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Planning Agency Releases Draft Update to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan for Public Review and Comment

Newark, Delaware - Do you wonder what it will be like to get around in New Castle County, Delaware or Cecil County, Maryland in the next five, 10, or even 25 years? How will limited transportation dollars be spent? Which transportation improvements will receive priority? These questions are at the heart of the update to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), released for public comment by the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO).

The RTP identifies our region's long-term transportation needs, and the projects and activities which seek to address them. The RTP extends two decades into the future, and projects identified in the plan are financially reasonable (based on anticipated revenues) and meet air quality standards.

Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO Executive Director said, "This update features an increased emphasis on environmental sustainability, community health and public participation. By working to protect public health and safety, promoting active transportation, ensuring transportation choice and equity, and preserving our natural and cultural resources we can improve quality of life for all our region's residents."

The draft RTP update recommends improvements to create a transportation system that is more economically and environmentally sustainable, higher-performing, socially equitable and less car dependent. The update was informed by an assessment of our past successes and failures, feedback from agencies, governments and the general public, and existing and pending federal requirements.

Copies of the Draft Update to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) are available for review at WILMAPCO's office at 850 Library Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19711, or can be viewed on WILMAPCO's web site, www.wilmapco.org. Written comments should be sent to WILMAPCO at the address above or emailed to WILMAPCO@WILMAPCO.org.

The formal public comment and review period will continue through January 5, 2015. A summary of any public comments received during this period will be provided at the January 8, 2015, WILMAPCO Council meeting when the Draft 2040 RTP Update will be considered for adoption.

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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.

