

WILMAPCO Council

Action Item Summary Sheet

Meeting Date: July 13, 2023

Action Item #13: To Endorse the Ardens Transportation Plan

Description/Summary of Item: Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan was developed under the guidance of a steering committee comprised of local and state representatives and builds upon previous planning work in the Ardens. Continuous public feedback informed the development and selection of context-sensitive, locally preferred alternatives. This included: a Walkable Community Workshop, 3 in-person workshops, 2 community-wide surveys, and a parallel youth engagement process, which included a separate workshop and survey. Key recommendations from the plan include:

- 0 A suite of traffic calming measures (median installations, bioswales and bumpouts, speed limit reductions and signing improvements, and intersection and lane reconfigurations) all to reduce speeds and improve safety on Harvey and Veale Roads.
- 0 To maintain and improve emergency vehicle response, the plan also recommends the installation of traffic signal pre-emption equipment on more than a dozen vehicles associated with the Claymont Fire Company.
- 0 Walking and bicycling recommendations include the installation of better crossings at key locations along Harvey and Veale Roads and the buildout of a complete pathway network within the villages.
- 0 Bus recommendations include investing in three priority school and public bus stop locations and providing residents with better east-west bus connections to the Concord Pike corridor and the Claymont Train Station.

Summary of Action Taken by PAC: The WILMAPCO PAC did not take action on this item, but received presentations about it and reviewed the draft plan.

Summary of Action Taken by TAC:

The TAC recommended that Council endorse the Ardens Transportation Plan via email in June.

Summary of Action Taken by Subcommittee/Task Force (if applicable):

The Villages of Arden, Ardencroft, and Ardentown met to endorse Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan at parallel town meetings on June 26. Arden and Ardencroft voted to endorse the plan. While the majority of Ardentown residents at the meeting were also in support of the plan, Ardentown did not take a formal vote due to a pair of procedural issues. Ardentown will seek formal endorsement at their next meeting on September 11, 2023.

WILMAPCO Staff Recommendations:

The WILMAPCO staff recommends that Council endorse Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan.

WILMAPCO Council:

John Sisson, Chair
Delaware Transit Corporation
Chief Executive Officer

David L. Edgell
Delaware Office of State Planning
Coordination, Director

Danielle Hornberger
Cecil County Executive

Richard Mahan
Charlestown Commissioner

Nicole Majeski
Delaware Dept. of Transportation
Secretary

Matthew Meyer
New Castle County Executive

Heather Murphy
Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Director, Office of Planning and
Capital Programming

Michael S. Purzycki
Mayor of Wilmington

Eric Scott Thompson
Mayor of Elsmere

WILMAPCO Executive Director
Tigist Zegeye

DRAFT

RESOLUTION

BY THE WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL (WILMAPCO) ENDORING *CONNECTING WITH THE ARDENS: A TRANSPORTATION PLAN*

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) has been designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Cecil County, Maryland and New Castle County, Delaware by the Governors of Maryland and Delaware, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the WILMAPCO Council recognizes that localized transportation planning is key to implementing the goals, objectives, and actions in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): 2023 Update; and

WHEREAS, the Villages of Arden, Ardencroft, and Ardentown requested that WILMAPCO develop a transportation plan for the Ardens; and

WHEREAS, *Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan* comprehensively addresses transportation issues common to the Ardens, especially speeding traffic and nonmotorized connectivity; and

WHEREAS, *Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan* employed continuous and rigorous public engagement throughout the planning process; and

WHEREAS, *Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan* builds upon previous studies and projects, including: The Three Ardens – Harvey Road Traffic Calming Study (1998), the Ardentown Paths Plan (2017), the Water Quality Master Plan (2022) and Wilmington Montessori School’s Safe Routes to School Program; and

WHEREAS, *Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan* puts forth several context-sensitive recommendations to calm traffic along Harvey Road and Veale Roads, improve emergency vehicle response times, enhance non-motorized connectivity, and rethink bus service and access to increase ridership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilmington Area Planning Council does hereby endorse the final report and recommendations of *Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan*.

Date:

John Sisson, Chairperson
Wilmington Area Planning Council