



Delaware Bicycle Council
October 4, 2023
Zoom Webinar
Meeting Notes

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Michael Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety
Wendy Polasko, DelDOT Representative
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative
Martin Lessner, Council on Transportation
Michael Tyler, At-Large Representative
Michael Wagner, Department of Education

Members Absent

Sgt. Jay Burns, DE State Police Representative
Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Evette Morrow, At-Large Representative
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

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

Guests

Chris Asay, Public
JT Fleming, Public
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Karen Zakarian, Public
Paul Moser, DelDOT
Samantha Coveleski, Public

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Scott Hoffman. John Fiori took a roll call of the Council members present and quorum was met.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from the June 7th meeting. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Michael Tyler seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

II. Public Comment

Scott Hoffman asked if there were any public comments. Bill Weller asked for a status on the letter that was approved for the Bicycle Council to send to DelDOT on support of the Route 1/Kings Highway intersection and moving that to a higher priority and accomplishing it sooner than currently planned. Scott Hoffman responded that the draft letter is available and will send to Bill for him and Sussex Cyclists to review. If there are no comments, will submit the letter to DelDOT.

Karen Zakarian asked if there are plans to replace the HAWK crossover on Route 1 in Rehoboth? John Fiori responded that a developer is making improvements to SR1 at Holland Glade Road by removing the existing HAWK signal and installing a four-leg signalized intersection with pedestrian crossings and the HAWK signal is not being placed anywhere else on SR1. Wendy Polasko stated that John was correct in that a developer is making these improvements and the HAWK signal is not being moved to another location. Karen then asked if the Council would address the accident that occurred over the weekend in Dewey? John responded that do not have any information at this time but maybe this should be brought to the attention of the Pedestrian Council. John will send Karen the contact persons information for the Pedestrian Council. Karen responded that she wanted to make sure that the lower part of Route 1 gets the attention that it should.

Samantha Coveleski indicated that DelDOT lacks a clear description or access to relevant information regarding the actual bicycle and pedestrian aspects of the projects. A road project may be detailed but if you look all over the site and there is way more detail about the temporary detour than the actual permanent design changes to the road. If DelDOT could make that a little more readily available for people to see such as if there is a bike path, how wide is it going to be? What is its connectivity? Then for citizens nearby they would be able to evaluate if that meets their needs. John Fiori responded that he would need to discuss this with the Director of Planning to see what can be done.

James Wilson shared a report from StreetLight data. They receive data from cell phones and uses this data to put out reports like this for bicycle activity. They can distinguish between people on cell phones using a vehicle and a bike, then look at this data and determine bicycling changes over time. Based on growth in bicycle trips, Delaware ranked first 2020 and third in 2022, where Delaware had over a 50% increase in bicycle trips based on the cell phone data. It is not known how StreetLight does this, but it is interesting that if you go to the Census Bureau survey data,

where they ask people about bicycling to work between 2019 and 2022 and Delaware had the second largest increase.

III. New Business

Recap Any Topics from August 2nd Council Meeting

No Council members asked for a recap of any topics.

Disabled Rapid Flashing Beacon on POW-MIA Parkway

Scott Hoffman stated that this concern was brought to the Council's attention at the previous meeting by Chris Asay, where there is a rapid flashing beacon on the POW-MIA Parkway that is currently not operating. There was a car accident that occurred which damaged the signal system and DelDOT is currently looking at options to repair it with improvements to the way it was originally constructed. The rapid flashing beacon has been disabled for many months and did DelDOT have an update? John Fiori responded that DelDOT is still working on designing the upgrades but there is no projected timeline at this time. John indicated he will reach out the appropriate section for additional information.

Review & Vote on FY24 DBC Budget

John Fiori presented the FY2024 DBC Budget. Total Budget is \$50,000; Travel expenses are \$900; Contractual Services are \$32,000 that includes the Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant, Biking Blue Hens and other services and Bicycle Supplies are \$17,100 for bike lights, parts and supplies. The FY2024 Budget started July 1st and ends June 30th the following year. No new item was proposed where Scott asked for a motion to approve the FY2024 Budget. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the FY2024 DBC Budget. Michael Wagner seconded. All agreed. No one opposed.

2023 Bicycle Infrastructure Innovation Grant Update

John Fiori presented that for the 2023 innovation grant there was only one application from the Town of Townsend. The application submitted was for \$147,000 but was broken into two parts where the feasibility study costs \$35,000 and the engineering design construction was \$112,000. The application was proposing three different bike paths alignments that would interconnect two developments on both sides of Wiggins Mill Road that would connect to a park. The streets and open space within both developments are maintained by the Town. John is in the process of scheduling the interview. The grant working group will meet with the town, ask any questions and do a field review. Then the working group would get together to see if this is a project they want to support. If in support of this project then a recommendation would be made at the December meeting for a nomination to vote to award the grant to Townsend. Scott Hoffman added that the grant working group met to discuss the project and decided the prudent thing to do is to follow the process that they have been using in previous years even though there is only one applicant. If there are any other Council members interested in attending the meeting to let John know and they can be added to the invite.

IV. Old Business

Priority Bikeway Projects Update

John Fiori provided updates to various DelDOT projects. The updates are located at <https://deldot.gov/Programs/bike> under What's New; DelDOT Bike Program Project Updates.

Tom Hartley requested for the December Council meeting there be an agenda topic to look forward on what a future project would look like to incorporate a bridge or tunnel on Route 9 for the Georgetown to Lewes Trail near Cool Spring Road. Scott Hoffman agreed to add this item for the December meeting. Samantha Coveleski requested if the Council could bring forward what the current DelDOT standards are for roundabouts because the roundabouts she sees being constructed in Sussex County do not have good accommodations for biking which does not allow for a cohesive bike grid network across the state. Scott Hoffman agreed to add this item for the December meeting.

Michael Wagner made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Krumrine seconded the motion at 6:18 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held as a hybrid of in-person and virtually.

To view the Delaware Bicycle Council video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3TjgIJ3cdk4>