss and address issues associated with regional freight movement.

We anticipate DelDOT will begin working on recommendations in the coming months.

To view the full recommendations, please visit www.wilmapco.org/sr10.

WILMAPCO Launches Updated Survey for 2018

Since 1997, WILMAPCO has conducted an annual telephone public opinion survey of its region's residents. The purpose of the survey is to gain a greater understanding of the thoughts and perceptions of New Castle and Cecil County residents and to inform WILMAPCO's Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental and Transportation Justice Studies.

This includes topics ranging from the transportation choices made by residents, to preferences for growth and development, to support for various funding mechanisms, and familiarity with WILMAPCO. WILMAPCO's Public Opinion Survey was last updated in 2007. To keep pace with the changing trends and needs of the region, and after feedback from survey respondents, WILMAPCO has updated its survey.

To begin the update process, a survey subcommittee was selected. Subcommittee members included representatives from DART First State, New Castle and Cecil Counties, the Maryland Department of Transportation and DelDOT. The committee also included two members of WILMAPCO's Public Advisory Committee. The committee began by reviewing sample transportation surveys and developing survey goals. Goals were derived from previous WILMAPCO surveys and based on information needed by WILMAPCO staff and member agencies. Example survey goals include:

- Understanding how well people's transportation needs are met
- Understanding priorities for limited transportation dollars

- Preferred strategies to increase public transit, walking, and bike usage

Many of the questions in the previous survey were still relevant, but the committee worked to remove redundant questions where data could be found from other sources, such as the U.S. Census. This included questions that asked the mode of transportation to work and length of trip. The team also worked to remove or revise questions with a high percentage of "other" responses. This included a question that asked the most critical issue faced in the region and presented a number of options to choose from. Instead the question was revised to be open-ended and ask the biggest transportation challenge faced.

Some questions were revised to develop a more specific understanding of an issue. This included a series of questions asking respondents to rate the seriousness of congestion along their work commute. The survey now

asks respondents to identify the best solutions to reduce congestion and presents choices including building new roads, encouraging alternative transportation mode choices, and use of technology.

New to the survey is a series of questions regarding the transportation planning process. The survey now asks about respondents' awareness of how transportation projects are selected, awareness of Regional Transportation Plans, and understanding of the Transportation Improvement Program.

With the survey script revised, survey calling began in February. Look to the next issue of the Transporter for a summary of results.

To view the results of previous WILMAPCO surveys, please visit www.wilmapco.org/opinion.





New WILMAPCO Planning Projects for 2018

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which was adopted on May 11, 2017, is the document that describes the work and studies to be conducted by WILMAPCO staff during the fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.

WILMAPCO staff assists local governments and communities with planning for transportation choices, land use and community studies, scenic byway assistance, walkable community workshops, and other planning needs. WILMAPCO also provides technical assistance with mapping, data and demographics, and public outreach.

In October, WILMAPCO reached out to municipalities in Cecil and New Castle Counties, seeking transportation planning project ideas. WILMAPCO staff reviewed each request to determine whether it met the requirements of the long-range transportation plan. All of the submissions were then presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its December meeting. On January 11, 2018, WILMAPCO's Council amended the FY 2018 UPWP to include the following new projects:

- The City of New Castle Comprehensive Plan Update:

To seek technical and planning assistance from WILMAPCO for enhanced community outreach.

- The City of Wilmington 12th Street Connector Alignment: To evaluate and recommend optimal location and design alternatives for the alignment of a proposed 12th Street Connector roadway.
- The City of Wilmington: Safety and Capacity Improvements for the Five-Point Intersection: To evaluate and recommend improvements that will address operational, safety, and capacity issues and infrastructure improvements, optimize circulation and access, and provide multimodal connectivity at and around the five-point intersection in the vicinity of Maryland Avenue, S. Madison Street, MLK, Jr. Boulevard, and West Street.
- The City of Wilmington: East Seventh Street Peninsula Roadway Improvements/Development Study: To prepare a master plan that identifies and prioritizes the implementation of necessary roadway and utility improvements and evaluates land-use and development potential, to attract suitable public/private investment

opportunities, and facilitate future economic development.

- Delaware Transit Corporation – Newark-Area Transportation Needs Data Collection and Analysis: To lay the groundwork for optimizing the Newark-area transit system and create a more cohesive transportation network.
- New Castle County: Concord Pike/US 202-Corridor Master Plan: Follow-up to the January 2017 US 202 Study Area Market Assessment. To analyze the US 202 corridor between the City of Wilmington and the Pennsylvania state line.
- New Castle County: Southern New Castle County Infrastructure Master Plan Update: To update the Southern New Castle County Infrastructure Master Plan as a response to continued development activities.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for consulting services for many of the projects listed above are available at www.wilmapco.org. For more information on the FY 2018 UPWP, please visit www.wilmapco.org/upwp.

WILMAPCO Approves Upcoming Projects

More than \$2.2 billion in road, transit, rail, multimodal, bicycle, and pedestrian projects were approved by WILMAPCO this March in the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP, which includes New Castle County, Delaware, and Cecil County, Maryland projects, is a four-year listing of federally funded transportation investment. Projects range from preserving our existing infrastructure to building brand-new facilities.

New projects include:

- Expansion of I-295 northbound from SR 141 to US 13.
- Improvement of Otts Chapel Road/Welsh Track Church Road intersection traffic operations.
- Realignment of Shallcross Lake Road between Graylag Road and Boyds Corner Road.

- Improvement of multimodal travel on SR 9 from Landers Lane to A Street as proposed in the recent SR 9 Master Plan.

Continuing projects include:

- Transit improvements such as new rail and bus transit centers in Newark, Claymont and Wilmington, and bus transit park & rides near Christiana Mall and Middletown.
- Road improvements featuring bridge preservation and safety projects in Cecil and New Castle counties and highway upgrades along I-295 and US 301.
- Multimodal projects including improvements for driving, walking, bicycling, and transit users along US 40, Elkton Road, southern New Castle County roads, and City of Wilmington streets.

- Bicycle and pedestrian highlights such as completion of the New Castle-Wilmington Jack Markell Trail and pedestrian improvements on US 13 and US 40.

State funding matches are provided by the Delaware and Maryland Bond Bills. Some projects also include matching funds from local governments or developers. We anticipate amendments to the TIP will be available for public comment from mid-July through August based on the Delaware Bond Bill.

For more information on the TIP or to view an interactive map of projects, please visit www.wilmapco.org/tip.



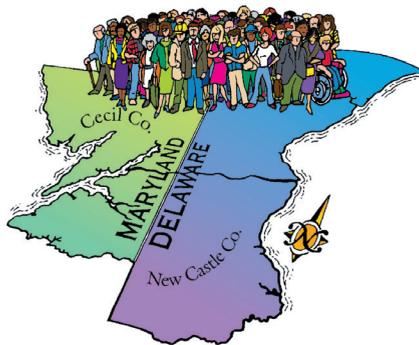
Newark Regional Transit Center Rendering



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WILMAPCO PUBLIC MEETINGS

Unless specified, meetings will be held at WILMAPCO, 850 Library Avenue, Suite 100, Newark, Delaware. Your participation at these meetings is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact us at (302) 737-6205 or toll free from Cecil County at (888) 808-7088. **During inclement weather, please call to verify meetings.**

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group <i>April 3, 3 p.m.</i>	WILMAPCO Council <i>May 3, 6:30 p.m.</i>	Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group <i>June 5, 3 p.m.</i>
Air Quality Subcommittee <i>April 12, 10 a.m.</i>	Air Quality Subcommittee <i>May 10, 10 a.m.</i>	Air Quality Subcommittee <i>June 14, 10 a.m.</i>
Public Advisory Committee <i>April 16, 6:30 p.m.</i>	Technical Advisory Committee <i>May 17, 10 a.m.</i>	Public Advisory Committee <i>June 18, 6:30 p.m.</i>
Technical Advisory Committee <i>April 19, 10 a.m.</i>		Technical Advisory Committee <i>June 21, 10 a.m.</i>

AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK IS APRIL 30-MAY 4, 2018. THE AIR QUALITY PARTNERSHIP OF DELAWARE IS ASKING YOU TO TRY A GREENER MODE (BUS, BIKE, WALK, CARPOOL) JUST ONE DAY DURING THE WEEK. POST A SELFIE OF YOURSELF TRYING A CLEANER MODE AND USE THE HASHTAG #TryItDayDE TO WIN A \$25 GIFT CARD. LEARN MORE AT WWW.WILMAPCO.ORG/AQP.