



Delaware Bicycle Council
February 7, 2024
Zoom Webinar
Meeting Notes

Members Present

Lauren Butsher, Division of Public Health
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Michael Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety
Wendy Polasko, DeIDOT Representative
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative
Michael Wagner, Department of Education

Members Absent

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Sgt. Jay Burns, DE State Police Representative
Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Evette Morrow, At-Large Representative
Michael Tyler, At-Large Representative

DeIDOT Support Staff

John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DeIDOT

Guests

J.W. Hapt, Public
John Bare, Bike Delaware
John Bracco, Public
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Alex Fountain, Public
Ian Friedland, Public
J.T. Fleming, 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 December 6th meeting. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Fran Cardaci seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

II. Public Comment

No public comments.

III. New Business

Vote for 2024 Chair and Vice-Chair

Fran Cardaci overseen the vote for the 2024 Chair and Vice Chair. John Fiori stated that at the December 2023, meeting Scott Hoffman was nominated for Chair and Walt Bryan was nominated for Vice-Chair and no other nominations were e-mailed to him. Fran asked if there were any other nominations by the Council, which there were none. Tom Hartley made the motion to close nominations and put to a vote for Chair and Vice-Chair. Michael Wagner seconded the motion. Fran put the nominations before the Council for vote. All members voted yes, and no members opposed. Scott Hoffman was voted in as Chair and Walt Bryan was voted in as Vice-Chair for 2024.

E-bikes on Trails

Scott Hoffman indicated he received a request from a Council member to discuss safety concerns of e-bikes on trails. The member was not able to attend the meeting and Scott opened the discussion to other members on if they had any concerns. Marty Lessner responded that there should be a rule limiting the speed of e-bikes, where a condition of using a trail, e-bikes must be under 20-mph. Tom Hartley responded to pass a law or recommend that is not enforceable is not something the Council should do. The Council could make a recommendation a 15-mph speed limit on the trail regardless of what type of e-bike. Marty clarified that there is somebody that enforces rules on the trail, like if someone were to drive their car on the trail, there is a rule that no cars are allowed on the trails, so if someone was to drive a car on the trail law enforcement would enforce that law. The condition of using a trail is the e-bike cannot be going over 20-mph or whatever speed is determined, otherwise you would be considered using an improper vehicle. It would need to be determined how that is enforced but it is just a deterrent for people to act properly, where if someone is driving 30 to 40-mph on a e-bike and they get pulled over, it will send a message. E-bikes are governed by rules on the road but when riding on a trail there is one condition, which is you can't go faster then 20-mph. Scott Hoffman asked a question if there are any rules now about this? Tom Hartley responded that there are no speed limits on trails where Marty clarified he was not referring to a speed limit but about a use of a particular device on a trail where you cannot go over a certain miles per hour. James Wilson responded that if e-bikes have a condition of not going over 20-mph, but bicycles can people are going to regard it as not being fair. You are either going to have a speed limit or not. Fran Cardaci indicated that the speed limits for a Class 1 is 20-mph,

and a Class 3 is 28-mph, that is where the assist cuts off. If on a Class 1 e-bike that has a limit of 20-mph but if strong enough can go 25-mph, it is just that the e-bike is not going to help go past 20-mph. Marty asked what would be considered an unsafe speed on a trail? Fran responded that most trails limit speed to 15-mph. Michael Krumrine indicated the Gordon Pond Trail that 20-mph on a busy weekend is too fast. Tom Hartley responded that the speed limit should be 15-mph conditions permitting. Marty responded that gets into rules you can't enforce, where the whole purpose of this is for safety reasons that you can't ride in an unsafe matter. The question is how do you regulate e-bikes on trails, if at all? You can say nothing where they are treated just like regular bikes. Scott asked if there are other people among the population that the Council serves that think this is a problem? Micheal Tyler brought up the concern and maybe he is representing a group of people. James Wilson suggested to ask the agencies that have jurisdiction over the trails have there been any crashes involving e-bikes and other trail users. Marty added or complaints. Scott responded there could be a lot of debating on what rules there should be, how they would be enforced or there may not be any kind of solution and the Council does not understand if there is a significant problem that warrants the Council in trying to do something. Scott asked John Fiori to add this item to the April agenda and see if Micheal Tyler want to discuss further.

IV. Old Business

Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant Funding Increase Request

Scott Hoffman presented to the Council that the \$20,000 funding increase in the Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant was approved by Secretary Majeski. This will increase the grant from \$30,000 to \$50,000. The increase will go into effect in Fiscal Year 2026 or July 1, 2025. The grant will remain at \$30,000 for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025. Scott also thanked Secretary Majeski for approving the grant increase.

James Wilson indicate a lot of the value of this program has been that the Council is encouraging municipalities and the three Counties to think about applying where with this increase this will hopefully get those agencies to submit an application that would not otherwise happen and the Council should focus on that in this year's grant process and go to municipalities that have not applied before to help increase the number of applications to choose from. Scott responded he talked with a representative with the Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG), and they offered to advertise it at their regular meetings but although not a direct personal connection it does connect directly with the leaders of the people who attend their meeting every month but think the Council can do more. James asked if the Council could make a request to get on their next agenda? Scott will request to get on the DLLG agenda and the Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) to make sure they have information about the grant. Scott will follow up with the rest of the Council at the next meeting. J.T. Fleming indicated his company work with many municipalities and they will reach out to those and let them know about the grant and help them put together an application so that more projects can be submitted.

Incorporating Bicycle Facilities at Roundabouts

John Fiori stated that he contacted the design guide committee originally the revision did go through Department review in the fall of 2023 and over the past few months the comments are being addressed. The changes were significant enough to require another Department review and at this time there is no timeframe on when the comments will be completed, or the second review will

occur. Tom Hartley asked a question if there are comments, and it is going to change, or it will change if there are comments? John responded that it is his understanding that when it was sent out for review the comments were significant enough to require another Department review. Tom asked if the Council could make any comments? Michael Wagner asked if there were specific comments raised concerning bike lanes in the roundabouts? John responded that he does not know what type of comments were made during the review. Michael asked if those comments are public? John responded he does not know but would have to check with the committee. Mike indicated there might be members of the Council that would like to see if bike issues have been addressed. James asked if anyone within Active Transportation & Community Connections (ATCC) reviewed the proposed revisions? Wendy Polasko added that Abebaw Berihun within ATCC is on the Plan Development and Construction Working Group (PDCWG) and is a voting member. That roundabout guidance goes through everything from traffic distribution, where roundabouts are needed to the actual design of the roundabout. Tom asked if that design standard is open to the public? Scott responded that the current design guidance memorandum for roundabouts is on the DelDOT website. Wendy indicated the proposed design guidance memorandum for roundabouts is not publicly available. Scott asked if the approval process to the design guidance memorandum is within the DelDOT process? Wendy responded that is correct because it is a design guidance used by the Department. Scott indicated since this is not going to go out for public comment and James has some excellent points, is there an opportunity for the Council review or provide comments? John will contact the PDCWG to see if the Council can provide comments on the proposed design guidance memorandum for roundabouts.

NOTE: On February 8, 2024, John Fiori contact Scott Neidert that the Delaware Bicycle Council is requesting if they can review the document of the recent revisions to assure bicycle facilities are part of the revised DGM 1-26 and if they could provide any recommendations that the PDCWG could consider. Scott Neidert responded that the Council can review and provide comments by February 22, 2024. The Council provided comments back to DelDOT on February 22, 2024.

Priority Bikeway Projects Update

John Fiori provided bikeway project updates to the Council. To view the updates: <https://deldot.gov/Programs/bike> under What's New; DelDOT Bike Program Project Updates.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, John Fiori announced that due to scheduling conflicts the next Delaware Bicycle Council meeting has been changed from April 3rd to Wednesday April 10th in the Felton-Farmington Room, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Michael Wagner made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Hartley seconded the motion at 6:14 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNssr38Poro>