

# Wilmington Initiatives



Streetscape Improvements  
Transportation Improvements  
Waterfront Access and Development

## Our History

As national transportation policy began its transition towards a more collaborative planning process, the City of Wilmington embarked on an Environmental Enhancement Plan in 1996 to develop streetscape concepts for downtown corridors. One of the most critical outcomes of this Plan was the implementation of a framework to facilitate a more efficient manner to fund, plan, design, and construct transportation improvements in the City. This led to a strong collaboration between the City of Wilmington, Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT), Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC, operating as DART First State), and Wilmington Area Planning Commission (WILMAPCO). This group, called Wilmington Initiatives, continues to thrive today and has resulted in the investment of tens of millions of dollars in sound transportation improvements and highly visible quality of life enhancements.

## Wilmington Initiatives Today

The Wilmington Initiatives include projects designed to promote a balanced transportation system by incorporating improvements to all modes of circulation. Our aim is to enhance livability in downtown Wilmington and its adjacent neighborhoods by providing better connections between development, transportation, and public spaces. Wilmington Initiatives also strives to promote residential and commercial development in the City through these proposed environmental and transportation enhancements.

## Wilmington Initiatives' Objectives

- 1 Provide a well-balanced transportation system for local and regional access that includes walking, bicycling, transit, and vehicles.
- 2 Promote economic development related to community objectives.
- 3 Improve the visual quality of the corridors for residents, workers, and visitors in keeping with community character.
- 4 Enhance safety for all modes of travel and environmental quality within the corridors.
- 5 Support coherent and viable neighborhoods in sync with other community goals.

## Public Outreach Leader

Wilmington Initiatives projects invite public participation on a citywide basis and engage neighborhood leaders and residents in extensive discussions about neighborhood-level projects. In addition, our joint Wilmington Initiatives Partner Status and Management Committee meetings provide a monthly forum for our partner agencies to discuss recent inquiries from the public and to quickly determine solutions. Updates about Wilmington Initiatives can be found on WILMAPCO's website (<http://www.wilmapco.org/wilmington-initiatives/>), which allows us to inform key stakeholders and the public.

## Committee Leadership

Wilmington Initiatives is made up of four committees that advance transportation projects in Wilmington. The *Partner Status Committee* represents the core group and contributes to the inter-agency coordination required to move transportation projects forward. The *Management Committee* addresses overall policy issues related to Wilmington Initiatives projects. Individuals on the *Technical Committee* represent agencies and organizations that have a role in the technical review of specific projects being implemented, including City agencies and departments such as public works, planning, emergency management, police, and fire, and DeIDOT, DART, and WILMAPCO. The *Steering Committee* provides one of the many ways public input is generated for the Wilmington Initiatives projects. Representatives include leaders from our neighborhoods and business organizations.

