



Delaware Bicycle Council
December 7, 2022
Zoom Webinar
Meeting Notes

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Shebra Hall, Division of Public Health Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Mike Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Martin Lessner, Council on Transportation
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety
Mike Tyler, At-Large Representative
Mike Wagner, Department of Education
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative

Members Absent

Sgt. Jay Burns, DE State Police Representative
Evette Morrow, At-Large Representative
Wendy Polasko, DelDOT Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT
Christina Thomas, Administrative Assistant, DelDOT

Guests

Chris Assay, Public
Karen Zakarian, Public
Bob McBride, Chair at Bike Newark
Ray Quillen, Public
Ann Marie Townshend, City Manager - Lewes
Paul Moser, DelDOT

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Scott Hoffman. The Council meeting was held virtually, in which Scott Hoffman took a roll call of the Council members present. The quorum was met for the meeting.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from October 5, 2022. Walt Bryan made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Mack seconded the motion. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

Chris Assay requested to address the Council, where in Dover along North Street there is a multi-use path that runs from the downtown Dover out to Schuttie Park. Just west of where the POW-MIA Parkway crosses a cut made in the pavement of a multi-use path at least two years ago. It leaves about a significant drop that the unsuspecting cyclists must cross. Reported it twice using the map app and phone app for reporting road problems but still nothings been done. Is this a DelDOT problem or the City problem? The cut happened shortly after the completion of the POW-MIA Parkway. Scott Hoffman stated that he has reported it as well. John Fiori responded that DelDOT repaved that path a few years ago and believes there were legal issues over who maintains the path but will reach out to our Central District office and Anthony Aglio to see if either has seen anything on this and give an update.

III. New Business

Nominees for 2023 Chair & Vice-Chair

Fran Cardaci agreed to oversee the nominations for the 2023 Chair and Vice Chair. Scott Hoffman indicated he would volunteer another year for Chair and Walt Bryan would volunteer another year for Vice-Chair. Tom Hartley nominated Scott Hoffman for Chair and Walt Bryan for Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. Nominations will be closed and voted at the next Council meeting on February 1, 2023. Additional nominations could be e-mailed to John T. Fiori or during the next Council meeting prior to voting.

Discuss & Vote on 2022 Cycling Innovation Grant

Three applications were received from the Town of Milton, New Castle County, and the City of Seaford. The grant working group met with all the applicants and reviewed the executive summary that was prepared by DelDOT. The New Castle County project is an initiative that came out of planning with WILMAPCO that involves an existing trail that would link some residential areas off Foulk Road with the Brandywine Library, a park, Brandywine Highschool as well as other residential areas across the street. The Milton project is an ambitious project where they would like to convert the main North/South streets which are Union Street and Mulberry Street and connect them into the Town's main East-West routes which are Chestnut Street and Federal Street by converting them into one-way streets with a lane being dedicated for pedestrians and bicycles. The City of Seaford has a troubling intersection, where five streets come together. The intersection

has been added to over the years but not improved to current intersection standards. It needs improvements to address bicycle and pedestrian safety issues. Stein Highway, Front Street and Bridgeville Highway is a busy intersection with no real way for pedestrians/bicycles to get through. All are projects that the working group would like to see happen but also the Council has limited amount of funds to disperse. The working group met, reviewed the executive summary and the working group recommendation is to award a grant for \$21,500.00 to Seaford that would allow them to do their project, that includes \$20,000 out of the funds allocated for the grant and \$1,500 that was allocated from Contractual Services of the DBC Budget that John worked with Finance to approve that the DBC could add that into the Seaford project. The second part of the recommendation is to award \$10,000.00 to Milton. The reason for that discrepancy is because the Milton project is a \$94,000.00 study, where Milton will fund the rest of the project themselves. Scott entertained the motion. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the working groups recommendation. Mike Krumrine seconded the motion. All accepted, no one opposed. Motion passed. John Fiori will send an award letter to Seaford and Milton indicating that they are receiving the grant and then John will begin the process to transfer the funds to the municipality. This would be a sponsored administered agreement, where the funds are transferred to the municipality, and they are the project managers of the funds.

Safety Concerns at Junction-Breakwater/Georgetown-Lewes Trail and Gills Neck Road

Ray Quillen wanted to address the Council of a safety concern where the Junction-Breakwater and the Georgetown-Lewes Trail meet at Gills Neck Road. Ray thinks there is a safety problem with a large hedge that is blocking the view of Gills Neck Road for people that may be coming down that road. Also, motorist or other cyclists that are coming south on Gills Neck Road from Savannah can't see who may be on the trail. The other concern is since the two trails connect the cyclists are doing a circular pattern trying to access Gills Neck Road. Ray talked with James Wilson where James suggested to bring it to DBC to see if there are any ideas about what possibly could be done. Scott Hoffman asked John Fiori who would be responsible for helping Rays concerns. John responded that DNREC maintains the Junction-Breakwater Trail and this section of Gills Neck Road and Georgetown to Lewes Trail is maintained by the City of Lewes. John indicated if there is something that can be done with striping, DelDOT would work with the City. Also, under the DelDOT bridge removal project at one time there was proposed work being done on the Junction-Breakwater and Georgetown to Lewes Trail that might address Ray's concern, but John will have to look at the final approved plans to verify this. Karen Zakarian asked if they could put a flashing beacon there. Paul Moser responded that that idea was thrown around Traffic said because it is not technically a crossing, Traffic did not want to do any kind of intersection crossing treatments at this location. Ann Marie Townshend indicated as it relates to using a rapid flashing beacon the City would look to have the DelDOT Traffic section advise us and if it were not a context in which they would believe it to be appropriate because it is not a crossing, then the City would follow that advice. Ann Marie does think the City could contact the property owner about trimming back the hedge but think that there is still going to be a visibility issue there. The City is moving forward with DelDOT on a City-wide bike master plan and believe that this might be something appropriate to look at within that plan where we do have engineering staff looking at how to make things safer.

IV. Old Business

Safety Initiatives Update

John Fiori provided an update from the SHAPE Conference that himself, Shebra Hall and Evette Morrow attended back on October 14th. DeIDOT and the DBC were there to promote the bicycle trailer and to also help promote elementary schools to have bike rodeos at their schools for bike safety. John made a brief presentation about bicycle rodeos and how they are conducted. There were at least 20 instructors there to see what a bicycle rodeo was about and to get information on it. A rodeo course was set up to where some of the instructors participated. Had instructors come up who appear to be interested in having bicycle safety as part of their curriculum and they took our contact information. The intent is the instructors would teach the in-class portion, then as a reward DeIDOT would come out and conduct the bike rodeo.

Scott Hoffman went over the 2022 Fatal cycling Accidents. At the time of this meeting, this is the data James Wilson prepared where there were six (6) bicycle fatalities; One (1) in Newark, Two (2) in Dover, One (1) in the Camden-Wyoming area, One (1) in the Lewes area, and one (1) north of Milford. For Newark the accident occurred around 10:00 p.m. where a vehicle traveling southbound Salem Church Road struck a bicyclist approaching a bicyclist in the middle of the southbound lane and as the vehicle tried to pass the bicyclist in the northbound lane the bicyclist veered to the left, which resulted in the vehicle striking the bicyclists. For Dover the accident occurred around 10:00 p.m. around South Governor's Avenue and West North Street, where a bicyclist was struck by a vehicle, which the vehicle fled where the case remains under investigation. The other accident in Dover occurred around 4:00 p.m. around South DuPont Highway and Bay Road, where a vehicle traveling northbound on Bay Road in the right lane when the bicyclist entered the roadway traveling eastbound, where the vehicle was unable to stop and struck the bicyclist. For the Camden-Wyoming area, the accident occurred around 8:23 a.m. during the Amish Country Bike tour, where a vehicle traveling southbound Apple Grove School Road and was approaching two rows of bicyclists. A bicyclist was traveling northbound on the inside lane when cyclist in front began to slow causing the front wheel to contact the rear wheel of the bicyclist in front, which cause the bicyclist to lose control and swerve into the southbound lane, where the bicyclist was struck by the vehicle. For the Lewes area, the accident occurred around 7:00 p.m., where a bicyclist traveling westbound Fisher Road was struck by a vehicle traveling westbound, where the vehicle fled where the case remains under investigation. For the Milford area, the accident occurred around 6:30 p.m., where a vehicle traveling southbound SR 1 in the left lane when a bicyclist entered the left lane attempting to cross SR 1 from east to west and was struck by the vehicle.

Senator Bikeway Map Update

John Fiori provided an update on the Senator Bikeway Map. At a previous meeting it was requested that a bicycle map be prepared for the Senator Bikeway. DeIDOT is in the process of developing that map and working with the consultant. Since the last meeting DeIDOT had a meeting with the consultant and is working on data collection and looking at possibly showing level of traffic stress with the streets. The map would be an 11x17 where one side would show the entire loop. Next step will be for the consultant to prepare an actual draft of the map and to send it to DeIDOT for review. Once the map is received, John will include the Council for any comments.

Priority Bikeway Projects Update

John Fiori provided an update on various DelDOT projects. The Delaware Avenue Cycle Track was completed in November 2023, which has a separate bike lane, pedestrian facilities, and bicycle signals at certain intersections. The Munchy Branch Road Trail was completed in November 2023, which is a shared-use path on the southeast side of Munchy Branch Road from SR1 to Field Lane. For School Lane there was a public workshop recently that Tom Felice attended, which seemed to go well. The only item of concern is the right-of-way. Thought DelDOT owned the right-of-way, but it may be the School District, but the design is moving forward and on schedule. For Senator Bikeway Phase III, the survey plans were submitted in May 2022 and are working on the preliminary plans now and anticipate the project being submitted for advertisement in May 2023.

Scott Hoffman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Hartley seconded the motion at 6:30 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held virtually unless otherwise determined.

To view the Delaware Bicycle Council video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUFxyFYHOF8>