

Livable Delaware Activity

Activity/Policy/Program name: Statewide Bicycle Policy

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Purpose: To make it safer and easier, and provide greater opportunity for people who want to use bicycles.

Enabling Laws: 17 Del.C. § 132 (General Authority), and 17 Del.C. c.10 (Bikeways)

Policies: Bicycle Policy, PI Number D-06

History: The Department issued the Bicycle Policy on November 22, 2000 and it became effective December 22, 2000. During the 2000 legislative session, Representative Valihura sought legislation to require bicycle accommodations as part of every Department initiated project, including those that involved minor maintenance. The Department viewed the proposed legislation as being too onerous and worked with Representative Valihura to develop a policy that would preserve existing facilities.

Current Situation: The Bicycle Policy requires the Department to preserve a minimum of a five-foot wide shoulder, when one currently exists, when it is improving a roadway, and it calls for greater justification when accommodations for bicyclists cannot be made. The Policy does support the provision of Livable Delaware by preserving existing bicycle facilities as the roadway system expands and by encouraging the placement of new facilities. Specifically, this policy supports the Livable Delaware goal:

- Promote mobility for people and goods through a balanced system of transportation options.

Revisions/Actions Needed: No immediate action is needed or recommended. The Bicycle Policy has only been in effect for six months and tested a few times. Most of the test cases thus far involve projects that were in design prior to the implementation of the Policy and therefore do not adequately indicate how it is working. Although the Policy should be streamlined to focus more on when bicycle facilities are provided rather than how, such a change does not make sense until the Department has had time to judge how it is currently working. When the Policy undergoes its first major revision, consideration should also be given as to whether it should remain as a stand-alone policy or if it should be assimilated into the Road Design Manual. In either form, the Policy will continue to support Livable Delaware.

Resources Needed to Create/Revise: Not applicable at this time.

Process for Creation/Revision: Not applicable at this time. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator however would lead future revisions. The technical points would be developed in consultation with other divisions, the Bicycle Council, and a few key stakeholders. The

Assistant Director of Policy would also be involved and work with key legislators and special interest groups to ensure support for the changes and avoid more onerous legislation.

Schedule: Not applicable at this time. A revision that focused on circumstances rather than technical standards would normally take between three and six months.

Measures to Guide Progress: Since the Policy focuses on preserving existing bicycle facilities, key measures should include:

- The percent increase in the mode share of bicycles;
- The percentage of satisfied bicycle riders as assessed through the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey; and,
- The percent reduction in bicycle related accidents.

Interactions or Inter-relationships with Other Agencies or Units of Government: No direct interactions.