

Members Present

John Sisson, Chair	WILMAPCO/DTC
Nicole Majeski, Co-Chair	DelDOT
David Bartoo	DNREC
Marsha Carson	Department of State
Doug Denison	Department of State
Ken Grant	AAA
Bill Jiron Jr.	Governor's Appointee
Jonathan Kirch	AHA/ASA
Reed Macmillan	Dover/Kent MPO
Michael Wagner	Department of Education
Todd Webb	DelDOT
Jessie Welch	Governor's Appointee

Members Absent

Helen Arthur	DHSS
Janelle Cornwell	Sussex County
Kimberly Holmes	Delaware Healthcare Association
Richard Klepner	Office of Highway Safety
William Payne	Citizen Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Farzana Atique	McCormick Taylor

Guests

CR McLeod	DelDOT
Jared Kauffman	DTC
Jim Pappas	DelDOT
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Michael Taplin	JMT
Paul Moser	DelDOT
Sarah Lester	Cornerstone West Community Devt Corp Wilmington
Tigist Zegeye	Wilmapco
Tom Lawless	DelDOT
Tom Nickel	DelDOT
Tracy L.Y. Condon	DSP

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Chair John Sisson.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Sisson thanked the group for attending. He provided some membership updates: Ms. Helen Arthur will be representing the Department of Health and Social Services but she couldn't make it to today's meeting. Ms. Jamie Wolfe recently passed. Ms. Jennifer Walls is no longer with Sussex

County and she will be replaced by Ms. Janelle Cornwell. Also, Mr. Jonathan Kirch from American Heart Association is back to replace Ms. Louie Phillips.

Everyone introduced themselves.

III. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (07/24/2018)

Upon the motion of Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. Wagner, the minutes for the July 24, 2018 meeting was approved.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. **Built Environment:** Ms. Linda Osiecki provided a report on the Built Environment Subcommittee. Ms. Osiecki informed that the subcommittee had a meeting in August. There was presentation from the Town of Fenwick Island officials regarding the proposed sidewalk project for the Town. Ms. Osiecki informed that officials discussed about complete sidewalk system for the Town for better connectivity. Ms. Osiecki informed that Mr. Jared Kauffman from DTC was present in the meeting and there was discussion about bus stops for the Town. Ms. Osiecki informed that a few other topics were also discussed in the meeting.
2. **Education and Enforcement:** Ms. Osiecki informed that she was present at the last Education and Enforcement subcommittee meeting held on Oct 18, 2018 and is able to provide an update on the subcommittee. Ms. Osiecki informed that at the last meeting Lt. Tracy Condon provided detailed information about her findings regarding 2017 pedestrian fatalities. Ms. Osiecki also informed that Ms. Amy Kevis from Connections was present in the last meeting and Ms. Kevis discussed the initiation of the Angel Initiative Program in Delaware. The program works in connection with the police department, which is open 24 hours a day. A person can come to the police department and seek help for substance abuse and the person will be transported to a facility.

Ms. Maria Andaya asked Lt. Condon if she wanted to add anything else to the conversation. Lt. Condon informed that she was able to get more information out of the 2017 pedestrian fatalities. In 2017 there were 33 pedestrian fatalities. 10 of the fatalities had no reported drug or alcohol. Among the remaining 23, 10 had an alcohol level above 0.14. Lt. Condon emphasized the difficulties police officers face when they encounter drunk pedestrians. Lt. Condon hoped that moving forward, the officers can contact Connections and transfer the persons to the Connections facility for recovery. Lt. Condon noted that all 10 persons with high alcohol level had dark clothing on. Lt. Condon talked about providing reflective gear that can be attached to clothing for better pedestrian visibility. Lt. Condon mentioned that the subcommittee is considering the process of supplying the reflective strips to the Connections facility. When the substance abuse or alcohol abuse persons recover from their treatment and are back on the streets they can use the reflective gear for better visibility in the dark.

Ms. Jessie Welch asked if there is information on the pedestrian fatalities report about which establishment the deceased pedestrians are leaving from. Lt. Condon remarked that only one person from Rehoboth area is noted as homeless.

Lt. Condon remarked that from the pedestrian fatalities report, some of the persons were walking on a highly travelled road. They were not on crosswalks and they were not at intersections.

- 3. Legislative and Policy:** Mr. C.R. McLeod provided an update on the Legislative and Policy subcommittee. Mr. McLeod informed that the subcommittee had their last meeting in September. He informed that the next meeting is scheduled in December. Mr. McLeod mentioned that they discussed Pedestrian Awareness Month proclamation in their meeting.

Mr. McLeod informed that there has been discussion about the Share the Road Safety Class. Mr. McLeod informed that Ms. Atique and Ms. Andaya are working on the review process of the Complete Street implementation plan.

Mr. McLeod informed that in the upcoming December 4th subcommittee meeting Mr. Marc Cote is scheduled to discuss the Development Coordination Manual. Mr. Jonathan Kirch remarked that the Complete Streets implementation plan is outdated and asked Ms. Andaya to provide information to the Council about its update. Ms. Andaya agreed to do so.

VII. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH UPDATES

In Mr. Richard Klepner's absence, Ms. Andaya provided information on the current pedestrian fatalities in Delaware. According to the Office of Highway Safety website, currently there are reports of 16 pedestrian fatalities in Delaware for 2018. In 2017 at the same time, there were 21 pedestrian fatalities. It was decided that in the next meeting there will be an update on the pedestrian fatalities in 2018.

Mr. Sisson informed that as a part of pedestrian safety awareness month, pedestrian safety information are being distributed on buses. Street teams are being deployed on DART buses on corridors with a higher percentage of pedestrian crashes and injuries. Among the corridors chosen is Kirkwood Highway.

Mr. Todd Webb asked if there is any feedback on the on going educational campaign on buses. Mr. Sisson said there's no feedback yet.

Mr. Webb shared his recent personal experience on a bus. He met a fellow passenger who was not aware of the necessity of crossing the roadway on a crosswalk. Mr. Webb expressed hope that this campaign of educating Delawareans of walking safe will be beneficial.

Lt. Condon inquired whether the street teams are also working in the evenings. Ms. Welch asked how she can volunteer to work as a street team. Mr. Sisson offered to provide the information.

VIII. 2018 Annual Report

Ms. Andaya informed all the chairs and co-chairs of the subcommittees to submit a list of accomplishments to her by December 7, 2018. The information will be compiled and sent out by email to Council Members by January 7, 2019 for review. Ms. Andaya asked if anyone has any concern or objection regarding the time schedule. No one expressed any concern.

IX. Presentation/Discussion

A. Share the Road Safety Class Program Update

Mr. McLeod gave an update on the Share the Road Safety Class (SRSC). Mr. McLeod informed that the Legislative and Policy subcommittee has looked into the program that is being offered in Portland, Oregon. A handout on SRSC was distributed to the Council members.

Mr. McLeod informed that the goal of the class is to provide first-time offenders with incentives to complete SRSC as an alternative to a conviction or a fine for certain traffic violations. Mr. McLeod informed that the subcommittee thinks that a similar class offering in Delaware will be useful. Mr. Tom Lawless informed that the University of Delaware is supposed to start a class for jaywalking offenders. He is not sure about the status of the program.

Mr. Kirch expressed his skepticism about the SRSC program. He remarked that Portland is more of an urbanized setting. Delaware may not resemble Portland's condition regarding pedestrian facilities or pedestrian behavior. He also pointed out there is a list of pedestrian and motor vehicle laws mentioned in SRSC program. He remarked that in Delaware we may not have similar laws. Mr. Kirch also wondered if the classes in Portland showed a positive impact and if there is information to support it.

Ms. Andaya informed that the subcommittee have also looked into the recent program started in Nevada. Ms. Andaya informed that the Safety Class in Nevada is conducted in coordination with University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Ms. Andaya informed that the class is not only for pedestrian law violators but also for drivers who violate pedestrian laws. The class charges \$50 for the drivers to attend the class.

Ms. Farzana Atique informed that she has spoken with Erin Breen, the coordinator of Nevada's Pedestrian Safety Class. Ms. Atique informed that Ms. Breen has indicated from her experience that the person who will be in charge of the class should have a passion for the work involved. Ms. Breen noted that people attending the class from different social backgrounds. Ms. Atique also remarked that she has gathered information of pedestrian fatalities and injuries from the two states. While there is no marked decrease of pedestrian fatalities, there is a decrease of pedestrian injuries in Portland since program began. For Clark County, Nevada the Safety Class program started in 2017 its efficiency has not been measured. Ms. Atique noted that in 2017 the number of pedestrian fatalities was 78. So far it is 49 in (October) 2018.

Ms. Sarah Lester expressed her concern for urban areas like Wilmington where there are more walkers who are more likely to be ticketed and many of them might be from economically disadvantaged group. Ms. Andaya said that the Las Vegas, Nevada program offers the class to ticketed pedestrians for free. Only drivers are being charged.

Ms. Welch expressed that such a program is a good idea as long as it is tailored towards Delaware.

Mr. Kirch asked whether the pedestrians have right of way on roadways and whether there is a law they are violating by walking or crossing the roadway.

Ms. Andaya remarked that Title 21, which concern pedestrian laws in Delaware, was discussed in the subcommittee meeting. It resulted in a 40 minute discussion as there is a vagueness about the wording in the law regarding the requirement of crossing roadways on a crosswalk. The word “adjacent” is not clearly defined.

Mr. Grant asked if the implementation of the safety class should be coordinated with the University of Delaware. Mr. Bill Jiron Jr remarked that since most of the pedestrian fatalities were above age 50, adult education centers can be a better place where classes are offered.

Mr. Sisson asked if there is a ballpark estimate of funding required to start the initiation of a similar Safety Class in Delaware. Mr. McLeod informed that a consultant will be required to do the work. Mr. McLeod hoped the subcommittee can develop a scope and proposal for the work.

B. Union Street Restriping Project

Ms. Sarah Lester gave a presentation on the Union Street Restriping Project.

Ms. Lester asked at the beginning of her presentation if members present have heard of the Union Street Restriping program. Many of the members acknowledge that they have heard of it but some also have not heard of it. Ms. Lester remarked that Mr. Paul Moser has worked on the project and is available to answer question pertaining to the project if needed.

Ms. Lester informed that Cornerstone West CDC is a community development corporation in Wilmington, Delaware, which works on housing development and collaborating with West Side Grows Together to work on neighborhood revitalization. Ms. Lester explained that the Union Street Restriping Project is part of the initiatives taken by West Side Grows Together. Ms. Lester stated that West Side Grows Together is a coalition of Wilmington’s West Side residents, businesses, churches and community groups.

The re-striping or reconfiguration on Union Street involved new travel lanes and new angled parking spaces along the business and residential corridor. This is a joint effort by the City, West Side Grows Together community coalition, the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO). Ms. Lester mention that Mark Luszcz, from DelDOT played an important role in materializing the restriping project.

Ms. Lester remarked that the Union Street corridor is known for high pedestrian crashes. Ms. Lester informed the restriping design is intended to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by slowing traffic speeds and reducing the distance needed to cross the street. Union Street consisted of three travel lanes. The new configuration reduced the road configuration to two travel lanes with bike lanes. The goal of the project was to limit the travelling speed closer to the posted speed of 25 mph.

Ms. Lester remarked that restriping is a cost effective way of implementing the complete streets

plan on Union Street. With less cost, traffic calming was implemented. Many volunteers participated in the restriping project which also helped keep the cost low.

Ms. Lester went on to discuss the qualitative and quantitative outcome of the projects. Ms. Lester noted that out of three locations used for measuring before and after vehicular speed, two locations showed significant decrease in vehicular speed. Ms. Lester is still in the process of getting feedback from the businesses in the neighborhood. Ms. Lester mentioned some disapproval of angle parking spaces in front of the businesses. People are not familiar with the method of parking in angle parking spaces and more educational efforts are required to promote diagonal parking.

Ms. Lester shared the website information for the West Side Grows for more information. It is: <http://www.westsidegrows.org/>

Mr. David Bartoo remarked that he used to commute using Union Street to return home from his office. But recently he has observed that the speed on Union Street has been reduced so he is using a different road to commute. Ms. Lester remarked that the main purpose of the Union Street is to provide a travel way for local people using local establishments.

Mr. Denison asked what people's complaints are if any. Ms. Lester said some businesses complain about the loss of parking spots. But then, customers were already double parking before. Mr. Bartoo said that diagonal parking is so much safer.

Ms. Lester said that right now there are still some issues such as when cars are turning left into Union Street they get confused whether they can drive on the bike lane. Some drivers actually drive on the bike lane at full speed. If only there's something they can do as a physical barrier. Ms. Welch suggested the use of duckies at turning lanes. Ms. Lester said that's a good idea.

Mr. Webb asked if they had any individuals with disabilities when they formed their group and if the City is working with them to identify barriers to people with disabilities for future phases of the project. Ms. Lester said that it's something they want to work on more in the future. In the planning stages, they reached out to many elderly people who frequent the businesses. And they also tried to reach out to a council member on a wheelchair but it's definitely something they will work on in the future. Right now, she's not aware of what the City is doing in the area in terms of ADA. She does see some people in electric wheelchairs using the bike lane. Mr. Webb offered to connect her with people they can work with.

Mr. Kirch said this Better Block model is a good thing to replicate in other municipalities in Delaware.

X. Public Comment

Mr. Sisson asked if there is any public comment. No one had any further comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m., at the DeIDOT Administrative Building, 800 Bay Road, Dover, DE.

Meeting Minutes reported by:
Farzana Atique, PhD, PE