



Delaware Bicycle Council
October 2, 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
Richard Klepner, Office of Highway Safety
Mike Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Marty Lessner, Council on Transportation
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
Roger Roy, At-Large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT
Christina Thomas, Administrative Assistant, DelDOT

Guests

Paul Moser, DelDOT	Melissa Steele, Cape Gazette
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists	Jim Wagner, Sussex Cyclists
John Kurpjuweit, Sussex Cyclist	John Eckenrode, Sussex Cyclist
Lezlie Eustis, Kent County Cyclist	Robyne L. Spillers, Kent County Cyclist
Barbara Wagner, Wife of Cyclists	Ryan Hollingshens, Wilmington Cyclists
Ben Jones, Lifecycle	Jenn Rowan, Lifecycle
Chris Asay, Public	George Dellinger, Public
Karen Zakarian, Public	

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM 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 September 9, 2019 meeting. Tom Hartley asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting. Walt Bryan motioned to accept the September meeting minutes and Scott Hoffman seconded the motion. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

Barbara Wagner brought in and shared the obituary of Lloyd 'Jay' Junior Kirby who was in a bicycle accident and who had passed away on September 23, 2019. Jenn Rowan stated that a Ghost Bike was placed at the site of the fatality. These bikes pay tribute to the person who passed as well as raising awareness to the drivers. The ghost bike was removed from the sign it was attached to where Jay had his accident. The ghost bike was in the middle of the island, which caused an unsafe situation towards motorists and other users along the highway. DelDOT removed the bike and it was taken to Lewes Cycle Shop, where the owner can pick up the ghost bike.

Cpt. Jeff Whitmarsh made a motion for the Council to officially acknowledge the life and the work by Jay Kirby for cycling and the Delaware community. Tom Hartley accepted the motion and asked for a second. Walt Bryan seconded the motion. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

III. New Business

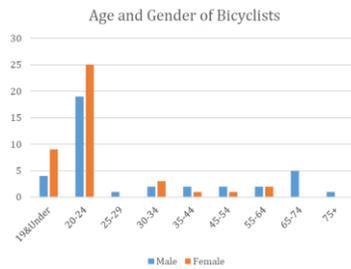
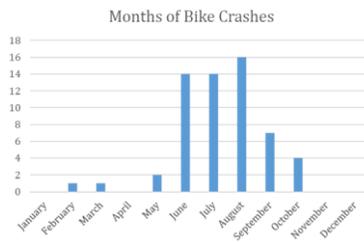
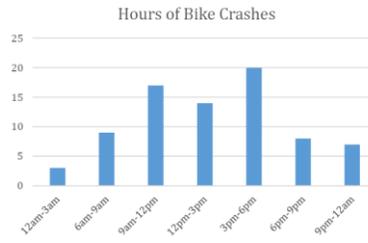
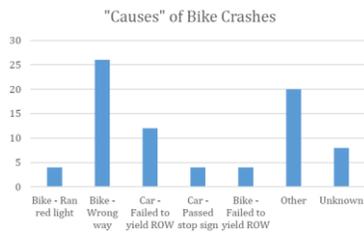
Analysis of 2019 Bicycle Crashes in Lewes:

Richard Klepner put together a data analysis of the amount of bicycle crashes that occurred in Lewes. The intent is that the data analysis put together will confirm what is happening on the roadways. There are restrictions with the data analysis that only involve crashes between a motor vehicle and a bicyclist. The data only includes data from police reports from a motor vehicle and bicycle crash. The data does not include anything with for example: two bicycles crashing into one another or a bicycle crashing into a pedestrian. Also, if no officer was called for a crash involving a motor vehicle and a bicyclist, then it will not be able to be added to the data. Office of Highway Safety can only collect data from police reports and only have access to crashes on public roadways and sidewalks. If an accident occurs within a private parking lot or private residence then there is no data. Off road trails that surround Lewes to Rehoboth do not share access to the data either.

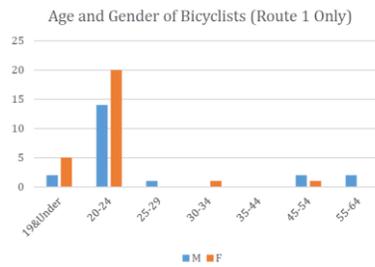
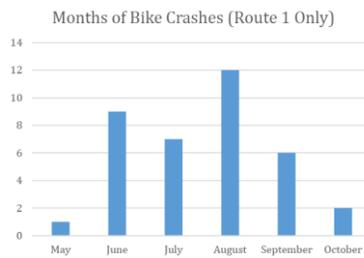
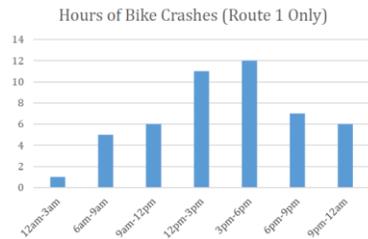
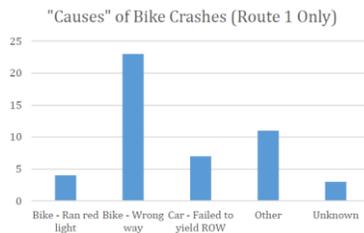
The summary of bicycle crashes in the Lewes/Rehoboth area was taken from January 1, 2016 to August 31, 2019. Overall there were 78 bicycle crashes where the majority of the accidents are bicycles riding the wrong way, followed by cars failing to yield to bicyclists. Most of the bicycle accidents are happening in the middle of the afternoon (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.), followed by middle of the morning (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.). These are typically the time when the international students and younger people taking their bikes back and forth to work. Bicycle crashes were most

common during the summer months (June, July and August) months because of the tourist and international students coming down to the beach. The age group involved in bicycle accidents are 20-24 year olds. Along Route 1 there were 48 bicycle crashes where the majority of the accidents are bicycles riding the wrong way on the shoulder/bike lane. Most of the bicycle accidents are happening in the middle of the afternoon (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.). Bicycle crashes were most common during the summer months (June, July and August) months because of the tourist and international students working in the resort area and the age group involved in bicycle accidents are 20-24 year olds.

Overall region



Route 1



Almost half of bicycle accidents were riding on the sidewalk, followed by riding in the bike lane and crossing Route 1. These causes do not determine who is at fault. Some bicyclists are riding

short distances and some are even very experienced riders. Hoping to find a better alternative and safer route to a bicyclist's destination may decrease the amount of crashes. Possibly making a bicycle service route behind stores where there is less traffic or maybe utilizing the trails more. Some crashes do occur in areas or times of the year where vehicles are not expecting a bicyclist.

This is a national issue. Traffic fatalities are decreasing. The issue is there has not been a lot of research and programs created nationally to support bicycle and pedestrian education initiatives. Office of Highway Safety ran pedestrian campaigns within the state for 4 or 5 years and didn't see the results that we were hoping for. As bicycle fatalities and crashes continue to grow its something being looking more into and watching the data to see whether or not it needs to become an initial priority area. The issue is that funding is combined for pedestrian and bikes. Currently Delaware ranks high in pedestrian fatalities so have to get pedestrian crashes issues down before funding can go toward bicycling.

Paul Moser asked, "What perspective are you going to take to look for a solution?" There are three ideas; 1) Focus on human factors of it with education and marketing; 2) Mitigating risk with what is there within reason and 3) Looking for solution that is significant.

Tom Hartley asked the Council for volunteers to review a specific safety aspect along Route 1. Those members that volunteered were Walt Bryan, Tom Felice, Cpt. Jeff Whitmarsh and James Wilson. These individual's will make their presentation at the December council meeting.

FY2021 Budget Request letter and Innovation Grant Video:

Due to time constraints these items were deferred to the December meeting.

IV. New Business

Delaware Bicycle Route 1 and Council Profiles:

Due to time constraints these items were deferred to the December meeting.

Tom Hartley entertained a motion to adjourn. Walt Bryan motioned and Mike Tyler seconded the motion at 7:00 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday December 4, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Felton-Farmington Conference Room.