

Livable Delaware Activity

Activity/Policy/Program name: Sidewalk Policy

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Purpose: To provide safer and easier opportunities for people who walk or want to ride buses.

Enabling Laws: 17 Del.C. §132 (f) (Sidewalk Construction/Installation Decision Process).

Policies: Sidewalk Policy, PI Number O-02

History: The Sidewalk Policy was issued on October 18, 1995.

Current Situation: This Policy outlines when the Department will provide sidewalks, their maintenance, and the design and construction standards for sidewalks. The Policy will help to support the following Livable Delaware goals to:

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

Revisions/Actions Needed: Although the current policy supports Livable Delaware, it should be revised into a pedestrian policy to more broadly address pedestrian access and accommodations and provide less emphasis on maintenance and design issues. While the current policy addresses maintenance, the assignment and implementation of maintenance remains an ongoing issue. This issue needs to be clarified within the Policy as well as be addressed more broadly as is being done under a separate initiative to develop a comprehensive maintenance policy. Design standards for pedestrian facilities are available in other Department documents (e.g., the Road Design Manual) and should be addressed as part of the project development process. The revision should also consider whether the Policy should remain as a stand-alone policy or if should be assimilated into the Road Design Manual. The Statewide and Regional Planning Section is planning on undertaking such a revision during the first half of Fiscal Year 2002.

Resources Needed to Create/Revise: If the Policy is revised to focus on when pedestrian facilities should be provided rather than how, the revision can be led by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator within a normal workload and without any financial resources other than those associated with staff time.

Process for Creation/Revision: The Policy would be revised 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.

Schedule: Such a revision would take between three and six months.

Measures to Guide Progress: Performance measures for this Policy will include the following:

- The percentage of Department initiated projects that include pedestrian facilities in accordance with the Policy;
- The percentage of developer initiated projects that include pedestrian facilities in accordance with the Policy;
- The percent reduction in pedestrian related accidents; and,
- The percentage of satisfied pedestrians as assessed through the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Interactions or inter-relationships with other agencies or units of government: Aside from ensuring that any requirements are compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act, there are no direct relationships with federal law. There could potentially be however, some interaction with county and local development regulations, which could (and maybe should) be revised to support the revised policy. This would strengthen the implementation of Livable Delaware.