



Members Present

Doug Denison	Department of State
Jennifer Cohan	Secretary of Transportation
Jennifer Walls	Sussex County
Jim Galvin	Dover/Kent MPO
Jim Lardear	AAA
John Sisson	DTC/WILMAPCO
Jonathan Kirch	AHA/ASA
Michael Wagner	Department of Education
Todd Webb	DelDOT
William Payne	Citizen Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Kate Smagala	McCormick Taylor

Members Absent

Barbara Monaghan	DDDC
David Bartoo	DNREC
Jamie Wolfe	State Council for Persons with Disabilities
Jana Simpler	OHS
Marsha Carson	Department of State
Wayne Smith	Delaware Healthcare Association

Guests

Adam Weiser	DelDOT
Darlene Cole	DHSS
Drew Boyce	DelDOT
James Wilson	Bike Delaware
Kyle Clevenger	Pennoni
Lauren DeVore	DNREC
Lenny Massotti	JMT
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Nicole Majeski	DelDOT
Paul Moser	DelDOT
Philip Horsey	Pennoni
Richard Klepner	OHS
Rob McCleary	DelDOT
Tom Nickel	DelDOT
Tracy Condon	DSP

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Co-chair Jim Lardear.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Lardear thanked the group for attending and asked Council Members to introduce themselves. Council Members introduced themselves.

III. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (6/27/2017)

Mr. Jim Lardear asked Council if there were any comments on the June 2017 meeting minutes. Meeting minutes from June 27, 2017 had no comments. Doug Denison made a motion to accept meeting minutes as is and Jim Galvin seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes as is. The motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Updates

Education and Enforcement – Mr. Jim Lardear asked Richard Klepner, subcommittee Chair, if he wanted to present an update on the Education and Enforcement Subcommittee as well as the action item listed under New Business of this meeting’s agenda. Mr. Richard Klepner said there is a difference in the two discussions so he would provide an update on the Education and Enforcement Committee at this time under Old Business and present the action item at the time of New Business. Mr. Klepner said the subcommittee discussed ideas to get a safety message out to schools. He said the subcommittee developed a one page handout geared towards educating elementary and middle schools.

Built Environment – Mr. John Sisson reported no subcommittee meeting has been held. He said the subcommittee wanted to inform the committee that the “report a road problem” as it pertains to ADA deficiencies, new shared use path requirements with respect to width and parking, the City of Dover pedestrian plan, and subcommittee membership as it pertains to meeting attendance has been added to the DeIDOT app. Mr. John Sisson stated the feature will also be added to the DeIDOT website. He said the subcommittee will be looking to meet again soon once new agenda topics are determined.

Legislative and Policy – Mr. Jim Lardear provided an update. The group has not held an official subcommittee meeting but did meet to discuss moving the subcommittee forward under the new Chair C.R. McLeod from DeIDOT. The subcommittee attendees discussed action items from the report that were submitted. The subcommittee recognized that the bus stop policy needs to be finalized but is in draft mode and should be confirmed it is being implemented. They discussed what should be done with the “Complete Streets Implementation Plan”. Mr. Jim Lardear said the subcommittee identified this document as over six (6) years old and needing a complete overhaul. The subcommittee also discussed the increased connections between DeIDOT and local county land use committees. Mr. Jim Lardear stated that New Castle County is heavily interested in becoming more involved and desires to improve County bike and pedestrian safety. He said on-going discussions are happening with Kent County and Sussex County as well as cities within the counties such as Dover and Smyrna.

Council Membership Updates

Ms. Maria Andaya stated there are still vacancies within the Council that she is working to fill. She stated she is working with John McNeal and the Office of the Board and Commission to get John McNeal appointed as a Council member by the Governor. Mr. John McNeal is anticipated to fill this position by the next Council meeting.

Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month Updates and Discussion on Ideas to Celebrate

Mr. Jim Lardear stated there has been a proclamation by Governor Carney declaring October 2017 as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month. This was after the recommendation from the Pedestrian Council. He showed the Council the official document. He spoke about maximizing the exposure of this and asked the Council to discuss ideas on how to promote the Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month. Mr. Richard Klepner stated he reached out to a few organizations about potential events. New Castle County is having an open house at the new library on October 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mr. Richard Klepner said this would be a great opportunity for an outreach event due to the large crowd expectancy and a school across the street. He said there were some preliminary discussions with DelTech Georgetown campus and a suggestion by Michael Wagner to promote the Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month at a cross country race that is statewide. Mr. Michael Wagner said the race is in southern Delaware and is a championship race at Browns Branch County Park with about 575 runners. Mr. Richard Klepner hopes to hold at minimum one (1) event per county, hopefully two (2). He also suggested the potential for an event in Rodney Square in the City of Wilmington. Mr. Adam Weiser suggested Delaware State University (DSU). Mr. Richard Klepner said there was an event held at DSU last year for “walking under the influence” and there were less than ideal reactions from students. Mr. Adam Weiser said that DelDOT traffic would be willing to promote the monthly safety campaign on message boards. Ms. Jennifer Cohan said DelDOT would support making this happen.

Mr. Richard Klepner said with DelDOT Traffic’s help a pedestrian safety awareness video called “be a crosswalk champion” was developed and is available to view on the Facebook page. He said there is a short and long version of the video. Mr. Jim Lardear encouraged various groups within the attendees of this meeting to promote the video via social media.

Ms. Jennifer Cohan asked how the Council wants to roll out the Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month. She said it would make sense to hold a press event at the beginning of the month and develop a list of events distributed. Mr. Jim Lardear volunteered to work with DelDOT public relations on these efforts. Ms. Jennifer Cohan suggested the Governor be involved. Mr. Jim Lardear asked the Council members to volunteer for an informal committee to plan for this campaign if interested. He suggested interested attendees email him and Maria Andaya.

Mr. Todd Webb asked if DelDOT Traffic Safety has any literature to hand out on how to utilize countdowns for pedestrian safety. Mr. Adam Weiser said there is and more copies can be made. Mr. Todd Webb asked about literature on rapid flash beacons or the “HAWK” system. Mr. Adam Weiser said there are no handouts for those but the information can be found on DelDOT’s website. Mr. Todd Webb asked if DelDOT Traffic brings push buttons, countdown displays, and the “HAWK” system to events to show how they are used. Mr. Adam Weiser said they can be brought to any event. Mr. Todd Webb indicated he had recently seen a situation where a pedestrian

hit the push button multiple times, not knowing the intent or purpose of how to use it.

Mr. James Wilson stated he has a conference call tomorrow with the national walking organization America Walks. He said the organization may have seen similar campaigns around the country and could have some other ideas. Mr. James Wilson invited anyone from the council to join in on the conference call to make this connection.

Ms. Maria Andaya said the education and enforcement subcommittee had also discussed working with the DelDOT Safe Routes to School program to reach out about this campaign and get information into the schools' announcements for the October month. She stated there will be two (2) versions of the handout. The version for high school level students which would include statistics, for example an average of 5,000 pedestrians are killed nationally a year and in Delaware 27 pedestrians were killed in 2006, as well as bulleted information on how to walk safe as a pedestrian such as wearing bright colored clothing or reflective clothing at night, obeying traffic signals, using cross walks, and taking the time to cross safely. Another version will be provided for elementary and middle school level students.

Mr. William Payne asked if the campaign would include promoting safety for bicyclists as well as pedestrians. He discussed a few issues he has noticed, specifically along Route 1 and said the campaign should include recognizing the safety of bicyclists as well. Mr. James Wilson invited interested persons to attend the next meeting of the Delaware Bicycle Council, which is held the first Wednesday of every month. He stated the Chair of this Council is Tom Hartley and is open to adding and discussing various agenda items. Mr. Richard Klepner asked if there was a subcommittee created out of the Delaware Bicycle Council to discuss the Route 1 problem. Mr. James Wilson was unsure if a subcommittee was officially created to address this concern but said it is an agenda item for the Council to discuss. Mr. Adam Weiser volunteered one of his staff members to sit on the subcommittee and said he would send the contact information to James Wilson. Mr. Jim Galvin volunteered to do public outreach to gain involvement into this subcommittee. Mr. Jim Lardear stated the focus for this October's campaign should really be on pedestrian safety. He said the pedestrian fatalities in Delaware are rising compared to last year while other fatality categories are down.

Mr. Lardear invited any and all ideas for October's Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month to be presented to him via email. He reiterated for interested persons to join the committee for these efforts.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and possible vote on budget for Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month activities

Mr. Richard Klepner presented the opportunity to handout items to promote pedestrian safety. Mr. Richard Klepner requested monies from the Council to purchase said items. He said the subcommittee narrowed choices down to two items. One choice being long sleeve shirts with reflective striping reading "walk smart arrive alive" on the back with the Pedestrian Council logo on the front. For a cost of approximately \$7,000, 800 shirts could be ordered. Mr. Richard Klepner stated he has not found a company yet that can place reflective material on the clothing. The other choice would be to purchase 2,000 safety reflective light strips that were bought

previously from monies of the Council at the same cost, which have the “walk smart arrive alive” message. He said these items would be distributed at various events or through targeted enforcement. Mr. Lardear confirmed the reflective strips light up.

Mr. Lardear asked if the budget was available. Ms. Maria Andaya said there is \$9,250 remaining. Mr. Lardear asked if any Council members had any other suggestions. No suggestions were made. The request was moved into vote. Mr. Jim Lardear asked for a motion for the Council to approve using the available budget to purchase said items for the walk smart campaign in October. Mr. Doug Denison moved the motion and Ms. Jennifer Walls seconded the motion. All attendees were in favor except for Mr. Jonathan Kirch who voted “no” due to his concerns with the effectiveness of these items in relation to spending public dollars to address the problem.

2. U.S. 13 Pedestrian Improvements Study

Mr. Kyle Clevenger introduced himself and thanked the Council for inviting him to present. He stated he would be presenting an update on DelDOT’s U.S. 13 Pedestrian Improvements Study. The seven (7) mile stretch of this corridor has been evaluated, recommended for alternatives, and is currently under analysis to prioritize and implement pieces of the project to get to construction. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said the U.S. 13 corridor is notorious for being dangerous for pedestrians, with 84 pedestrian fatalities occurring over a ten (10) year period.

Mr. Kyle Clevenger shared a personal story of being injured while crossing as a pedestrian mid-block Cleveland Avenue at the University of Delaware when he was a student. He reiterated the importance of pedestrian improvements to him personally as well as in his career as a transportation engineer.

Mr. Kyle Clevenger discussed the presentations agenda items; project background and history, overview of report, median fencing application and research, and the prioritization and implementation plan. He presented statistics from the national complete streets “dangerous by design” from 2016. Mr. Johnathan Kirch said the general fatality rate in Delaware is decreasing but pedestrian fatalities are increasing. He said he believes this problem is going to get worse before it gets better and hopes the Council can put forward recommendations to solve the problem. Mr. Kyle Clevenger agreed pedestrian safety is a large issue in Delaware and DelDOT is recognizing this problem, especially the issues along the U.S. 13 corridor in which he is presenting.

Mr. Kyle Clevenger spoke about the various locations the U.S. 13 Pedestrian Improvements Study covers. He said DelDOT studied this corridor previously in 2009 which included improvements and all information is available on DelDOT’s highway safety strategic plan on their website. Mr. Kyle Clevenger discussed the recommended upgrades at various locations and gave some examples through visuals on an interactive roll plan. He specifically discussed the proposal and justifications to use median fencing to channelize pedestrians to intersections with safe crossings.

Mr. Kyle Clevenger presented information on the prioritization and implementation plan for the suggested improvements. He said the project was seven (7) miles in total length and broken up into multiple projects with a maximum of five (5) million dollars construction budget. The prioritization of these projects was developed based on a scoring system that identified pedestrian crash rates, ease of implementation, transit and ridership user data, number of households in a section, and pedestrian

generations in a section. Mr. Johnathan Kirch asked the order of projects that would be constructed. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said there were three (3) projects identified to be first, which were highlighted on his presentation. Ms. Tracy Condon asked if drug activity has been considered because she has seen a lot of this activity at hotels in the general area. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said no. Mr. Todd Webb asked about the detail of information regarding households. He asked if the data looked at Title 6 or low income households. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said the data was just general households, no details. Mr. John Sission suggested the transit data could weigh the households dependent upon how many vehicles are owned. Mr. Todd Webb said there is data based on income, disabilities, and other factors that can help predict further information to assist with the scoring system.

Mr. Kyle Clevenger discussed funding and next steps of the project. He referenced a pilot program for the median fencing application and suggested the Council attend public workshops regarding this project. Mr. Johnathan Kirch asked about the three (3) year time frame until these projects would be constructed. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said DelDOT's process requires design aspects, acquiring right-of-way, advertisement, bidding, and awarding the project prior to beginning construction. Mr. Adam Weiser said there are some pieces which can be implemented now but other pieces take a longer time frame. Mr. Johnathan Kirch suggested starting with the smaller, easier portions first to get something implemented as soon as possible. Mr. Adam Weiser said DelDOT's been doing the smaller, easier portions for 5-6 years now and are trying to work towards the pilot project with the median fencing. He said DelDOT's goal is not to put median fencing up and then find out it is not working or causing other issues. Other steps need to be taken to ensure the distance pedestrians are willing to walk to confirm the median fencing will actually guide them to a safe intersection instead of crossing back through traffic at a midblock location. Mr. Rob McCleary said DelDOT is also trying to improve mobility.

Ms. Linda Osiecki suggested there are plenty of places (along U.S. 13) where there is no sidewalk or signalized intersections and do not have crossings. Mr. Adam Weiser disagreed. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said where the pedestrian bridges are there are no at grade intersections that provide safe places for pedestrians to walk. Mr. Johnathan Kirch suggested implementing the median fencing first to try to stop people from getting killed that are walking there now. Mr. James Wilson asked if it was fair to say the Department would be reluctant to put the fencing in where there are no existing sidewalks. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said this matter is still under evaluation. He said there are alternative options to provide a safe space for pedestrians in these areas such as potential to minimize large shoulders or calming measures to slow speeds down. Mr. Doug Denison asked about fencing placed on the sidewalk side instead of in the median and if there were positives or negatives to this option. Mr. Kyle Clevenger said this has been done in locations in Delaware but along a place such as the U.S. 13 corridor it would be difficult to implement because of all the openings at entrances, which would still allow pedestrians to cross midblock.

Mr. Paul Moser posed the question of ideal signal spacing. Mr. Adam Weiser said there is no "cookie cutter" answer. He said it is really dependent on a balance of many factors including vehicular traffic flow, landuse, entrances or access points, among others.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jim Lardear opened the floor to public comment. Mr. James Wilson commented on the ambitious attempt to tackle the very serious issue along U.S. 13, with the efforts and potential

rewards being very gratifying. Mr. Adam Weiser said there will be upcoming public workshops on this project and it is important for the Council to get involved. He said attendance from the Council will help steer the conversations in a positive direction. Mr. Jim Lardear agreed and added the Council should be educating the public in a positive way on this important topic. He suggested a media push to get more information on this project to the public so people are more aware before the public meetings are held. Mr. Richard Klepner said there is another mobilization that starts on September 7th and runs to September 23rd. These efforts will give funds to Troop 2, which includes U.S. 40, U.S. 13, and portions of 273 closer to Newark.

No further comments were provided.

VIII. NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m., at the DelDOT Administrative Building, 800 Bay Road, Dover, DE, Farmington/Felton conference rooms. Council Members are asked to review meeting minutes and suggest topics for the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Meeting Minutes reported by:
Kate M. Smagala, EI

