

Members Present

Jana Simpler, Chair	OHS
David Bartoo	DNREC
Marsha Carson	Department of State
Doug Denison	Department of State
Jim Galvin	Dover/Kent MPO
Ken Grant	AAA
Nicole Majeski	DelDOT Deputy Secretary
John Sisson	DTC/WILMAPCO
Jennifer Walls	Sussex County
Todd Webb	DelDOT
Reed Macmillan	Dover/Kent MPO

Members Absent

Jonathan Kirch	AHA/ASA
William Payne	Citizen Representative
Wayne Smith	Delaware Healthcare Association
Michael Wagner	Department of Education
Jamie Wolfe	State Council for Persons with Disabilities

Guests

Tracy L.Y. Condon	DSP
Richard Klepner	OHS
C.R. McLeod	DelDOT
Tom Nickel	DelDOT
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Waylon Sprowl	JMT
Tigist Zegeye	Wilmapco

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Farzana Atique	McCormick Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Simpler thanked the group for attending and asked Council Members to introduce themselves. Council Members introduced themselves.

III. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (10/24/2017)

Mr. Sisson made a motion to accept meeting minutes as is and Ms. Carson seconded the

motion. All voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes as is. The motion passed.

IV. PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES FOR 2017

Ms. Simpler provided the Council with statistics on Pedestrian Fatalities for 2017. Ms. Simpler informed the group that the full report on 2017 pedestrian fatalities is not yet available and that what she has are preliminary. She said that there were 34 pedestrian fatalities in Delaware in 2017. There were an additional 10 pedestrian fatalities reported in the last two and a half months of 2017 after the last meeting in October 2017.

- Location wise, 17 fatalities occurred in New Castle County, 7 in Kent County, and 10 in Sussex County.
- Age wise, older population was the higher percentage group. In age 0-19 no fatalities, 24 out of 34 fatalities were above the age of 40.
- Among the fatalities 25 were male and 9 were female.
- Alcohol and drug information is available for 21 fatalities. 11 pedestrians were impaired, 2 crashes involved drivers under influence and 8 fatalities involved no pedestrian or driver under influence.

Ms. Simpler noted that more fatalities happened during the colder months. In January there were 5 reported pedestrian fatalities. In comparison, there were fewer fatalities during the warmer months. Mr. Sisson remarked that lighting may be a factor affecting the pedestrian fatalities. Ms. Simpler noted that 39% of fatalities occurred in dark, unlighted areas. Ms. Simpler emphasized that finding factors contributing to pedestrian accidents help to divert resources to places that need them.

Lt. Condon added some information regarding alcohol and drugs. There were findings of high alcohol among the pedestrian fatalities, with some reports of a 0.3 level of alcohol which is significantly high. Lt. Condon reported that in the first quarter, out of the total 13 fatalities, 6 were under influence. There was no report of drug involvement. Lt. Condon noted that there might be under reporting of cell phone use by the pedestrians. There are no reports as to how many were using cell phones during the time of the crash.

Mr. Bartoo asked whether there are information about the timing of the accidents such as whether they occurred late at night. Ms. Simpler said that there was no analysis on the time frame of the crashes. Mr. Klepner said that there are more fatalities involved during 9 pm to 3 am. He also noted that during October to December, the crashes occurred at an earlier time frame. Ms. Simpler noted two crashes in the report note 20:00 and 22:00 as the time of crash occurrence. Mr. Bartoo remarked that night drivers do not expect pedestrians which may have resulted in pedestrian crashes.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Klepner provided a report on Education and Enforcement Subcommittee. The committee is working to reach out to the education sector to educate students about pedestrian safety. They are also planning on conducting a survey among educators concerning pedestrian

issues. Mr. Klepner noted that the under 19 age group is the group that is involved in the most pedestrian hits. Ms. Simpler suggested that Mr. Mike Wagner should be consulted regarding involvement of elementary and secondary schools for the outreach program. Ms. Simpler also noted that currently only Mr. Mike Wagner is listed as a member of the Council from the Department of Education. She remarked that thankfully there are no pedestrian fatalities involving school children in Delaware.

Mr. Sisson provided a report on the Built Environment Subcommittee. Mr. Sisson informed that the subcommittee held a meeting on December 19th, 2017. There was a presentation on Object Recognition Software. These are observation equipment, which are good tools to use in high crash areas to observe pedestrian activities and determine whether any engineering redesign is necessary for the locations. Mr. Jake Thompson, WILMAPCO presented the Elkton Pedestrian Plan. The plan helps to prioritize pedestrian improvements programs for the town of Elkton. The plan can serve as an example for making infrastructure improvements outside of the Department of Transportation.

Mr. C.R. McLeod provided the report on the Legislative and Policy subcommittee. He informed that the next meeting is scheduled in February. There is currently no bill impacting pedestrians.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Review and Potential Vote-Draft Annual Report for 2017

Ms. Andaya presented the Draft 2017 Annual Report. She remarked that any input from the Council members is helpful in finalizing the report. Ms. Andaya mentioned the five key accomplishments mentioned in the report. Ms. Simpler mentioned that she had some comments which she has extended to Ms. Andaya. Ms. Simpler asked the subcommittee chairs to include their subcommittee reports in the 2017 Annual Report. Ms. Simpler stated that the report should address what was accomplished based on the recommendations presented in 2016 Annual Report. She also suggested providing recommendations for next year. Ms. Andaya stated that a draft can be sent out. Ms. Simpler suggested sending out the draft via email. There was no objection from the Council regarding this action. Ms. Simpler requested a date for receiving inputs from the subcommittee Chairs. The end of February was set as the timeframe to receive the reports from the sub-committees. Ms. Nicole Majeski remarked that DelDOT will provide comments on 2016 pedestrian safety improvements.

Budget Updates

Ms. Andaya presented the pedestrian council budget update. Out of the \$20,000 budget, there remains \$3537.10 that can be used for different pedestrian safety events and safety programs and can be utilized through June 2018. Ms. Simpler asked that in the next meeting in April if it will be discussed how to spend the remaining money. There is also a budget remaining \$9394 out of allocated \$10750 for McCormick Taylor for its services. Ms. Majeski remarked that due to the reduced number of meetings in the coming year, the allocated funding for McCormick Taylor will be reduced.

Election of New Chair and Co-Chair

Next in the meeting, the election of the new chair and co-chair was held. Ms. Simpler remarked that Mr. Jim Lardear is the current co-chair. It is an automatic step for the co-chair to become the new chair. However, Mr. Ken Grant informed that Mr. Lardear will not seek the post of chair. Mr. Sisson agreed to serve as a co-chair. Ms. Majeski remarked whether it would be appropriate for someone from DelDOT serving as a chair. Mr. Sisson agreed to serve as the new chair and Ms. Majeski to serve as a co-chair. Ms. Simpler made a motion to nominate Mr. Sisson as the next chair and Ms. Majeski as the co-chair. Mr. Denision seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all Council members in attendance.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The meeting was made open to public comment. Ms. Linda Osiecki brought up a Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meeting presentation, which discussed obtaining information from trauma centers regarding pedestrian injuries and fatalities. The information has been used in Toronto, where there are many pedestrian injuries related to falling due to icy sidewalk/road conditions. Ms. Simpler commented that there can be more efforts put in to link the varieties of data to pedestrian fatalities. Lt. Condon and Mr. Klepner remarked that there can be more integration of work to facilitate state troopers to do a more comprehensive work of pedestrian fatalities reporting.

Ms. Andaya mentioned that last year, October 2017 was declared as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month for the State of Delaware. She asked whether a bill can be passed to permanently declare October as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month for Delaware. Mr. McLeod assured that the committee will work towards passing such a bill.

Mr. Sisson observed that currently there are few alternate persons listed in the member list. He requested more alternate persons to be added to the members list. Ms. Andaya noted the following dates for future meetings: April 24, 2018, July 24, 2018 and Oct 23, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 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.

Meeting Minutes reported by:
Farzana Atique, PE

