



Delaware Bicycle Council
April 7, 2021
Teleconference Call
Meeting Notes

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Tom Felice, DelDOT Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Mike Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Marty Lessner, Council on Transportation
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety
Roger Roy, New Castle County Representative
Mike Tyler, At-Large Representative
Mike Wagner, Department of Education
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative

Members Absent

Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Shebra Hall, Division of Public Health Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Cpl. Tyler Wright, DE State Police Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

Marc Coté, Director of Planning, DelDOT
John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT
Christina Thomas, Administrative Assistant, DelDOT

Guests

Kathryn Beasley, DelDOT
Wendy Polasko, DelDOT
Jennifer Cinelli, DelDOT
Robert Fischer, Public
Mary Roth, Delaware Greenway
Jeff Riegner, Whitman Requardt & Associates
Janna Brown, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.

Ray Quillen, Public
Chris Asay, Public
George Dellinger, Public
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Karen Zakarian, Public

I. Welcome/Introductions

Scott Hoffman, Chair of the Delaware Bicycle Council was not able to attend, in which the meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Walt Bryan, Vice-Chair. The council meeting was held virtually in which John Fiori took a roll call of Council members present. The quorum was met for the meeting.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from the February 3, 2021. John indicated that although Shebra Hall could not attend, she did e-mail her revisions which were mainly grammar corrections. Michael Wagner e-mailed John to revise the next meeting date from June 2, 2021 to April 7, 2021. There were no other revisions to the meeting minutes. Walt Bryan asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the February 3, 2021. Michael Tyler made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Fran Cardaci seconded. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

John Fiori announced that Bruce Kauffman who was a DelDOT bicycle mechanic has retired where he and his wife left Delaware to be closer to their family. Many Council members know Bruce who helped with bicycle initiatives such as the sidewalk stencils and the SR1 Countermeasures by having additional signs installed at certain intersection to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety. John wanted to thank Bruce for all his help at the bike garage and bicycle safety checkpoints and wish him and his wife the very best. Tom Hartley asked if there is a replacement for Bruce. John responded that Dan Casapulla is the other bicycle mechanic but are still searching to fill Bruce's vacant casual/seasonal position. John also said if anyone knows someone who is interested in being a bicycle mechanic to give them his contact information. The casual/season position is not a full-time position in which there is no paid leave or sick time, no paid holidays, and no health insurance. Tom Hatley asked how much the position pays which John responded around \$15.00 per hour.

Marty Lessner asked if he could provide an update to the Council concerning the Council having access to the granular data for bicycle accidents, where there was no objection. Marty proceeded to explain this issue was discussed at the February Council meeting after the presentation from Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety titled "Overview of Crash Involving Bicycles in Delaware in 2020" where Jackie provided a high level summary of the 120 plus incidents that had occurred involving bicycles. During that meeting Marty requested the granular data under 28 Del. C. § 1702 Powers & Duties where, "The council shall possess all necessary powers and duties to consider review or work on matters pertaining to bicycling, bicycle safety, and bicycle safety education recommendations that there is in this day in age." The reason for the request was that the Council could review and analyze and figure out if there is something needed to be done regarding bicycle safety, where Jackie stated that per her Departments regulations that the Council not intitled to the data. After the February meeting Marty along with James Wilson and various Senators including Senator Hansen and Senator Sokola had a meeting that included the Secretary of the Department of Transportation regarding how the Council would get the data and how the

Council would hit or miss with new legislature that was being had. Also, on that meeting was Deputy Attorney General Brad Eaby who is with the Department of Transportation. After that big summit, there came to an agreement that under the existing law of the Council could request the data and request from the DelDOT under a specific statute. Marty has been working with Brad to basically draft the formal request language, which was just sent to Brad for review to enable the data to be given to the Council to be evaluated. Assume this can all get worked out, the Council will get the data but can only use it for purposes for admission. Confidential permission to evaluate bike safety and will be able to rely on DelDOT to interpret the data and make recommendations. If there is a particulate accident or location that has a series of accidents, it may be nothing that can be done of it. Someone drive off the road hitting someone or an indication that something needs to be done for the situation with striping, changing an intersection, signs. All of this is pursuant to our role of evaluating the data and seeing if there is a matter concerning bicycling or bike safety that we can combine with the data that would need to make recommendation on the DelDOT or other agencies. Marty requested to be on the June agenda to provide another update.

Tom Felice announced that this would be his final meeting as a member of the Delaware Bicycle Council where he has accepted another position within Planning and that his replacement will be Wendy Polasko who is DelDOT's Subdivision Engineer.

III. New Business

Discuss Council Member joining the Five Points Working Group

John Fiori stated that at a previous Five Points Working Group meeting it was requested if a member of the Delaware Bicycle Council could be part of the working group. Jennifer Cinelli with DelDOT Planning further explained that the Five Points Working Group started in 2016. Through Phase 1 the original working group members voted on some improvements and projects they would like to see in the area as a priority that was challenging with having different transportation needs based on the group. Now going into Phase 2 for approximately 2-years and have 77 recommendations where almost half of them if not over half of them are completed. Some projects started as a study; some projects have been completed. Really great group to work with and Mr. Bob Fisher has been on it since the beginning. Have had membership change over from time to time and now have opportunity to invite someone from the Delaware Bicycle Council to be part of the working group. The working group only meets quarterly and provide updates. It is a great group and very informative. Looking for more feedback regarding biking in this area. Bob Fisher requested to speak to the Council where there was no objection. Mr. Fisher indicated the last 6-months to a year, he has probably been the biggest advocate on the working group for greater emphases on the bike paths. One thing DelDOT agreed to is they have a beautiful master plan for all the projects. Master plan for all the projects, the five points area and around Sussex county. They agreed to doing the same thing for all the bike path developments and in fact the last working group they had several major topics for greater smaller bike paths that connect neighborhoods and importation areas. All the projects of the Five Points Working Group are available on DelDOT website. Walt asked any member was interested in joining the Five Points Working Group. Michael Tyler indicated he would join the working group. John will send Michael's contact information to Jennifer.

Adopt A Bike Path Program



Kathryn Beasley, DelDOT Community Relations Officer, made a presentation concerning the Adopt A Bike Path Program. DelDOT has programs to combat littering such as Work-A-Day Earn-A-Pay, Department of Correction (DOC) Inmate Work Program, Sponsor-A-Highway, Adopt-A-Highway. The Adopt-A-Bike Path (AABP) began in 2004 where DelDOT maintains 13 trails for a total of 26.12-miles throughout Delaware. AABP helps keep trails free of debris that may impede the safe travel of bicyclists and pedestrians. Those that can sponsor a path are individuals, businesses, community organizations, schools and other groups and clubs where it is encouraged to have a minimum of three cleanups a year. As a thank you DelDOT will install a sign along the path sponsored with the group's name on it. The program is free and DelDOT provides safety vests, trash bags, gloves and crew working signs. The AABP is in the process of relaunching and will have a new logo and sign design. There will also be a new webpage with interactive trail map that will show already adopted and available trails. To apply, go to DelDOT.gov and click Adopt-A-Bike Path. Bill Weller asked if Kathryn's presentation will be posted on the Delaware Bicycle Council website? Kathryn had no objections in which John Fiori will have the presentation posted to the website.

Delaware Yield Law

Ray Quillen addressed the Council that the Delaware Yield Law is about to expire in October of this year. A letter to both sponsors of the legislations requesting to make the law permanent was issued by Ken McCloud, Policy Director of the League of American Bicyclist (LAB). LAB is supporting the Delaware Yield Law and similar yield laws throughout the county. They are also supporting the similar legislation in California. In total seven states have gone to this type of legislation. When Ray became aware that this letter from LAB was going out supporting this legislation, Ray thought it would be appropriate for the Delaware Bicycle Council to take a vote and hopefully support this legislation as well and issue their letter of support. Walt Bryan asked for a motion that the Council supports to continue the Delaware Yield Law and send a letter of support to Senator Dave Sokola and Representative Larry Mitchell. Michael Tyler made the motion to support the continuation of the Delaware Yield Law. Roger Roy seconded. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed. Walt Bryan and Scott Hoffman will prepare a letter of support to Senator Sokola and Representative Mitchell. Walt Bryan asked for a motion that the Council supports to continue the Delaware Yield Law and send a letter of support to Senator Dave Sokola and Representative Larry Mitchell. Michael Tyler made the motion to support the continuation of the Delaware Yield Law. Roger Roy seconded. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed. Walt Bryan and Scott Hoffman will prepare a letter of support to Senator Sokola and Representative Mitchell.

2021 Walk Bike Places Conference



John Fiori stated that the 2021 Walk Bike Places Conference is being held again in Indianapolis both in-person and virtually from June 15th-18th and would any Council member be interested in attending? The early bird rates are \$595.00 for in-person and \$295.00 for virtual. John stated there is enough in the Council budget for two possibly three members to attend virtually. If a Council member would like to attend, they would register and pay for the conference and after the conference they would be reimbursed. The early bird rate ends April 9th where it needs to be known as soon as possible if anyone would like to attend. Since there are funds available in the budget and there were no objections in having a member(s) attend, Walt Bryan stated that anyone who would be interested to contact John before April 9th. **NOTE:** On April 8th, only James Wilson had requested to attend the Walk Bike Places Conference virtually. Council approval is required and due to the time constraints since the Council does not meet again until June 2nd, John sent an e-mail explaining that James requested to attend, where a motion and a second is needed for the Delaware Bicycle Council to cover the virtual registration for James to attend the conference. Roger Roy made the motion and Fran Cardaci seconded. John then sent a Doodle Poll for the Council to vote yes or no, where ten members votes yes, zero members voted no, and five members did not vote/abstained. Motion passed.

IV. Old Business

SR1 & Kings Highway Intersection Improvement Update

Tom Felice made a presentation in 2019 that identified the Kings Highway and SR1 intersection as an area that the Council would like to improve to make it safer for bicyclists. Tom informed the Council that this project is now in design and the goal is to have the project completed by summer 2022. Tom explained the ramp from SR1 onto Kings is being removed and re-aligned perpendicular with SR1. The old pavement will now be grass and will also install a shared-use path so if bicyclists feel more inclined to ride the separate facility, they are more welcome to do that. The amount of pavement they must cross the intersection is being significantly reduced where this will be less of a conflict. Re-aligning King's Highway will also significantly slow down turning vehicles at the intersection because its narrower of a turn where motorists will have to decelerate to make the turn. There will be crosswalks to alert motorists that pedestrians and bicyclists may be crossing that intersection. The semi-final design is anticipated being completed in June for Departmental review.

Delaware Route 1 Shared-Use Path Feasibility Study Update

Jeff Riegner made a presentation of some work that has been taking place around the area pertaining to the SR1 Low Stress Bikeway Feasibility Study. The study was initiated by DelDOT Planning with some input from other stake holders. The study is looking that the ability to improve opportunities for bicycling in very challenging area of the eastern part of Sussex county. First goal is to identify continue low stress bike way routes on either side of SR1. Ideally this would be something relatively straight and continuous. Just about all the properties on each side of SR1 are developed. Per this study trying to create a direct route as possible and to connect to each side of SR1 and will be looking at a variety of different options. When the study is done, WRA will be recommending what segment should be prioritized for design and construction. Both in terms of ease of implementation and terms of how many people they are going to connect to the low stress bikeway network. Level of traffic stress in the Blueprint for Bicycle Delaware, means it is a different way of measuring how our streets function. For decades we have used level of service to be able to describe how our streets function for cars. Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) is a good way to explain how our streets function for bicyclists, especially for people who are not as strong and fearless bicyclists as others are. They are for the everyday person who wants to bike for any number of different things. Over time DelDOT has developed level of traffic stress maps for all the state of Delaware. Basically, imagine red is high stress routes, that is classified as Level 4. Opposite end of it is dark green is low stress routes, that is classified as Level 1. The goal is to take advantage of existing LTS1 areas like local streets and trails and to be able to connect them together in a network and crossing SR1. Now in the process of mapping where those potential routes exist and extend to other low stress areas and destinations. Anticipate later this spring to share these routes with others as the next half of the study.

2021 Cycling Innovation Grant Update

John Fiori indicated that the grant applications were sent out to all municipalities and the three County offices last week. John will also send to the Council the contact information on who the application were sent to in order for the Innovation Grant Working Group to reach out to those individuals to see if they received the grant, are going to submit an application and if there are any questions on how to fill out the application.

John also provided an update on the 2020 grant awards. The City of New Castle has provided all documents where John has submitted the request to transfer the \$15,000.00 so they can begin their feasibility study. The City of Newark returned the letter agreement and once that has been executed by DelDOT, John will begin the process to transfer the \$15,000.00. This needs to be completed by the end of the fiscal year, where John did not see any problems with that happening.

Bicycle Route 1 Update

Since Scott Hoffman was to discuss this agenda item but since he was unable to attend the meeting, this item will be discussed at the June meeting.

Priority Bikeway Projects Update

John Fiori had only one update and that was for the Junction-Breakwater Trail – Rehoboth Extension in which construction began on March 8th and is anticipated being completed by

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Memorial Day weekend. James Wilson asked if any pictures can be taken where Walt Bryan indicated he will visit the site to take some pictures.

Prior to adjourning the meeting James Wilson stated that although requested at the February meeting if the Georgetown-Lewes Trail crossings presentation can be added for the June meeting. John Fiori responded that the report has not been finalized prior to the April meeting but once it is a presentation can be made. Marc Coté also stated that DelDOT cannot make any presentation for reports that have not been approved by DelDOT but once the report is approved DelDOT will do a presentation.

Walt Bryan entertained a motion to adjourn. Roger Roy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Wagner seconded the motion at 6:40 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday June 2, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held virtually unless otherwise determined.