



**2025**

# **WORK PLAN**

[www.wilmapco.org/route9](http://www.wilmapco.org/route9)

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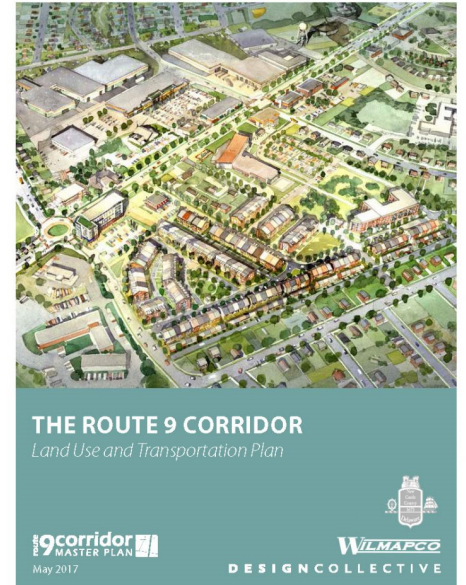
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## Background

### Route 9 Master Plan

The Route 9 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Master Plan identifies the best reinvestment and redevelopment strategies for the Route 9 Corridor between the cities of Wilmington and New Castle, Delaware. This Master Plan was requested by New Castle County. It was funded and executed by the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) as of May 2017 under the close guidance of a Steering Committee comprised of local civic and agency partners.



Learn more & view the Plan here!

[www.wilmapco.org/route9](http://www.wilmapco.org/route9)

### Monitoring Committee

A Monitoring Committee—comprised of civic leaders, government, and other stakeholders—has been guiding plan implementation.

The committee includes the following (all invited):

- WILMAPCO
- Rt. 9 / Rt. 13 All Civics
- Civic League for New Castle County
- Clean Air Council
- Collins Park Civic Association
- Colonial School District
- Christiana Care
- Croda
- Delaware Center for Horticulture
- Sierra Club Delaware Chapter
- DNREC
- DelDOT
- Delaware Division of Public Health
- Delaware Help Initiative
- Delaware Sea Grant



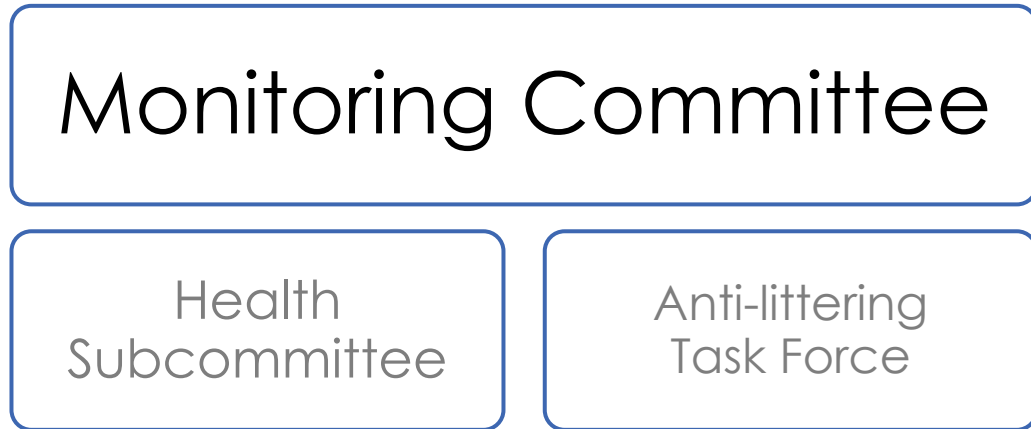
- Delaware Transit Corporation
- Dunleith Civic Association
- Enstructure
- FujiFilm
- Hamilton / Eden Park Civic Association
- Healthy Communities Delaware
- Launcher Program
- Nemours
- New Castle County
- Overview Gardens / Garfield Park Civic Association
- ProRank Business Solutions, LLC
- Rep. Frank Cooke
- Route 9 CDC
- Rosegate Civic Association
- Rose Hill Gardens Civic Association
- Simonds Gardens Civic Association
- Southbridge Civic Association
- University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
- University of Delaware Partnership for Healthy Communities
- Waste Management

### *Organization*

The Monitoring Committee holds regular, open, and egalitarian meetings at the Route 9 Library. Decisions of the group are arrived at based upon a consensus opinion of participants. Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO, and Dylan Tepper, Route 9 CDC, currently serve as co-chairs.

Two subcommittees – Health and the Anti-Littering Task Force – have been established to perform more detailed work in support of the Monitoring Committee. They meet as needed. The work of previously established subcommittees, the Small Business and Workforce Development and Outreach Subcommittee, has been folded into the Monitoring Committee.





### **Monitoring Committee – Mission and Vision**

#### *Mission*

The mission of the Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan Monitoring Committee is to oversee and fulfill the recommendations of the Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan, which established a shared vision for the transportation and land use redevelopment of the corridor. This work will be accomplished through a collaborative dialogue between its membership, which includes implementing agencies, local civic and community leaders, other key stakeholders, and the communities they represent.

#### *Vision*

The Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan Monitoring Committee envisions the redevelopment and revitalization of the Route 9 Corridor through the implementation of the Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan.

### **Health Subcommittee – Mission and Vision**

The Health Subcommittee has established an important dialogue between area civic leaders and local government about environmental impacts to community health. Under the leadership of the University of Delaware's Cooperative



Extension, they completed a Route 9 Health Assessment that sets the stage for an Action Plan. The group also has supported on-the-ground projects like the Clean Air Council's PM2.5 air monitoring program and advocating for increased COVID-19 testing, prevention, and vaccinations along the Rt. 9 corridor. Membership includes key area civic leaders, state government, community non-profits, and healthcare providers. Kasey Cosden, Route 9 CDC, serves as the current chair.

### *Mission*

The mission of the Health Subcommittee is to improve health outcomes for residents of the Route 9 corridor, principally by understanding and working to address the area's social determinants of health concerns. This will be accomplished through collaborative dialogue and action between its membership, which includes healthcare and government agencies, local civic and community leaders, other key stakeholders, and the communities they represent.

### *Vision*

The Health Subcommittee envisions the improvement of health outcomes for residents of the Route 9 corridor through the implementation of the Route 9 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Master Plan, and other key complementary efforts that positively impact community health and quality of life.

## **Anti-Littering Task Force – Mission and Vision**

The Anti-littering Task Force was established to help reduce littering and debris along the Route 9 Corridor, along with supporting efforts to enhance its beautification. Emily Maung-Douglass, Delaware Sea Grant, serves as the current chair.

### *Mission*

To bring together residents and the organizations and agencies serving the Route 9 Corridor. This task force aims to do the following in the Route 9 Corridor:

- Identify sources of litter in the Route 9 Corridor.



- Map locations of litter 'hotspots'.
- Build awareness and understanding of current efforts to tackle litter.
- Determine missing elements needed to improve/expand upon current efforts.
- Identify opportunities and resources to synergistically tackle the litter problems.

*Vision*

[to be developed]



## Key Initiatives for 2025

### Route 9 Monitoring Committee

(Listed in no particular order)

1. **Help guide transportation improvements**– Provide feedback to DelDOT/DTC/New Castle County/WILMAPCO as transportation improvements proceed from the Master Plan and subsequent efforts. These include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Route 9 Redefined – RAISE grant implementation
  - b. Areas of Persistent Poverty – FTA Transit grant
  - c. Terminal Avenue Hazard Elimination Program (HEP) Project
  - d. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project to improve streetscape and connectivity around Morehouse Dr. @ Bizarre Dr. in Dunleith
  - e. The Tri-Parks TAP project to improve lighting and connectivity with the Tri-Park Trail.
  - f. Safe Routes to School Programs at Eisenberg and McCullough.
  - g. DelDOT's PAR Program.
  - h. Educational awareness and pedestrian safety improvements in the vicinity of Rose Lane, following the tragic death of Mr. Lynch in 2019.
  - i. The Southbridge Truck Bypass Feasibility Study to identify the best truck bypass route of Southbridge.
2. Support Healthy Communities Delaware in **tracking implementation of the Master Plan** and better publicizing work accomplished.
3. Support the Route 9 CDC in promoting redevelopment, as envisioned by the Rt. 9 Master Plan. This includes a training program to foster local developers, and the creation of an updated local development plan.
4. **Explore a “Mechanisms for Fair Community Relocation” study** – Called for in the Master Plan to help detangle industrial and residential uses along the corridor, this study would examine how an equitable and fair future relocation could be pursued.
5. **Promote outreach poster with community survey** – drive responses to survey on the outreach poster/survey at the Route 9 Library



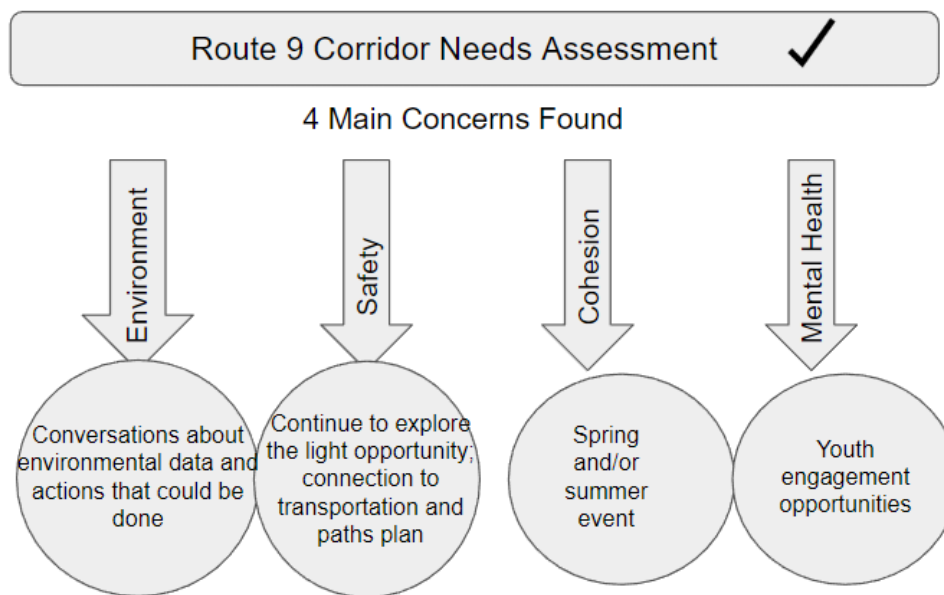


## Health Subcommittee

### Health Subcommittee -- Key Initiatives for 2025

(Listed in no particular order)

1. **Data collection/sharing** - Continue to collect relevant health and environmental data and seek to understand their significance.
2. **Implement the health action plan** – support UD's Cooperative Extension to implement a health action plan. See the health action plan in the appendix, which outlines successes and next steps.



3. **Support Public Health Awareness** – provide support to agencies and groups working to improve public health along the Rt. 9 corridor.

## **Anti-Littering Task Force**

*Anti-Littering Task Force -- Key Initiatives for 2025*

(Listed in no particular order)

[to be developed]



## Wins and Accomplishments

The Route 9 Monitoring Committee has worked to successfully implement aspects of the Route 9 Master Plan. Below are key highlights! Check this webpage for more details about the efforts highlighted below:  
<http://www.wilmapco.org/route9/route-9-implementation-efforts/>.

### Transportation

- Project Funding
  - \$6 million RAISE Grant won in 2022 for the Route 9 Redefined Project to begin detailed plans for major transportation work to implement the Rt. 9 Master Plan
    - Funding in DeIDOT's FY 2025 Capital Transportation Plan (\$24 million – DeIDOT)
    - Approved a Transportation Project Prioritization Process to guide which projects are most important to pursue first
      - Developed a process for measuring Social Determinants of Health (used in the transportation project prioritization process)
  - \$630,000 in federal Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant was awarded to the Delaware Transit Corporation in 2022. DTC will plan improvements to enhance bus service, microtransit and the pedestrian environment to provide access to jobs, schools, healthcare, and other services.
  - Funding for Safe Routes to School Programs at Eisenberg and McCullough (\$436k – DeIDOT, Elected Officials, Nemours)
  - Funding for Transportation Alternatives Program Project – Morehouse Dr. @ Bizarre Dr. in Dunleith (\$1 million – DeIDOT/New Castle County)



- Interim Memorial Drive Road Diet implementation complete!
  - Speeds lower (+5-8 seconds of travel time), flow has been maintained (LOS C+ before; LOS D+ after), bike level of traffic stress improvement (LTS 4 before to LTS 3 after); crashes are down (12 in 2020 vs. 9 in 2021).
  - High speed traffic (50 mph+) reduced by two-thirds.
- Route 9 Paths Plan completed in September 2021 (<http://www.wilmapco.org/route9pathsplan/>)
- Tri-Park Trail Project Proposed by New Castle County in 2022, following a November 2021 letter from the R9MC ([http://www.wilmapco.org/Rt\\_9/R9MC-NCC\\_Parks-Nov\\_2021.pdf](http://www.wilmapco.org/Rt_9/R9MC-NCC_Parks-Nov_2021.pdf)). The proposed project includes lighting improvements and new connections (<https://wilmapco.sharefile.com/d-sca1afaa113424384b9e75577572ac444>)
- Hybrid DeIDOT DBE Certification Training Workshop held at the Route 9 Library/online in 2022. This training increased awareness and knowledge of gaining a DBE certification.
- Helped Everyone Can Achieve (ECA) win Delaware's DBE of the year award via our support for their local hire initiative.
  - Seven Route 9 residents hired at prevailing wage jobs (\$100,000/year) by ECA.

Performance report: <https://wilmapco.sharefile.com/d-s399377afa4d24a2ea6fbdea2004e7622>

- Local Hire Exploration funding (\$3k – NCC Community Services)



## Land Use

- Updated Economic Development Plan begun by the Route 9 CDC.
- Extensive collaboration occurred in the development of New Castle County's 2050 Comprehensive Plan throughout 2021 and 2022. The Route 9 Master Plan was successfully folded into overall Comp Plan.  
<https://ncc2050-nccde.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Hamilton/Eden Park Community Survey Development Support
- Helped to publicize and use New Castle County's "Resident Toolbox" to see what developments are on the horizon.

## Community Health

- Health Communities Delaware funding awarded.
  - [For update to 2024 projects, contact Dylan Tepper:  
[dtepper@route9cdc.org](mailto:dtepper@route9cdc.org)]
  - New Castle Prevention Coalition received an investment of \$148,900 in July 2023 for implementation of components of the Rt. 9 Master Plan (July 2023-June 2024 funding period). Increased staff capacity allows for the planning of, acquisition of funding for, and implementation of a green space maintenance project, healthy homes project, and a community and economic development plan. The first of these efforts, green space maintenance, entails the creation of a maintenance agreement with New Castle County and DelDOT for the landscaping that is to accompany a significant transportation improvement project in the corridor. NCPC will hire local landscapers for this work, increasing job opportunities for residents while beautifying the area. For healthy homes, NCPC is creating a program that aligns their CHW work with the home repair efforts. To better understand the best opportunities for the Rt. 9 corridor area, NCPC will engage a consultant to create a community and economic development plan that aligns areas of opportunity with the desires of residents



and aligns with the goals of the Rt. 9 Master Plan. Goals of the work are to:

- Increase community & economic development aligned with Rt. 9 Master Plan and the mission of NCPC (Job access and growth)
  - Increase healthy and safe homes in Route 9 (Maintaining safe, affordable residential housing)
  - Increase beautification of Rt. 9 corridor to decrease industry generated health burdens through landscaping (Reducing the environmental and health burdens of industry)
  - Increase use of local BIPOC-led business to maintain landscaping (Job access and growth)
  - Increase amount of investment to advance Rt. 9 Master Plan (All of the above will contribute to the successful implementation of the Route 9 Master Plan)
- New Castle Prevention Coalition received \$80,290 in 2022 for implementation of components of the Rt. 9 Master Plan. Increased staff capacity allows for the planning of, acquisition of funding for, and implementation of a home repair service, green space maintenance project, and business development initiative. The first of these efforts, green space maintenance, entails the creation of a maintenance agreement with New Castle County and DelDOT for the landscaping that is to accompany a significant transportation improvement project in the corridor. NCPC will hire local landscapers for this work, increasing job opportunities for residents while beautifying the area.
  - Received \$49,950 in 2020 to study the strengthening of community infrastructure, including the exploration of a Community Development Corporation.
    - CDC Feasibility Study completed in February 2021: [https://swpndotorg.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/route-9-corridor\\_final-report\\_pace.pdf](https://swpndotorg.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/route-9-corridor_final-report_pace.pdf)
  - Supported the hiring of Ms. Dora Williams as the Rt. 9 Community Engagement Coordinator by Healthy Communities Delaware and



UD Cooperative Extension. In this role Ms. Williams will enhance the outreach activities of the Monitoring Committee and the New Castle Prevention Coalition.

- Route 9 Health Assessment completed in September 2021:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ka3und39dx4ga6p/Route%209%20Health%20Needs%20Assessment%20-%20Sept%202021.pdf?dl=0>
- Health Action Implementation
  - LED Lighting upgrades along Route 9 from Moores Ln to Terminal Ave are ongoing or complete.
  - **Lighting / Storm Drains** - Members of the Health Subcommittee (WILMAPCO, Delaware Sea Grant, Route 9 CDC, Basestud.io, and the Holloway Terrace Civic Association) conducted a nighttime walking audit of lighting and storm drains in Holloway Terrace on June 8, 2024.
    - Two street lights were reported out or blocked and were fixed. Five storm drains were reported blocked and cleared. And one stretch of sidewalk was reported blocked by vegetation and cleared.
    - More than a dozen other spots were identified as dark, with the potential to add additional lighting.
    - Map of uncovered issues:  
[Streetlight / Storm Drain Issues - Google My Maps](#)
    - Photo album of issues:  
<https://photos.google.com/u/0/share/AF1QipMmg5epUrNT91ud1GNpdmQCcnt-yBDqBPFCpwYggVtLqJRpfWyESDvQj0O8GA4lag?key=V0xVTFBpTHpMS3JjMkpPUUhBS3lyX3FmSTdVWEpB>





Night-time Streetlight and Storm Drain Audit, Holloway Terrace, June 2024

- Lighting - Members of the Health Subcommittee (WILMAPCO, DeIDOT, Collins Park Civic Association, Waste Management, and Croda) conducted a nighttime walking audit in the vicinity of Collins Park on May 2, 2023. That effort led to the identification and monitoring of more than a dozen streetlights/bus shelter lights that were not working. All were repaired by October. The effort also led to the identification and repair of potholes at the Crossroads Shopping Plaza's parking lot. Moreover, the effort also uncovered the process to have additional streetlighting installed within subdivisions, which will be communicated to community leaders.



Night-time Streetlight Audit, Collins Park, May 2023







New Street Light Installed in Collins Park, February 2025

- A flyer to raise awareness about the ability to report clogged storm drains was updated by members of the Health Subcommittee, led by Delaware Sea Grant: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5lhx672r80rqli2avojv/Current-Drain-Flyer-2024-update.pdf?rlkey=rlsijqwd5mhj5lx5u0wzt4sah&dl=0> .
  
- Neighborhood Cohesion
  - Neighborhood Programs:
    - The NCC Prevention Coalition led many events in the Tri-Park area and beyond throughout the year that included community resources, food, games for kids and adults, movies, and community gathering.
    - NCC Route 9 Library compiled and shared health programming with the committee
  
- Environment
  - Air Quality - Many conversations about air quality continued throughout 2023. DNREC attended multiple meetings to provide an overview of the data that is available at the community level and how that aligns with regulatory requirements.



## Other

- Supported the University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD) and DeIDOT with the creation of the *Development of Residential Subdivisions along the Route 9/New Castle Avenue Corridor, 1945-1970 +/-: A Historic and Architectural Context Report*. High level feedback was provided along with connections to residents to share their oral histories. The project team presented draft and final products at R9MC meetings. More information: <http://www.wilmapco.org/route9/route-9-residential-history/>
- Continued meeting despite the 2020/1 coronavirus pandemic. Meetings were moved online and had good participation.
- Route 9 Data Trends Annual Report completed for \$35,000.
- Meeting transparency improvements – provide audio recordings and notes online
- Enhanced letterhead to include represented agencies.
- Conducted outreach about the Master Plan



## Letters from the R9MC

Since July 2019, the Route 9 Monitoring Committee has written 19 letters of support and concern to various local, state, and federal agencies and businesses to support the implementation of the Route 9 Master Plan.

See an ongoing list of letters here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qjRMVIL-eozYgJwQA7VVTRJClhjog9Q0yyWdfsDgt0U/edit?gid=0#gid=0>



## Community Outreach

The Route 9 Monitoring Committee has conducted outreach activities to keep community members updated about the Route 9 Master Plan. Our main effort came in 2021, with the Rt. 9 Master Plan video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2rc2j9QnAc>).

Currently, the outreach boards below are on display at the Rt. 9 Library. Placed in April 2023, they were updated once with updates.

To view historic R9MC outreach efforts dating from 2018, please visit here: <https://wilmapco.sharefile.com/public/share/web-s795c73af27b14594a78a53315af8b43b>

### CURRENT OUTREACH BOARDS ON DISPLAY IN ROUTE 9 LIBRARY

**route 9 corridor MASTER PLAN**

The Route 9 Monitoring Committee was formed to help guide and fulfill the recommendations of the Master Plan. The group meets monthly and is comprised of a diverse set of community leaders, implementing agencies, and key stakeholders.



**Selected Key Successes**

- The Route 9 Master Plan was incorporated into the NCC @ 2050 Comprehensive Plan
- Nearly \$20 million in funding set aside for major road and bus improvement projects.
- Several smaller scale transportation projects completed/funded: Interim Memorial Drive Safety Improvements, two Safe Routes to School projects, Transportation Alternatives Program, etc.
- Health Needs Assessment and Action Planning, led by Univ. of Delaware's Cooperative Extension.
- Community Development Corporation Feasibility Study and implementation funding to the New Castle Prevention Coalition from Healthy Communities Delaware.

**Before/After Road Diet**

- Less excessive speed (50 mph+)  
2.4% in 2018 to 0.4% in 2022
- Good flow maintained  
No failing intersections
- Fewer crashes  
33% drop in 2021, 2022 vs. previous two years



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Complete a brief survey




facebook.com/Route9MasterPlan  
www.wilmapco.org/Route9MasterPlan

**route 9 corridor MASTER PLAN**


**WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Complete a brief survey



The Route 9 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Master Plan identifies the best reinvestment and redevelopment strategies for the Route 9 Corridor between the cities of Wilmington and New Castle. This Plan was requested by New Castle County. It was funded and executed by WILMAPCO under the guidance of a Steering Committee comprised of local civic and agency partners.



**I-295 at Route 9 Concept**



**Major Recommendations**

- Industrial lands adjacent to Route 9 will be appropriately separated and repositioned from residential neighborhoods.
- Zoning adjustments allowing for mixed-use/mixed-income redevelopment (residential/commercial/office) will encourage healthy suburban centers along the corridor to grow and thrive. New development will be concentrated in these centers, such as around the Route 9 Library.
- Both Route 9 and Memorial Drive will be placed on road diets and their key intersections will be redesigned to enhance safety and keep traffic moving. Walking, bicycling, and bus improvements will accompany the road diets, along with a new pathway network to link together neighborhoods.
- New truck routes (Pigeon Point Road Extension and Garasches Lane Extension) will work to keep trucks out of existing and future neighborhoods and simultaneously improve freight efficiency.

facebook.com/Route9MasterPlan  
www.wilmapco.org/Route9MasterPlan

## Data Trends

The Route 9 Monitoring Committee tracks baseline demographic and transportation trends along the corridor. These can be found here:

[www.wilmapco.org/route9datatrends](http://www.wilmapco.org/route9datatrends)

A more substantive Data Trends Report was produced in 2023. This can be viewed here:

<https://wilmapco.sharefile.com/share/view/s9995e4dc88774ee4ae08f15c425a568f>

