

Port Deposit Transit Feasibility Study and Multimodal Transportation Plan

Draft Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

February 28, 2012

Attendees

Eric Beckett, MD State Highway Administration, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division

Gary Blazinsky, Cecil Transit

Brigitte Carty, Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

Heather Dunigan, WILMPACO

Ken Goon, RK&K

Barry Gray, Bainbridge Development Corporation, Port Deposit Presbyterian Church

Rod Heinze, Port Deposit

John Leeds, Port Deposit

Sheila Mahoney, RK&K

Steve McCarthy, RK&K

Donna Tapley, Bainbridge Development Corporation

David Trolio, Cecil County Senior Services & Community Transit

The meeting was opened and introductions were made.

Purpose of the Study / Scope of Work

Ms. Dunigan introduced the study, which was requested by the town. The study will examine the feasibility of transit services in Port Deposit, and will consider items such as origins and destinations, ridership, and cost effectiveness. Ms. Dunigan also summarized some of the needs for the study; Port Deposit does not currently have outgoing transit service to provide residents with access to jobs and services outside of town, nor incoming service in support local businesses and events. Additionally, the potential for a multi-use development at Bainbridge could lead to future transit needs.

Additionally, WILMAPCO is concurrently preparing a Countywide Bicycle Plan, which will also include town level plans. The town level plans will document items such as current pedestrian and bicycle connections, gaps, and future needs. WILMAPCO will use the Transit Advisory Committee meetings as a platform for input on the Bicycle Plan from the Town of Port Deposit.

Service Needs

Ms. Dunigan presented Port Deposit population demographics as they support potential transit service needs. Key points were as follows:

- 7% of Port Deposit residents work in Port Deposit, 32% of residents work in Cecil County, and 40% work outside of the County. 84% of the working population drives to work alone.
- 16% of Port Deposit's population is under age 16 (below the driving age) and 11% is over age 65 (an age group that may have mobility issues).
- 5.3% of Port Deposit households do not own cars.

Mr. Grey thought the percentage of residents without cars may be higher as there are a number of Section 8 households in town. The town has a total population of 653 residents, and Mr. Grey and Mr.

Heinze believed housing to be split approximately 50/50 between owner and renter occupied units. Following hurricane caused flooding in September 2011, approximately 8-10 households suffering damage did not return to Port Deposit.

Currently, residents assist one another with transportation needs through an informal network. Mr. Blazinsky said taxi vouchers are also available for residents, and that he would follow up on whether they are selling.

Regarding the Bainbridge development, Ms. Tapley recommended that the Transit Feasibility Study incorporate build and no-build scenarios for Bainbridge, stating that the project has been on hold and construction is not currently on the table. If commercial construction were to occur, it would be several years out. She suggested the study focus on the town's current transit needs, rather than factoring in future needs based on potential Bainbridge development.

Transit Goals

According to the committee representatives from Port Deposit, the most pressing goal for transit is to transport residents to employment centers and medical services. Another significant goal is to increase visitation to the town.

The largest employers in the town are the restaurants, and business at these establishments has slowed with the current state of the economy. Business does increase seasonally. The town has plans to install transient boat piers along the waterfront in the Summer of 2013, anticipating that the piers will serve to increase seasonal traffic through the town.

Mr. Trolie commented that transit services generally recover only 25-30% of expenditures, and SSCT will look at both service needs and cost effectiveness when determining whether and where to expand transit service. He also commented on the different Port Deposit transit goals: to connect residents with jobs and services mainly on weekdays, and to connect visitors with Port Deposit businesses on the weekends, particularly during the Summer season.

Ms. Dunigan suggested the upcoming public workshop include a survey of transit service needs. She also cited a previous WILMAPCO transit study in Delaware. In that instance, following transit surveys and a petition, the town was awarded a grant to conduct a trial period of full transit (bus) service. During the full service trial period, the ridership needs specific to the town were identified to streamline ongoing service.

Bicycle Plan

Ms. Dunigan inquired the Advisory Committee about local on-road and off-road bike and pedestrian connections. Ms. Dunigan stated the benefits of bicycle and trail facilities – such as the Lower Susquehanna Trail – including commuter and recreation benefits, as well as economic benefits to the towns with such facilities due to increased visitation by facility users.

Ms. Tapley commented that the Bainbridge Development Corporation (BDC) was interested in utilizing a portion of their land for a hiker/biker trail. She also stated they were interested in the development of a

kayaking plan and associated routes. Mr. Leeds mentioned that MD SHA had begun planning a Port Deposit streetscape project along Main Street, including sidewalks, lighting and amenities.

It was determined that on road connection needs for bicycles include Bainbridge Road and River Road (MD 222).

It was also discussed that parking in Port Deposit is limited. Parking on Summer weekends is difficult. During town events, remote parking, sometimes several miles away, is utilized and shuttle service is provided. Water taxi service between Perryville, Havre de Grace, and Port Deposit has been studied by others, but there are no current plans to implement such service.

Ms. Carty offered that although there is no direct monetary benefit, the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Trail is currently gaining national recognition as part of the John Smith and Star Spangled Banner trail systems. The LSHT is currently seeking donors to help complete building the trail. The national designations should in turn attract an increased number of users.

Transit Destinations/Origins

Mr. Goon led a discussion about the potential destinations and origins for consideration in the feasibility study. The results are as follows.

Destinations from Port Deposit

Employment – Hollywood Casino in Perryville, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Perryville Outlet Center, Perry Point VA, Town of Elkton, Distribution Centers housing Ikea, Amazon and others, Union Hospital, and the town of Riverside (Harford County).

Medical Services – West Cecil Health, Union Hospital, Perryville Medical Center – UMD (new facility), Harford Memorial Hospital (Havre de Grace).

Shopping – Martins (Rising Sun), Food Lion (Perryville and North East), Walmart (North East and Aberdeen), Lowes (North East), Perryville Outlet Center.

Education – Cecil County Community College and Cecil College Truck Driving Training (North East).

Connections to other Transit Services – MARC (Perryville), Amtrak (Aberdeen), Cecil Transit(Perryville Line at Food Lion), Harford Transit (Teal Line connection at Food Lion), DART.

Origins to Port Deposit

It was discussed that weekend service to Port Deposit from all destination towns cited would be desirable, particularly seasonal recreational service.

Pick Up/Drop Off Sites

Members of the Advisory Committee helped to mark locations where potential transit stops could be located on maps of Port Deposit:

- Schoolhouse/Freeman Hall
- North End
- Center of Town

- Entrance to Park
- Basketball Court

Regional Pick Up/Drop Off Sites

In addition to stops in Port Deposit, the Advisory Committee was asked to identify additional stops in the region to assist with potential route planning and connections.

- Currently no transit service at the Park and Ride at MD 222 (Perryville)
- Misty Meadows Development
- Mobile Home Parks
- Granite Cliffs Development – 800 new residences pending approval

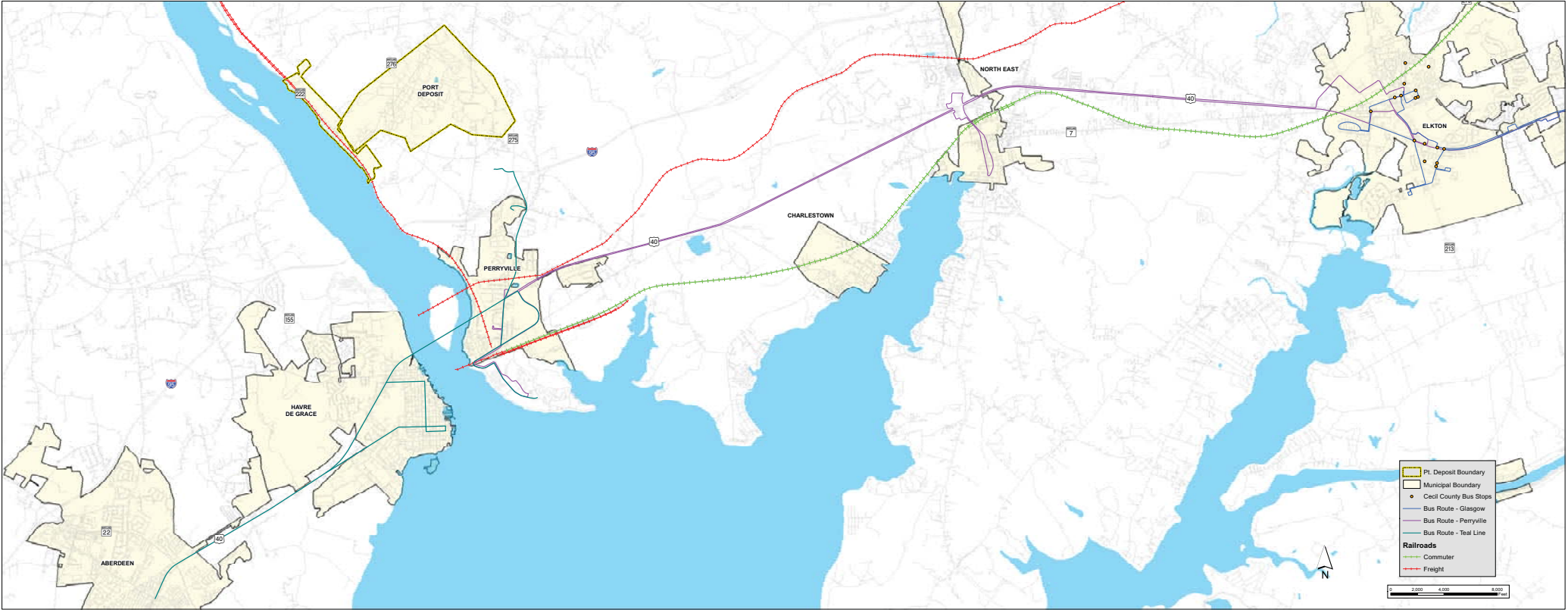
Next Steps

A public workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30. The workshop will be held at the Presbyterian Church, which is located in the center of town, and will start following the community dinner the Church sponsors each Tuesday and Thursday.

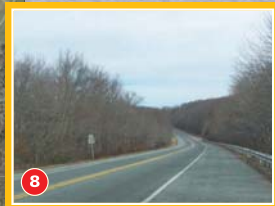
Mr. Heinze will provide a mailing list for WILMAPCO to invite residents, businesses, and members of the Chamber of Commerce to the workshop. Ms. Dunigan said the mailing will include the workshop announcement and transit needs survey. Those who cannot attend the workshop can drop the surveys at locations to be determined. Additionally, surveys and meeting announcements will be dropped off at key locations within Port Deposit.

The meeting was adjourned.





Port Deposit Existing Conditions





Main Street / CBD - Existing Conditions



Town of Port Deposit Transit Feasibility Study

SCOPE OF SERVICES

January 25, 2012

INTRODUCTION

RK&K will assist Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) and Town of Port Deposit, Maryland in developing the Port Deposit Transit Feasibility Study. Building upon the 2008 Town of Port Deposit Comprehensive Plan, this plan will examine the feasibility of transit services and related transit amenities.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. Review Existing Conditions

- RK&K will review related plans and transit documents, including the 2008 Port Deposit Comprehensive Plan, 2010 Cecil County Transportation Development Plan, 2011 WILMAPCO Public Opinion Survey, as well as available demand-response transit and social service agency transportation data (Cecil County Senior Services & Community Transit).
- RK&K will conduct a site visit and create a photo inventory to be used as applicable at Advisory Committee and public meetings, as well in the Feasibility Study Report.
- Using data collected and provided by WILMAPCO, RK&K will map and analyze existing transportation and demographic information of Port Deposit, as well as major trip origins and destinations including community services, schools, businesses, dining, shopping, and parks.

Estimated RK&K Hours to complete this task = 34

Task Deliverables: Site photo inventory and GIS mapping of current transportation modes, demographics, trip origins and destinations.

2. Meetings and Coordination

- RK&K will support WILMAPCO in preparing for three Advisory Committee Meetings in the Port Deposit area. RK&K will assist WILMAPCO in preparing materials needed for the committee meetings that may include, display boards, hand-outs, PowerPoint presentations. It is assumed that existing display maps already prepared by WILMAPCO will be utilized for the committee meetings. RK&K will support WILMAPCO with up to three project team members to attend each meeting to assist with facilitation. It is assumed that WILMAPCO will arrange meeting locations and logistics.
- RK&K will support WILMAPCO with preparing and facilitating three public workshops in the Port Deposit area by preparing display boards. Two RK&K staff will attend each meeting. It is assumed that WILMAPCO will arrange meeting locations and logistics.
- RK&K will attend two coordination meetings at WILMAPCO's Newark, DE office.

Estimated RK&K Hours to complete this task = 60

Task Deliverables: RK&K will provide WILMAPCO with draft meeting materials in PDF format for review. Final displays/materials will also be provided in PDF format for WILMAPCO use. Two to three staff will attend meetings.



3. Prepare Draft Feasibility Study Report and Cost Estimates

- Based on information gathered in Task 1 and upon the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the public, RK&K will prepare an initial Port Deposit Transit Feasibility Study Draft Report. The initial Draft Report will assess ridership potential and identify potential transit solutions for Port Deposit including potential transit routes and related amenities. Mapping will be included. The initial Draft Report will also include a planning level cost estimate and identify existing and potential funding sources and partnerships. Based on discussion with WILMAPCO, it is assumed the Feasibility Study will be limited to bus transit. The initial Draft Report will be submitted to WILMAPCO for review.
- Following WILMAPCO's review of the initial Draft Report, RK&K will address comments and finalize the Draft Report for distribution to the Advisory Committee and availability to the public.

Estimated RK&K Hours to complete this task = 103

Task Deliverables: Electronic Draft Report in MS Word for WILMAPCO review. Print versions will be provided for Advisory Committee member review.

4. Prepare Final Feasibility Study Report

- RK&K will incorporate comments of the Advisory Committee and the interested public into a Final Report. We assume one final review by WILMAPCO prior to completing the Final Report.
- If requested, RK&K will prepare correspondence to seek report adoption by Port Deposit Mayor and Commissioners and WILMAPCO Council.

Estimated RK&K Hours to complete this task = 45

Task Deliverables: Electronic version of Final Report to be produced in print and MS Word format. Number of print copies to be determined by Wilmapco.

PROPOSED PERSON HOURS

A core of RK&K Team key staff would be involved throughout the project and be involved in all of the Tasks.

Labor/Tasks	Associate	Senior Planner	Planner	CADD / Graphics	Total
1. Review Existing Conditions					
1.1 Review Existing Studies and Documents		4	4		8
1.2 Conduct Site Visit		8	8		16
1.3 GIS Mapping		2	4	4	10
2. Meetings and Coordination					
2.1 Advisory Committee Meetings	12	12	6	4	34
2.2 Public Meetings		12	6	4	22
2.3 WILMAPCO Coordination Meetings		4			4
3. Prepare Draft Feasibility Report					
3.1 Initial Draft Report	4	18	48	4	74
3.2 Final Draft Report	1	8	16	4	29
4. Prepare Final Feasibility Report					
4.1 Initial Final Report	2	8	14	4	28
4.2 Revised Final Report	1	4	8	4	17
LABOR HOURS	20	80	114	28	242

SCHEDULE

A ten (10) month schedule is proposed by WILMAPCO from NTP to development of a Final Report

BUDGET

RK&K estimates our effort to complete the Port Deposit Transit Feasibility Study is \$24,993.48