



Delaware Bicycle Council
September 10, 2019
Felton-Farmington Conference Room
Meeting Notes

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Tom Felice, DelDOT Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Mike Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Mike Tyler, At Large Representative
Mike Wagner, Department of Education
Cpt. Jeff Whitmarsh, Delaware State Police Representative
James Wilson, At Large Representative

Members Absent

Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Richard Klepner, Office of Highway Safety
Marty Lessner, Council & Transportation
Roger Roy, At-Large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT

Guests

Adam Crosby, Delaware Greenways
Bruce Kauffman, DelDOT
Cpl. Tyler Wright, Delaware State Police
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Karen Zakarian, Private Citizen

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Tom Hartley. The quorum was met for the meeting. The Council members introduced themselves to the guests.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

The Council reviewed and made no corrections to the meeting minutes from the April 3, 2019 meeting. Tom Hartley asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting. Walt Bryan motioned to accept the April meeting minutes and Cpt. Jeff Whitmarsh seconded the motion. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

Bruce Kauffman wanted to discuss the “*Blueprint for a Bicycle-Friendly Delaware*”. His concern was is there anything in the plan that allows a legislator to intervene and change a design that either is permitted in the bike plan or DelDOT standards. Specifically it was the removal of the bike box at the intersection of Dartmouth Drive and SR 1. Due to issues with the traffic and the safety of the bicyclist a bike box was proposed to allow bicyclist to leave first however a local legislator had the bike box removed. What can be done to prevent this from happening again? Walt Bryan and Bruce Kauffman are going to further look into this matter.

Earlier that day Bruce Kauffman and James Wilson took a bicycle ride along SR 1. James indicated that bicycling along SR 1 is a problem that has not received the attention it deserves and does not believe additional signage and sidewalk stencils will help. SR 1 is not very safe in some areas, especially during the busy times of the year. Need to review the crash data to determine a better solution.

Karen Zakarian expressed her concerns to the Council about having buses using the same lane as bicyclists and something should be done to take busses and bicyclists out of the same lane. Bicyclists are never sure if they should ride on the road or sidewalk, in which information needs to be provided to clarify this because in Rehoboth Beach, police can issue a ticket to bicyclists if riding a bike on the sidewalk but not get a ticket is riding on the sidewalk along SR 1. Lastly Karen was wondering if anything could be done to notify the public on future Council meetings. Currently meeting notices are posted on the State and Delaware Bicycle Council websites. Fran Cardaci asked could a headline be placed on the front page of the DelDOT website where it would have a link to the Council meetings and agendas. John T. Fiori will look into this matter.

Jeff Whitmarsh announced has been promoted to Captain within Delaware State Police and will be stepping down as a member of the Delaware Bicycle Council. Jeff introduced Cpl. Tyler Wright as his replacement. Jeff will still fulfill his duties on the Council until such time Governor Office appoints Cpl. Wright. The Council thanked Cpt. Whitmarsh for his service on the Delaware Bicycle Council.

Fran Cardaci expressed her concerns of the local police departments still do not know or understanding current bicycle laws. Numerous times while biking she was told that she has to stop

a stop signs. She explained under the Delaware Bicycle Friendly Act, there is the Delaware Yield law, where bicyclists can yield safely through the stop sign. The police officers were not aware of this new law. What can be done to notify all state and local police departments on current and new bicycle laws?

III. New Business

Analysis of 2019 Bicycle Crashes in Lewes:

This presentation was deferred to the October 2nd Council meeting.

2019 Bicycle Friendly State Survey:

John T. Fiori stated that the 2019 Bicycle Friendly State Survey was submitted on August 15th. John also thanked John Bare of Bike Delaware in helping answer many of the essay questions on the survey as well as thanking all other internal DelDOT representatives from other sections who helped answer questions. John indicated the new ranking should be announced by the end of the year.

Discuss & Vote on 2019 Cycling Innovation Grant:

Scott Hoffman discussed the 2019 Cycling Innovation Grants. A letter with application was sent out in April to all municipalities and each county requesting to apply for the grant if they had a bicycle related project. This year six applications were received; Georgetown, Middletown, Milton, New Castle, Newark and Wilmington. Georgetown was a feasibility study for a shared-use path from the future Georgetown-Lewes Trail to the Oaks at Georgetown development. Middletown was a feasibility study for a shared-use path that connects downtown Middletown with eastern Middletown, especially the area where the school is located and where the YMCA is they are going to build a County Library. Milton was a feasibility study for a shared-use path along Lavinia Street from the future Milton Rails to Trail Phase II to Mulberry Street. Newport was a feasibility study for a shared-use path from the Jack A. Markell Trail to New Castle Battery Park. Newark/New Castle County was for the shared-use path from the Michael N. Castle Trail to White Clay Creek State Park/Glasgow Park/Lums Pond. Thought it was impressive that the grant is important enough for the Executive Director for New Castle County to attend and promote the program. However the grant is not enough to complete the study but they were looking for another funding source to help complete their efforts. Wilmington was for a feasibility study for creating a low-stress bicycle signalized crossing of Martin Luther King Boulevard at Shipley Street. However prior to their field meeting, Wilmington sent an e-mail that they wanted to withdraw their application after finding another funding source. After the field meetings the working group met discussed the application on September 4th. The majority of the working group had Middletown, Newark/New Castle County and New Castle ranked as the top 3. After discussions the working group is recommending Middletown be awarded the entire \$20,000 grant.

Tom Hartley asked for a motion to award the grant. Walt Bryan made the motion to award Middletown the \$20,000 grant. Mike Tyler seconded the motion. Scott Hoffman abstained from the grant vote. All agreed, no one opposed, Motion passed. John T. Fiori will notify the Town of Middletown of being awarded the cycling innovation grant.

Walk Bike Places 2020 in Indianapolis:

The 2020 Walk Bike Places conference is from August 4th thru 7th in Indianapolis. John T. Fiori indicated that if the Council would like to send a member to this conference, the estimated cost would be \$2,350.00 which includes travel, hotel and registration fee. This will need to be taken into account in the FY2021 Delaware Bicycle Council budget.



Increase of Delaware Bicycle Council Budget for FY2020:

Although not an agenda item, Tom Hartley asked if the Secretary Cohan approved his request for additional funding to the FY2020 Delaware Bicycle Council budget. John T. Fiori indicated the Secretary received the request but was denied and the total budget for FY2020 remains at \$40,000.00.

Scott Hoffman indicated that he has prepared a draft letter to the Secretary Cohan to increase the FY2021 Delaware Bicycle Council budget to \$60,000.00 of which the additional \$20,000.00 would go toward increasing the innovation grant from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Tom Hartley asked John T. Fiori to send the draft letter to the Council for them to review and make comments.

IV. Old Business

Delaware Bicycle Route 1 Update:

Scott Hoffman stated that he and Chris Assay met in July to come up with a plan. They reviewed existing Bicycle Route 1 and then the level of surface analysis that Paul Moser put together. The first conclusion from the meeting is that some portions of Bicycle Route 1 are okay and there is no need to change the entire route. If you look at the level surface analysis and then look at the roads that maybe did not have bike lanes or shoulders had a really low traffic count you might get a different result from the analysis. It was then discussed to choose target segments. Scott would like to have someone on the working group from each county take the existing bicycle map and mark up the segments using three colors; safe, somewhat safe and not safe at all. Scott Hoffman, Chris Assay and Tom Hartley will review the Kent County map and Mike Tyler, for the Sussex County map. For the New Castle County map see who from there would like to volunteer at the next Council meeting.

Tom Hartley entertained a motion to adjourn. Michael Wagner motioned and James Wilson seconded the motion at 6:48 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday October 2, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Felton-Farmington Room.