



FYI

January 29, 2014

Governor Markell Proposes \$500 Million Additional Transportation Spending

In his State of the State Address last week, Governor Markell proposed investing an additional \$100 Million per year for 5 years in transportation infrastructure. Added to the program already in place, 5-year spending would total \$1.1 Billion. This would help Delaware remain competitive with surrounding states, all of which have initiated multi-billion dollar infrastructure programs in the past year. The condition and adequacy of transportation facilities is considered a key factor in attracting employers and driving economic growth. The Committee of 100, along with other business groups and labor, has been urging the General Assembly to increase infrastructure spending.

At a press conference today, the Governor announced a balanced approach to raising the additional funds needed. He is proposing to increase the Motor Fuel Tax by 10 cents, raising revenues by \$50 Million per year, and will commit to annual borrowing of \$50 Million in the Transportation Trust Fund.

The Committee of 100 has endorsed the 2011 recommendations of the Transportation Trust Fund Task Force, which included a menu of fee increases, including the Motor Fuel Tax, which has not been raised in 20 years. Absent additional revenues, the Trust Fund will not be able to support any state transportation improvement projects; it will only have sufficient resources to pay debt service, cover operating and routine maintenance costs, and match federal project dollars. The TTF Task Force also recommended reducing the Trust Fund's debt load and Secretary Bhatt has eliminated borrowing the past two fiscal years, bringing the Trust Fund's indebtedness under \$1 Billion. The additional \$50 Million in annual borrowing will slow, but not end, the Secretary's debt reduction efforts.

Paul H. Morrill, Jr.
Executive Director
The Committee of 100

WILMAPCO Seeks Plan Input

Mark C. Parker, PE of Becker Morgan Group has contributed the following news regarding the Transportation Improvement Program. Mark serves as the Chair of the WILMAPCO Public Advisory Committee.

The WILMAPCO Public Advisory Committee (PAC) has 24 members representing civic, environmental, business, and other interests. The PAC advises the Council on public participation strategies for WILMAPCO. They also assist WILMAPCO staff and other member organizations in developing methods and avenues for public involvement. The Committee of 100 holds one of the 24-member spots. The key point of this group is that it supports and comments on the public involvement piece of Wilmapco's efforts. It's committee members are charged with insuring that the means and methods utilized fairly and properly disseminate Wilmapco information to the public. This includes technical documents, telephone surveys, public forums, etc. It is also the PAC member's responsibility to communicate with their parent group/organization and its members to make sure that they are receiving and disseminating information to their constituency. Without the public input, Wilmapco and DelDOT and their staff must rely only on their own internal resources. The public is always encouraged to participate and communicate on key transportation issues.

With that, the Committee of 100 shares the following:

The WILMAPCO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) serves as a 4-year transportation planning document. For all planned capital transportation investments, the TIP lists project descriptions, scopes, justification and anticipated schedules for the next four years. The document is separated into Delaware Statewide, New Castle County and Cecil County specific projects. Within each of the County breakouts, the projects are sorted by the type of investment:

- System Preservation – Bridge Repair, Pavement Rehabilitation, Equipment, etc.
- System Management – Intersection Improvements, Safety Improvements, Aesthetic/Streetscape Improvements, etc.
- System Expansion – Major Roadway Widening, New Road Construction

There are many times throughout the yearly development of the TIP where members of the public can play an active role in determining the where's, what's and how much of the following year's spending plan.

The draft TIP is available for public comment from January 13 – March 4, 2014. Contact WILMAPCO for more information or to comment on the project: [email](#), mail comments to WILMAPCO, 850 Library Ave., Suite 100, Newark, DE, 19711, or call (302) 737-6205, toll free from Cecil County, (888) 808-7088.

WILMAPCO "Open House" Public Workshop FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



Wilmington Area Planning Council

[2015 TIP public comment.pdf](#)

The next Public Workshop is scheduled for February 24, 2014, an Open House from 4-7pm at the Wilmapco offices, 850 Library Ave., Suite 100, Newark, DE, 19711.

<http://www.wilmapco.org/tip/>