



**Delaware Bicycle Council
October 1, 2014
DeIDOT Administration Building
Meeting Notes**

Members Present

Dean Betts, Dept. of Education
Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Sgt. George Heberling, DE State Police Representative
James Ireland, DE Greenways Council
Alison Kirk, Office of Highway Safety
Roger Roy, At-Large Representative
Mike Tyler, At-Large Representative
Amy Wilburn, Chair & At- Large Representative
James Wilson, At-Large Representative

DeIDOT Support Staff

Anthony Aglio, Bicycle Coordinator DeIDOT
Kari Glanden, Administrative Support, DeIDOT
Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General, DeIDOT

Members Absent

Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health Representative
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative Dean Betts, Department of Education
Tom Felice, DeIDOT Representative
Mike Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Ted Williams, Council on Transportation

Guests

Adam Weiser, DeIDOT Safety
Leah Kacanda, City of Wilmington, Planning
Gail Robillard, White Clay Bicycle Club

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Amy Wilburn. The meeting started out of order of the agenda waiting on enough members for a quorum. All members introduced themselves.

Roger Roy made a motion to accept the minutes as is, it was second by Walt Bryan. No one opposed. Motion passed.

II. NEW BUSINESS

OHS Funding:

See it Both Ways Campaign:

Recent Fatalities:

The recent fatality number has risen. Amy Wilburn asked Alison Kirk from OHS why do we not get funding for a more comprehensive safety awareness campaigns? Many other States have intense campaigns to promote safer bicycling and walking. Alison passed out a snapshot sheet of the data she could gather on bicycle crash fatalities and traffic crash and fatalities. She discussed that nationally we are not ranking high enough to get federal funding. Alison passed a sheet that compared bicycle crashes to all traffic crashes from year to year in Delaware. This information was gathered from Delaware State Police. The highest years were 2008 & 2009. The fatal crash report to date for this year was also passed around. Currently, there are 2 bicycle fatalities this year. Federal funding is broken out from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and through Congress. Highway Safety Offices must apply for the money and there is not a specific pot of money for bicycle safety. The money has to come from the general fund. The money that is given is based off vehicle miles traveled which means Delaware is given minimum funds. James Wilson asked Alison if she could reach out to any of her contacts for materials for effective bicycle safety campaigns. The State of Delaware Strategic Highway Safety Plan looks at fatal injuries and high crash data to define where to use money. Bicycling is not included in the current plan. There is a federal program, NHTSA is testing out a new bicycle friendly campaign in large cities. Allison is keeping an eye on it to see if it comes out as a positive case study. After a year of the study the materials should be available for our use and the front end of the costs will already be covered.

Bud Heberling asked Adam about the message boards that are blank on the roadways. He asked if bicycle messages could be put up when they are idle and not broadcasting critical messages. Adam let the council know there are ways to strategically place messages on the boards so they are seen. He was concerned about over use of the message boards.

Amy gave an overview of the fatalities that have happened over the last year. Amy was asking if there is a way to get the traffic laws enforced more diligently. She would like more awareness given to the bicyclists and motorists who put bicyclists at risk

James Wilson asked about putting a ghost bike memorial on the road way at the request of Phillip Bishop's family. Adam Weiser said memorials are to be placed at the memorial garden (Smyrna Rest area) where a memorial brick is placed in the name of the deceased. They are not encouraged to be placed in the roadway. Gail stated that WCBC has already initiated the process to get a memorial brick.

NACTO Urban Bicycle Design Guide:

Amy had sent an email to the council in regards to the NACTO Guide for Urban Bikeway Design. It recommends slightly different features for the urban area. It makes it safer and easier to provide bicycle facilities in constrained areas and right of ways. Roger Roy made a motion that DelDOT adopts this NACTO guide; motion was second by Amy Wilburn. No one opposed. Motion passed. Amy will write the letter supporting the guide.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Changes to the Vulnerable Users Law:

Bud Heberling and the head of DSP executive staff have not been able to meet yet on this. Once they meet Bud will pass the information on to the council. Fritz advised the council to send a letter to expand the vulnerable user's law. Bud Heberling will spearhead writing and sending the letter to Homeland Security and Department of Transportation.

Police Academy Training:

There is a current class at the academy now; Bud has been ensured that he will get time to meet with this class for 40 minute training. He also contacted the Chiefs of Police Council to get information out to police officers other than just DSP Officers. He would like all information about the laws, safety tips, and bicycle light information to be sent out to all officers. The Chiefs of Police Council will discuss this letter that Bud wrote on behalf of the DBC and Bud can present an update at a later meeting.

Driver's Education:

The new Vulnerable Users Unit has been developed and reviewed. The unit for bicycle education will be put into the driver's education curriculum on a regular basis. Amy Wilburn will present a presentation of the new unit to 80% of the schools on Friday, October 3rd.

Defensive Driving:

A presentation was submitted for Driver's Ed. It has also been submitted to the insurance commissioner about a year ago. A new law has been passed and Defensive driving is now under the DMV The Insurance Commissioner has passed the presentation on to DMV. It will be looked at soon and we will have feedback soon.

Idaho Stop:

We have gotten some input but not from all agencies we have hoped to hear from. Bud Heberling and James Wilson have both been working on this. Bud expressed concerns about intersections with high volume and high speed. Fritz advised the Council that the law would be a biker beware situation and there wouldn't be an issue of the state's legal liability. Bud suggested limiting the law to 25 mph roadways. Amy would like more feedback from Troopers in other regions that

have this law before making any decisions. Bud will gather more information from Idaho and other States and run this past DSP for comments. Bud also asked that the red light portion of the stop law be removed. Amy would also like the option of a sunset provision if this law is adopted.

Low Stress Bike Network:

Dr. Furth is under contract with DelDOT and was consulted on a conference call last week. They are starting a connectivity project at the beach and comparing it to the low stress network. DelDOT is working with WRA consulting firm to put the information in a GIS layer. The project is ongoing. The resort area will have a map and report by May of next year.

Cross State Bike Routes (Three Counties):

The Wilmington ride will be October 17th at 10:00am. Fran was not here to give an update on the ride she was coordinating. There was an online petition with 170 signatures of people who would like to see the Wilmington to Newark on road bike route improved.

Tar and Chip:

The Council was supposed to report in to Mark Alexander if there were any dangerous tar and chip roads. Mike Tyler sent a few emails to Mark regarding the piles and they were cleaned up. Mike received confirmation emails that the problem areas were taken care of.

Delaware City Meeting regarding Bike Friendliness:

Roger Roy is working with Delaware City in reference to their bicycle friendly application. Anthony and Roger both met with Delaware City. Delaware City would really like to move forward on getting this designation. Delaware City is getting a lot of grants for renovations and the Mike Castle trail spur connection. They would like to get the bike friendly designation to be able to advertise to the cycling community.

IV. UPDATES

Bike Checkpoints:

Anthony Aglio held two checkpoints in Newark. On September 3rd 69 people stopped by, 49 light sets were given out, 11 bicycles were repaired and 16 helmets were given out. On September 15th, 85 people stopped by, 75 light sets were given out, 15 bikes were repaired and 19 helmets were given out. The program is building momentum.

Newark is asking for a protected bike lane on Delaware Avenue. JMT (Newark's consultant) is working on a concept with the city. DelDOT will review it once it is completed.

Roadside Bike Insurance through AAA:

Amy and Gail have been in contact with AAA about a roadside assistance program. AAA is onboard with this idea. Jennifer Grabowski from AAA is working with Amy and Gail to get a focus group together. They are looking for a family with a child 14yr old or younger to participate in the focus group. Please contact Amy if you know of anyone to help.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Lawn Signs:

Amy Wilburn and Gail Robillard are looking at lawn signs to promote bicycle awareness with motorists. They are looking for support from the Council and to get organizations to throw in money for this campaign. Amy asked Allison Kirk to work on a slogan for the signs. Amy asked for more information to be gathered on what is successful, if similar signs were funded through grant money or other money, and to share this information at the December meeting signs. Anthony suggested that AAA be asked about supporting/sponsoring signs.

Bicycle Warning Signs:

Mike Tyler asked how to get bicycle warning signs replaced on Plantations Road. Anthony asked him to send the request through email.

ADJORN

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Tyler and seconded by Roger Roy. No one opposed. Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.