

Members Present

Jana Simpler	OHS
John Sisson	DTC/WILMAPCO
Jim Lardear	AAA
Jim Galvin	Dover/Kent MPO
Marsha Carson	Department of State
Doug Denison	Department of State
David Bartoo	DNREC
Jennifer Cohan	Secretary of Transportation
Michael Wagner	Department of Education

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Sonia Marichic-Goudy	McCormick Taylor

Members Absent

Wayne Smith	Delaware Healthcare Association
Jamie Wolfe	State Council for Persons with Disabilities
Barbara Monaghan	DDDC
Jonathan Kirch	AHA/ASA
Jennifer Walls	Sussex County
Todd Webb	DelDOT
William Payne	Citizen Representative

Guests

Richard Klepner	OHS
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Tigist Zegeye	WILMAPCO
Lenny Massotti	JMT
C.R. McLeod	DelDOT
Peter Haag	DelDOT
Ken Feaster	DAG

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chair Jana Simpler.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Simpler welcomed the group and asked all present to introduce themselves.

III. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (4/25/2017)

Ms. Jana Simpler asked the Council if there were any comments on the April 25, 2017 meeting minutes. John Sisson made a motion to accept meeting minutes as is and Marsha Carson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes as is except for Jim Galvin who abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports

Legislative and Policy – Jim Lardear provided an update. The group has not held a meeting since the last pedestrian council meeting.

The group mentioned Bills HB 185 and Senate Bill 78, which will be discussed later in this meeting.

The group is looking for a new chair. Secretary Cohan asked if she could volunteer to chair and send C.R. McLeod. Mr. Lardear will also make sure another subcommittee meeting is held before the next pedestrian council meeting.

Built Environment – John Sisson provided an update. The last subcommittee meeting was held May 9th 2017. The group discussed to add pedestrian facilities in the DeIDOT website “report a road problem.”

The group will meet again July 13, 2017, but is struggling for agenda topics.

Ms. Simpler begins a discussion about whether all the subcommittees are having trouble finding agenda topics and asks for agenda topics from the group. Mr. Sisson would like the Council to discuss the progress of the Council’s recommendations. The group agrees that it will take DeIDOT six to nine months to implement recommendations and have results to discuss or monitor.

Secretary Cohan discussed an initiative she implemented where all DeIDOT PMs are tasked with quantifying their ADA improvements on all projects Department wide. While \$3 million of DeIDOT’s program is dedicated to ADA improvements there are millions of dollars more for improving ADA Compliance as well. The task includes developer initiatives. Secretary Cohan added that while the Department has been criticized for “sidewalks to nowhere” the reasoning is simple. If every new development is required to provide ADA compliant sidewalks they will overtime fill in and provide a complete network.

Education and Enforcement – Richard Klepner, subcommittee chair, was going to put out a recommendation for voting in his subcommittee in their morning meeting, but quorum was not met. As a result, he requested the Council discuss the recommendation to keep things moving forward. It was discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Klepner fills the group in on highway safety efforts happening in June, July and August. Delaware is sharing in an Ocean City, Maryland task force called the Crab Campaign. Delaware will share in a press conference on June 28, 2017 to unveil a new pedestrian safety campaign. DeIDOT will be partnering and sharing in this event. On June 28th, there will be a pedestrian safety event in Fenwick Island. In July there will be overtime enforcement statewide with the lights purchased by the Pedestrian Council handed out. Two 5ks are being sponsored with giveaways, one was last week at Jungle Jims and one is in July. It was difficult to find 5ks that did not offer alcoholic beverages at the end of the runs. The group will continue to look for non-alcohol related events to sponsor to market pedestrian safety.

There are currently 14 fatal crashes this year versus 9 at this time last year. The only visible trends are the victims are middle aged or older and the crashes occur in low light conditions. Ms. Simpler

suggested the group move to the next group of data which is crashes resulting in serious injury to see if any trends can be gathered from that data set that may apply to fatal crashes as well. This may help specific enforcement or media efforts that could be targeted to improve pedestrian safety.

The subcommittee does not have a meeting scheduled yet but they usually meet the morning of the pedestrian council meetings.

Staff Updates

John McNeal took on a new position had to give up his old position in the Council. If there is a vacancy he would like to fill it if he qualifies. Jaime Wolfe, Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities, would like to continue in her position on the Council. There are currently two open positions for citizen representative, one requiring a physical disability and the other requiring a visual impairment. In addition, the position held by Richard Killingsworth is vacant because he is no longer with public health. Maria Andaya will work on filling those positions.

Annual Report Updates

The annual report was transmitted to the Office of the Governor.

Budget

McCormick Taylor will continue serving the Council.

There is no left over budget from the last fiscal year and currently no new requests for the new budget. The council will consider options for allocating the funding.

Discussion

Mike Wagner informed the group that he included the white cane law in the revised final statewide driving exam for driver education.

Mr. Lardear would like to know feedback from the materials handed out by the Education and Enforcement subcommittee. So far the group has handed out neon green reflective bands with button lights that can be turned on steady or flashing. Police reached out to provide positive feedback that was better than other giveaways in the past such as slap bracelets or reflective backpacks.

There is a large middle school track event the Wednesday before Halloween where 500 to 600 runners attend with family and friends. Mr. Wagner will send Ms. simpler the information for this event. Success has been found in educating children who then educate their parents. This may be a potential event to target for pedestrian safety awareness.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible vote on Built Environment recommendation: DelDOT revise the "Report an Issue" website page, to include reporting of pedestrian facility conditions and access concerns; such as traffic signal/pedestrian signal; bus stop; sidewalks, shared-use paths, curb ramps;

bike safety.

Ms. Simpler asked the status of this recommendation. DeIDOT already has this app and it is being used. There is an “other” category currently in the pull downs that allows someone to write in an issue; however, the question was raised if this is enough. The group decided pedestrian issues should be specifically added to the pull down menu and Mr. Sisson will implement the addition. Mr. Massotti asks if the ADA website could redirect people to this app with a link, but Mr. Sisson said in general people report an issue for pedestrians or ADA Compliance and do not realize it is a pedestrian issue.

2. Discussion and possible vote on Education and Enforcement recommendation: “The Governor to establish October as Delaware Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month and DeIDOT work with the Office of Highway Safety and other stakeholders to encourage all State Departments and interested organizations to acknowledge and support pedestrian safety awareness during that month.”

Secretary Cohan asked if implementing this in October is a reasonable timeframe and also asked why October was chosen. The month of October has many events already dedicated to the month. The Council is concerned with too many monthly events in one month causing the pedestrian awareness campaign to be diminished. Mr. Klepner responded that the month of October was chosen to coincide with the Walk to School Day and White Cane Safety Day. It is also the time of year when it starts to get dark early and pedestrians are more susceptible to being hit by cars.

The Council discussed that this will need to be brought up to the Legislature for Vote and support to become a bill. Secretary Cohan will propose this to the legislators. In the meantime, the campaign can involve the Governor and unofficially be the pedestrian month until a bill is passed more than likely in 2018.

In an effort to make October a viable month that is worthwhile the Council strongly suggests options to promote pedestrian safety begin now. Mr. Sisson will reach out to transit. Mr. Klepner will lead the efforts for October and Pedestrian Safety Month. Mr. Klepner will begin researching opportunities available for promoting the month.

The Council voted. Jim Lardear initiated the motion, Doug Denison seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. McLeod would like to discuss getting pedestrian awareness giveaways for the state fair. Mr. Klepner’s organization is no longer able to purchase items but DeIDOT can.

3. Discussion on status and tracking of implementation of council recommendations.
Secretary Cohan will provide updates and initiate discussions in future meetings.

4. Discussion of pedestrian related proposed legislation (C.R. McLeod, DeIDOT
Community Relations)

C.R. McLeod provided an update. There are two bills in the general assembly impacting bicycles and pedestrians. SB 78 sponsored by Senator David Sokola and Representative Edward Osienki related to the rules of the road. It enhances penalties to those who harm pedestrians through

inattentive driving or not following the rules of the road. It passed in the senate and is now in the house transportation committee. Since the legislators are wrapping up, the proponents are trying to have the requirements waived and get it signed outside of committee or waive requirements to get it on the floor faster.

HB 185 sponsored by Representative John Mitchell and Senator David Sokola is a bicycle friendly act to update current standards to the national standards. It passed in the house and is on the senate ready-list.

If these pass Jim Lardear commented that the Department of Education will have some work to do for education. Ms. Simpler added that it is incumbent upon the state to do due diligence to make sure everyone knows what to do when they encounter a bicycle especially when yielding at stop signs.

Ms. Amy Wilburn suggested updating the pedestrian code at the same time as updating the bicycle code because the pedestrian code is much older and has problematic issues, such as pedestrians needing to step into the crosswalk for cars to stop; what if there is no shoulder to step out into first. Mr. Lardear mentioned that this thought was discussed last year, but the group wanted to gauge the progress made in the Pedestrian Council. Now that it is a year later the group could revisit this topic. Ms. Wilburn discussed that bicycles are moving forward with progress but pedestrian discussions and actions are stagnant. Ms. Wilburn would like to see a push for discussion about pedestrian code revisions in the next general assembly in January.

Ms. Wilburn would also like the new chair for the Legislative and Policy Subcommittee to review the draft and comments presented earlier in the year because there are many concerns as to how it was presented to Council. She would like to see these concerns addressed. Mr. Lardear suggested that many of those comments were incorporated. Mr. McNeal acknowledged that the group solicited comments but that the comments came from individuals not from the Council. A presentation was given, comments were solicited, individuals sent comments, but in Mr. McNeal's opinion the group did not act together and give comments or a path forward. Ms. Simpler questioned whether the Council Members can submit comments to the subcommittees. Mr. McNeal suggested that the Council could have discussed it together as a group. Council did not endorse the recommendations and the discussion never resurfaced. Ms. Wilburn asked that the discussion come back to the table.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Simpler wants to make sure the Council is doing everything they can to discuss and find important topics. There have been many great presentations over the past year and it would be wonderful to keep them going through the upcoming year.

Mr. Jim Galvin mentioned that when he ran for Council he was surprised by a Council Member who was against the Complete Streets Policy. He wonders if there is some room for the Pedestrian Council to discuss Complete Street Ordinances. Secretary Cohan explained that DelDOT does that extensively, especially with developers, but hasn't been that successful in changing their mindsets. It comes down to education. With all the projects in the pipe line in Dover, Secretary Cohan thinks it is a good idea to make a Complete Streets Policy Presentation to the Dover City Council. Mr. C.R. McLeod will prepare the presentation.

Linda Osiecki would like to discuss the factors of fatal crashes. Alcohol is often a factor with pedestrians and drivers. The subcommittee often struggles with how to address impaired pedestrians who are under the influence fifty percent of the time. The pedestrians are very impaired, sometimes two and a half times the legal limit. Mr. Klepner will look into how to address this topic.

Mr. David Bartoo mentioned that it might be worth discussing or look into trails with road interfaces and the education of the trail user in those scenarios. People on off-road trails still encounter road crossings and wonders if they know how to safely cross the road. He would like the Council to consider how they can educate trail users about what to do when they reach a road crossing. With today's digital technology people are going outside less, driving more, walking less and in general many people do not know what to do outside. They need to be taught the "etiquette" of crossing roads. An example of this would be teenagers who are driven everywhere and do not know how to safely cross streets. Mr. John Sisson suggested putting educational materials at trailheads or at the crossings themselves. There is a campaign where children are educated about recycling and then they teach the adults. The approach could be similar here. Ms. Simpler asked Mr. Klepner to evaluate this. Mr. Klepner will discuss this with the DNREC representatives on his subcommittee.

Ms. Wilburn would like to see more tracking of the driver behavior in fatal crashes. Mr. Klepner tracks the pedestrian behavior but usually there are no witnesses to discuss the driver behavior and the police report often does not address the driver. Ms. Wilburn is concerned that once the police report shows that the pedestrian is doing something wrong then the police do not review what the vehicle was doing, for example if the car speeding. Knowing this may help answer questions of why the vehicle did not stop in time or see the pedestrian and avoid the crash. One reason is there may be some education that can be done for the police department about what is an unmarked crosswalk. They may not see crosswalk stripes and think it is not a legal crossing, but if there is not a legal crossing within a certain distance then that may be a legal crossing. There could also be some education to the motorists about trail crossings. An example was given along Shipley Road where there is a trail crossing where people often do not stop or even slow down as users are trying to cross. Ms. Wilburn would like to see all of the behaviors, both pedestrian and vehicular, reviewed. Ms. Simpler stated that in this case, it is not wise to spend money educating drivers when data shows that pedestrians are at fault in far greater numbers. However, Ms. Wilburn mentioned the equation does not need to be that simple because if a driver is going 50 mph in a 40 mph zone the crash may have been avoided entirely. She would like to not overlook driver education. Ms. Simpler mentioned that the data suggests greater outcomes from educating pedestrians, for example educating them to not walk intoxicated.

Mr. Klepner will discuss the unmarked crosswalk issue with Delaware State Police to educate them. He will also discuss what their protocol is in the event there is a pedestrian crash and no cross walk nearby.

VIII. NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 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. Topics for future discussion include follow up to today's discussions, as well as,

Subcommittee updates and follow ups. Please send Ms. Simpler any additional topics that may come up for discussion.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Meeting Minutes reported by:
Sonia Marichic-Goudy, PE

