

Video Transcript

April 27, 2020

Slide 1

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to learn more about updates related to the Five Points Transportation Study.

First of all, we hope you and your family are healthy and safe. Like all of you, we on the project team have been adjusting to life during the public health crisis created by COVID-19. The Delaware Department of Transportation – DeIDOT – and Sussex County are working to minimize disruptions to the Five Points Transportation Study and following the guidance and policies of the State of Delaware to promote the health and safety of our staff and partners.

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Because of the ongoing pandemic, we are unable to meet with the Five Points Working Group in April as originally scheduled. In lieu of that meeting, this video offers some updates on progress made on the Five Points study in the last three months, as well as information on upcoming opportunities for you to get involved.

Our agenda for this presentation has two parts. First, the purpose of this presentation is to provide the regular quarterly Phase 2 implementation status update that we would have given at an April Working Group meeting.

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Second, we will provide information on our spring virtual open house. The Five Points open house originally scheduled for May 18 will have a change in format. In place of an in-person event, all of the open house information will be placed on the project website and we will support this information by hosting a series of online drop-in sessions. More information on the virtual open house will be provided at the end of this presentation.



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Since the Working Group last met, the project team, comprised of DeIDOT and Sussex County, published the Five Points 2019 Annual Report. This report, which can be found on the Five Points website, documents the significant progress we made in 2019. This is the first of a series of annual reports that will be produced each spring documenting the previous year's accomplishments.

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Most of this presentation will focus on updates to the Phase 2 Implementation Plan, similar to the updates given to the Working Group at its quarterly meetings. The status of all recommendations in the Implementation Plan is found on the Five Points website.

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Phase 1 of the Five Points Transportation Study, completed at the end of 2018, produced 78 recommendations. These recommendations fit into five categories.

- Category A consists of recommendations to be implemented under current DeIDOT projects or initiatives.
- Category B, in blue, includes recommendations to implement policies and procedures to make the area more efficient, sustainable and beautiful.
- Recommendations in Category C, in green, will make the most of existing roadway infrastructure.
- Recommendations in Category D, in red, will make walking, bicycling, and transit more viable as alternatives to driving.
- And finally, Category E, in yellow, includes recommendations to invest in new infrastructure to support anticipated growth.

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When the Working Group last met in January 2020, 39 of these 78 recommendations – half of the total – were in progress, ongoing, or completed. These recommendations span all five categories.



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Today, in April 2020, the same number of recommendations – 39 – are in progress, ongoing, or completed. One recommendation that was in progress is now complete, and one recommendation that was listed as in progress is now classified as ongoing. Five recommendations that haven't started yet remain to be initiated in 2020.

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Category A, recommendations being addressed by current DeIDOT projects and initiatives, is unchanged since January. All seven of these recommendations are already complete or in progress.

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One recommendation in Category B, policies and procedures, has been moved from "in progress" to "ongoing."

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This is recommendation B-22, requiring bike parking as a condition of certain new developments. This is now classified as ongoing because it's incorporated in County Code.

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Category C, making the most of existing roadway infrastructure, has one change from "in progress" to "complete." There are also a number of updates to recommendations that are already in progress. I'll describe each of these in the next few slides.

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There are three study recommendations that the Council on Transportation approved for inclusion in the DeIDOT Capital Transportation Program for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2026. The first is construction of a southbound right turn lane on Minos Conaway Road approaching Route 9. This relates to recommendation C-2.

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The second is a project to improve the intersection of Old Landing and Warrington Road under recommendation C-3.

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The third is a project to improve the intersection of Cave Neck Road, Sweet Briar Road, and Hudson Road.



Federal approval will be sought in the fall to add these three projects to the Capital Transportation Program.

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Recommendation C-6 is to study the feasibility of lengthening left- and right-turn lanes throughout the study area. At their January 27, 2020 meeting, Five Points Working Group members proposed eight locations, which DeIDOT will consider.

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Recommendation C-8 is to study the feasibility of restriping two-lane sections of Savannah Road with a two-way left-turn lane. An initial evaluation was discussed with the Working Group over the past two meetings. The Historic Lewes Byway Committee is investigating moving forward with a master plan for Savannah Road that will include consideration of whether a two-way left-turn lane is appropriate.

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Under recommendation C-9, DeIDOT was asked to evaluate potential short-term safety and operational improvements at Route 9, Plantation Road, and Beaver Dam Road while longer-term improvements are under development. We have made significant progress on this recommendation.

DeIDOT originally investigated the possibility of re-striping pavement markings to extend a second westbound through lane on Route 9 through the connector road signal, which would have helped with congestion and queuing. However, this proved not to be feasible.

Instead, a signing and striping plan has been completed that will better organize and direct westbound Route 9 traffic flow. Construction is anticipated this spring, so please be on the lookout for these improvements.

Longer-term improvements at this location are still moving forward.

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Recommendation C-15 is to study the feasibility of lengthening the southbound acceleration lane on Route 1 at Minos Conaway Road. Improvements at this location, shown in the photo looking south with Minos Conaway Road in the foreground, were completed this spring.



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The final update in Category C is recommendation C-20, to study the feasibility of replacing the HAWK signal with a full signal at Holland Glade Road, potentially with a fourth leg at the outlets. In conjunction with proposed development of Coastal Station on the west side of Route 1 at Holland Glade Road, the HAWK signal that is currently used only for pedestrian crossings will be removed and replaced with a full traffic signal. Coordination is underway to determine which turning movements will be provided at the intersection.

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There are two updates under Category D, walking, bicycling, and transit.

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Recommendation D-5 is to develop concepts and estimates for filling all sidewalk gaps along Savannah Road between Lewes and Five Points. Portions of these sidewalks will be built by current projects. In addition, the potential Savannah Road master plan that is being investigated by the Historic Lewes Byway Committee – previously mentioned under recommendation C-8 – will also consider sidewalks.

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At a previous meeting, the Working Group discussed recommendation D-14, to study the feasibility of signing and/or pavement markings that will improve bicyclist comfort turning left from Dartmouth Drive onto Route 1. DeIDOT plans to install wayfinding signs to show bicyclists how to navigate the left turn until the longer-term Kings Highway project is able to provide bicycle and pedestrian improvements at this intersection.

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Category E is for new infrastructure initiatives. We have one update in this category.

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Recommendation E-2 is to evaluate the potential transportation benefits, costs, and impacts of a new road parallel to Plantation Road connecting Mulberry Knoll Road to Route 9. DeIDOT is currently working on getting funding programmed for the study of this new road connection.

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The project team has several next steps to move forward with Phase 2 implementation. We will continue work on recommendations that are in



progress. And we will provide our regular email progress updates in May and June.

Finally, we intend to convene the Working Group for its regularly-scheduled quarterly meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020. Our preference is to hold this meeting in person as we have all of our past meetings. If an in-person meeting is not possible, we will hold the meeting online instead.

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We were originally planning to hold an in-person open house for the Five Points Transportation Study on May 18. The ongoing pandemic has changed the format of that event to a virtual open house. Information on the study will be posted on the Five Points website, and a series of online drop-in sessions will be held in late May and early June. Each session will consist of a brief presentation followed by a question and answer period. Monitor the website for more information, including dates and times of these sessions and how to register.

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We would like to extend our thanks to you for participating in the Five Points Transportation Study process. Whether you are a Working Group member or a member of the public, your contributions have made – and will continue to make – a positive difference in transportation in the Five Points area.

As mentioned previously, the next meeting of the Working Group will be held on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm. The project team will provide information on the location, whether in person or online, well before the meeting date.

If you have any questions regarding the Five Points Transportation Study, you are always welcome to contact Jenn Cinelli-Miller, Project Planner for the Delaware Department of Transportation.

Again, thank you for your participation, and please stay safe! We look forward to seeing you again soon.

