

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 12, 2025

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at WILMAPCO, 100 Discovery Boulevard, Suite 800, Newark, DE 19713 and via video conference/conference call.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Michael Fortner, from City of Newark, and TAC member, brought the TAC meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. TAC Members present:

Benjamin Allen, Maryland State Highway Administration
Cooper Bowers, Delaware Department of Transportation
David Dahlstrom, Maryland Department of Planning
Michael Fortner, City of Newark
William Goldman, Cecil County Division of Planning and Zoning
Gwinneth Kaminsky Rivera, City of Wilmington Planning
Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Department of Transportation
Tina Merrill, Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Department of Land Use
Catherine Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

TAC Ex-Officio Members present:

Jasmine Champion, U.S. Federal Highway Administration

TAC Members absent:

City of Wilmington Department of Public Works
Delaware Division of Small Business, Development, and Tourism
Delaware Office of State Planning
Delaware River and Bay Authority
Maryland Department of the Environment
Town of Elkton Planning

TAC Ex-Officio Members absent:

Amtrak
Diamond State Port Corporation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Federal Transit Administration

Guests and Invitees:

Bob Rager, MDOT-SHA
Jeff Reigner, Kittleson & Associates, Consultant
Hunter Withers, RIPD, MDOT-SHA

Staff:

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner
Leonard Bonarek, Senior Planner
Heather Dunigan, Principal Planner
Sharen Elcock, Executive Assistant
Elizabeth Espinal, Administrative Assistant

Dave Gula, Principal Planner
Bill Swiatek, Principal Planner
Jake Thompson, Senior Planner
Dawn Voss, Outreach Coordinator
Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Espinal.

3. MINUTES

Approval of May 15, 2025, TAC Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Catherine Smith and seconded by Ms. Tina Merrill, May 15, 2025, TAC Minutes are approved.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Ms. Heather Dunigan reported that the Nonmotorized Working Group met on June 3rd. During the meeting, the group discussed the Newark Bicycle Plan and engaged in productive dialogue regarding additional analyses to include, as well as the current status of route planning. An update on the Maryland 272 Corridor project was also provided, which the group found to be informative and valuable.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

6. Appointment of the Nominating Committee for TAC Chair

Mr. Mike Fortner reported that the Nominating Committee communicated via email regarding candidates for the position of TAC Chair. Mr. Cooper Bowers was contacted to determine his interest in serving another term. Mr. Bowers agreed to continue but announced a forthcoming career change, he will be leaving DelDOT to join New Castle County.

Mr. Matthew Rogers added that he would inquire whether Mr. Bowers would assume the role of New Castle County's Land Use Representative for WILMAPCO's TAC. Mr. Fortner stated that, pending confirmation of Mr. Bowers' new role, the Nominating Committee recommends Mr. Bowers for TAC Chair and Ms. Cathy Smith of the Delaware Transit Corporation for TAC Vice Chair.

Mr. Rogers confirmed that, beginning in July, Mr. Bowers will represent New Castle County on the TAC. Accordingly, Mr. Bowers has offered to serve another term as TAC Chair, and Mr. Rogers noted that he is available to serve as an alternate if needed.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Matthew Rogers and seconded by Mr. David Dahlstrom, the TAC concurred that Mr. Cooper Bowers serve as TAC chair, and Ms. Cathy Smith as Vice-Chair.

ACTION ITEMS

7. To recommend endorsement of the Claymont Area Master Plan (CAMP).

Ms. Heather Dunigan and Mr. Jeff Reigner provided an update on the Claymont Area Master Plan. While there was a consensus on Land Use Scenario 3, which includes modest density

increases, no consensus emerged on the proposed transportation improvements. A fourth public workshop and survey were conducted to gather additional feedback. Results showed the most support for small-scale improvements, with divided opinions on more substantial changes, including a proposed roundabout. The plan has been updated to reflect these findings, with some non-controversial transportation improvements retained. Future analysis and public engagement will be required to gain consensus on transportation changes; therefore, no preferred scenario is shown for the Philadelphia Pike corridor.

ACTION: On motion by Ms. Tina Merrill and seconded by Ms. Cathy Smith, the TAC endorsed the Claymont Area Master Plan.

8. To recommend amendment of the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that MDOT has requested an amendment to the FY 2025–2028 TIP to add funding for the Belvidere Road Bridge Replacement project, which was adopted in May 2024. Although the project is currently listed in the TIP, it is not funded within these fiscal years. The proposed amendment would add \$214,000 in design funds in FY 2026.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Shawn Kiernan and seconded by Mr. Matthew Rogers, the TAC recommends amending the FY 2025-2028 TIP.

9. To recommend amendment of the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Jake Thompson reported that Cecil County has requested an amendment to the FY 2025–2028 TIP to revise funding for the Mechanics Valley Road Bridge Replacement project, as amended in July 2024. The project currently includes \$2.6 million in construction funding programmed for FY 2025.

The proposed amendment would defer construction to FY 2026 and increase the construction funding to \$14.805 million; an overall increase of \$12.205 million. The application also notes that \$2.27 million has already been expended on preliminary engineering (PE) and land acquisition from various sources.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. David Dahlstrom and seconded by Mr. Matthew Rogers, the TAC recommends amending the FY 2025-2028 TIP.

10. To recommend endorsement of the Strategic Action Plan.

Mr. Dan Blevins requested endorsement of the New Castle County Strategic Action Plan. A presentation on the plan was provided to the committee at the previous meeting. The Strategic Action Plan aims to streamline the integration between New Castle County's land use planning and DelDOT's transportation planning processes. This initiative is an outcome of the New Castle County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2022.

The plan focuses on three key objectives:

- Simplifying and improving the efficiency of the development review process.
- Facilitating private sector contributions to current transportation projects; and
- Aligning the New Castle County Unified Development Code (UDC) with DelDOT's Development Coordination Manual to reduce regulatory discrepancies.

The final document is presented in a summary format with a detailed appendix to provide supporting materials and allow for adaptability as data and policy evolve. Although the PAC did not review this document, it is not typically under their purview for action. The committee is asked to endorse the plan.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Matthew Rogers and seconded by Ms. Gwinneeth Kaminsky, the TAC approves recommendation to endorse the Strategic Action Plan.

11. To recommend endorsement of the Kirkwood Highway Land-Use & Transportation Plan

Mr. Dave Gula presented the Kirkwood Highway Land Use and Transportation Plan and requested endorsement from the TAC. The plan outlines recommendations for transportation improvements and land use strategies along the SR 2 corridor, with a strong focus on safety, environmental concerns, and community input.

The planning process included five public workshops, reaching over 500 individuals, and followed the Federal Highway Administration's PEL process. The plan was reviewed by the PAC and the Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group, both of which provided helpful feedback.

Recent public comments included general support for safety improvements and some concerns regarding residential development and proposed grade separations. Overall, strong public support was received for the plan's recommendations across eight focus areas.

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Matthew Rogers and seconded by Ms. Gwinneeth Kaminsky, the TAC approves recommendation to endorse the Kirkwood Highway Land-Use & Transportation Plan.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

12. Newark Bicycle Plan

Ms. Heather Dunigan provided an update on the ongoing update to the Newark Bicycle Plan, last adopted in 2014. A public workshop was held on May 22, 2025, and materials are currently available for public review and comment on WILMAPCO's website through June 22, 2025. The final report is expected to be completed over the summer, with anticipated consideration by Council in August 2025.

The planning is being conducted in partnership with BikeNewark and the City of Newark, as in the previous plan. Many of the 2014 plan's recommendations have since been implemented or are currently underway. The update expands on the previous plan by incorporating new analysis areas, including:

- A comprehensive bicycle parking assessment,
- Enhanced Vision Zero safety analysis,
- Evaluation of transportation opportunity areas,
- Land-use connections to support improved bicycle access to key destinations.

Significant infrastructure improvements since 2014 were highlighted, including the Delaware Avenue protected bike lane, upgrades along Casho Mill Road to Downes Elementary School, a new bridge over White Clay Creek, and the extension of a multi-use pathway to the Maryland state line.

The updated plan also emphasizes the importance of providing low-stress, connected bicycle facilities. Several high-stress corridors have been identified as barriers to access and will be prioritized for future improvements.

In addition, Ms. Dunigan noted that feedback received from the recent workshop and public comment period is being used to refine the proposed bicycle network map, which includes recommendations for new and upgraded facilities.

The plan supports a Safe Systems approach, emphasizing proactive design to prevent serious injuries and fatalities, particularly for vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians. Expanded use of protected bike lanes, safer intersection design, speed management measures, and inclusive public engagement are among the core strategies identified.

Public input is being accepted through June 22, and further recommendations are expected before the final presentation for adoption.

To view this presentation in its entirety, [\[click here\]](#). [(20min. 30sec.)]

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. Staff Report

Ms. Tigist Zegeye began thanking TAC members for their flexibility in adjusting to the revised June TAC meeting date, noting the change was due to the Juneteenth holiday. She also announced that the July TAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 17, at 2:00 p.m. instead of the usual 10:00 a.m. time, to avoid conflict with the Council meeting scheduled for that morning.

Ms. Zegeye then provided the following update on staff activities since the last TAC meeting:

- On May 16th, Staff participated in Bike to Work Day in Newark, collecting public feedback on the Newark Bicycle Plan.
- On May 20th, The Churchman's Crossing Monitoring Public Workshop was held.
- On May 22nd, The Newark Bicycle Plan Public Workshop took place.
- On May 27th, A Youth Pop-Up Workshop for the Maryland 272 Corridor Plan was hosted at the North East Library, with approximately 20 participants.
- On May 31st, Staff participated in the Southbridge Truck Bypass Feasibility Study and presented review of the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan, at Open Streets on New Castle Avenue.
- On June 2nd, the Concord Pike Master Plan Annual Meeting and the MD 272 Corridor Plan Business Public Workshop.
- On June 4th, Staff attended the following meetings:
 - The Ardens Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee Public Information Session.
 - The Brandywine Conservancy Meeting.
 - The Safe Kids Delaware Meeting.
- On June 4th, an RFP was posted for the Sidewalk Gap Analysis in both New Castle and Cecil Counties.
- On June 10th, the Augustine Cut-Off Second Public Workshop was held.
- On June 11th, Staff attended the Delmarva Freight Summit.

- On June 12th, the Newport Monitoring Committee Public Workshop is scheduled to be held.
- On June 18th the Wilmington Initiatives Public Workshop will be held at the City/County Building, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- On June 24th, Staff will participate in the University of Delaware IPA Demographics Forum.
- On June 25th, Staff will support an APA Delaware Chapter networking event on Baynard Blvd. Additional details and registration information are available on the APA Delaware website.
- On July 7th, the Ardens Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee will reconvene.
- On July 12th, The East Elkton Plan Monitoring Committee is scheduled to meet.

Additionally, Ms. Zegeye reported that the FY 2026 UPWP has been approved by the FHWA Delaware Division Office, and WILMAPCO is currently awaiting approval from FTA.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attachments (0)