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NEWARK, DE - A regional transportation planning agency has invited the public to an event where national and regional speakers will discuss the transportation funding shortfalls that exist both in the region and nation.

Our Town, a community forum sponsored by WILMAPCO, the Wilmington Area Planning Council, will be held on Wednesday, September 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. This year's theme, "Financing our Transportation System," could not be more timely.

"Many projects have been delayed, placed on hold, or have lost funding altogether due to recent funding shortfalls," said Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director WILMAPCO. "We need to explore ways to adequately fund our transportation system now and in the future."

The keynote speaker will be Beth Osborne, President of Transportation for America. Beth leads the Center for Innovative Funding and Finance at Transportation for America, a resource on creative funding sources and financing for infrastructure that serves economic development and neighborhood revitalization.

Other speakers will include Collin Peppard. Peppard handles transportation policy and other issues for U.S. Senator Tom Carper; Shailen Bhatt, Delaware Secretary of Transportation; Mike Nixon, Manager Regional Planning, MDOT; Ted Williams, Chair Transportation Trust Fund Task Force; and more.

Our Town will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel located at 654 South College Avenue in Newark (across from the Bob Carpenter Center). Admission is free and hors d'oeuvres will be provided, but registration is required.

Our Town will also highlight the Update to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP sets the transportation goals for the region. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will also be highlighted during the event. The TIP is a \$1.7 billion, four-year listing of priority projects for the region. Both documents will be available for public review and comment during Our Town.

To register for Our Town, visit www.wilmapco.org/ourtown or call WILMAPCO at 302-737-6205. Our Town is held every two years and is open to the public.

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The Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) is the regional transportation planning agency for New Castle County, Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland. As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO), WILMAPCO is charged with planning and coordinating transportation investments for the region based on federal policy, local input, technical analysis, and best practices.

