Community Transportation Planning in South Wilmington, Delaware

Safe Routes to School National Partnership
June 2010 Webinar

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Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO)
Who is WILMAPCO?

- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Long-range transportation Plan
- Program federal funds
- Provide coordination
South Wilmington

- **Environmental Justice initiative**
  - wilmapco.org/EJ

- **Southbridge Community**
  - Black, working-class
  - Population: 1,600
  - Strong community-involvement
  - Established planning network
    - South Wilmington Planning Network
Major Planning Phase

- Neighborhood Plan
  - July 2006

- Walkable Community Report
  - September 2006

- Southbridge Circulation Study
  - September 2008
  - Speeding traffic, trucks, walkability

- Lots of agency/resident involvement
Benefits of Walkable Communities

- Less traffic, pollution & noise
- Less crime – “Eyes on the streets”
- Better sense of community
- Economic benefits
- Travel choices for kids, seniors, people with disabilities, people with cars
- Healthy communities
Southbridge Circulation Study

Components of Circulation Study
- Review of existing transportation conditions
- Traffic counts and traffic observations
- Pedestrian infrastructure inventory
- Transit infrastructure inventory
- Bicycle infrastructure inventory
- Perform traffic analysis at key intersections
- Propose improvements:
  - Community recommendations
  - Analysis results

Southbridge Circulation Study
Community Project Ranking

- Re-time the signals for 25 mph (in progress)
- Reduce lane widths on A St., Heald St. and New Castle Ave. (bulbouts, bike lanes)
- Streetscape enhancements (trees, benches, etc.)
- crossings for truck traffic at Christina Ave. at Heald
  - Crossings at Terminal Ave. and Port on Terminal Ave.
- Crossings at Lobdell St. and Bradford St.,
  - Lobdell St., and New Castle Ave. at Lobdell St.
- 8 into community
  - To ShopRite and Salv. Army
- Recommendations
Implementation Phase

- Some Successes
  - Re-timing traffic signals ✓ completed
  - Truck signage study ✓ completed
  - Truck restrictions ✓ completed
  - Street directional adjustments ✓ completed
Implementation Phase

- **Streetscape/traffic-calming/walkability**
  - Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program
    - Planning phase underway
    - $1 million annual grants, 20% match needed
  
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program
  - Underway
  - $125,000 infrastructure
  - $5,000 educational

- WILMAPCO acting as pivot in collaboration
  - Support provided for community/school
  - Required culture change at agency
Implementation Phase

- **SRTS Program in Delaware**
  - Federal funding administered by DOT
  - Promotes walking/bicycling to school
  - Infrastructure improvements
  - Educational activities
  - No up front costs required of the school
Implementation Phase

- **Established a planning team**
  - WILMAPCO
  - DelDOT
  - School
  - City of Wilmington (police, public works)
  - HOPE Commission
  - Nemours Health and Prevention
  - Civic Association
  - *South Wilmington Planning Network*

- **Infrastructure identified and ranked**
  - Walkable Community Report
  - Southbridge Circulation Study
SRTS* Improvements
Elbert-Palmer ES, Wilmington

**Infrastructure Projects**
- Immediate Term
- Short Term (1-5 years)
- Not SRTS Eligible***

Note: See handouts for full descriptions of identified projects

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**Transportation Enhancements Projects**

- Add Curb Ramps, Crosswalks (D, N)
- Replace Sidewalk (G)
- Trim Foliage, Time & Move Flasher (1)
- Improve School Zone Signage/Makings
- Crosswalks, Curb Ramps (A)
- Replace Sidewalk (C)
- Add Sidewalks, Curb Ramps (O, C)
- Resolve sidewalk cross-slope (2)
- A Street Median (O)
- New Crosswalks (Q)
- Add Sidewalk (4)
- Add Sidewalk, Crosswalk (G)

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* SRTS = Safe Routes to School
** In addition to the pedestrian recommendations found on this map, the boulevard circulation study proposes comprehensive street scape along New Castle Ave., Reedy Street and other key neighborhood streets. This would include improvements such as sub-botts at key intersections, along with pedestrian safety lighting, street trees, etc. Funding for these projects will be pursued through the transportation enhancements program.
*** Non-Eligible SRTS projects will be considered for Transportation Enhancements funding.

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WILMAPCO
Implementation Phase

- **Educational Activities**
  - Safety training
  - Safety assembly
  - Daily pedestrian safety announcements
  - Articles in school newsletter

- **Steps Across Delaware Program**
Implementation Phase

- **SRTS Next Steps**
  - Additional educational activities
  - Next phase of infrastructure
  - Tree-planting around school
  - TE project coordination
Lessons Learned

- Listen carefully to the community
  - Provide early results
  - Do not over-burden, or over-plan

- Work with agencies and partnerships

- Incorporate needs of other agencies
  - Be flexible with scope of work

- Be willing to make the extra effort
  - School staff unable to do everything
Questions?

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