



**Delaware Bicycle Council
June 3, 2020
Teleconference Call
Meeting Notes**

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Tom Felice, DelDOT Representative
Shebra Hall, Division of Public Health Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Mike Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Marty Lessner, Council on Transportation
Roger Roy, At-Large Representative
Mike Wagner, Department of Education
James Wilson, At Large Representative
Cpl. Tyler Wright, DE State Police Representative

Members Absent

Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Richard Klepner, Office of Highway Safety
Mike Tyler, At-Large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

Marc Cote', Director of Planning, DelDOT
John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT
Christina Thomas, Administrative Assistant, DelDOT

Guests

Bruce Kauffman, DelDOT
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Karen Zakarian, Public
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Tom Hartley. The council meeting was held virtually in which John T. Fiori took a roll call of Council members present. The quorum was met for the meeting.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 1, 2020. Tom Hartley had a correction on Page 3, second paragraph, line 6 to change Budge to "Budget". There were no other revisions to the meeting minutes. Tom Hartley asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 1, 2020. Michael Wagner made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Walt Bryan seconded. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

Bill Weller indicated that he is organizing a group from Sussex Cyclists to perform the inspection of Delaware Bicycle Route 1 from Milford to the Maryland state line. Bill anticipated starting in June and completing the inspection in July. Tom Hartley asked once the inspection is completed please coordinate with Scott Hoffman in getting him the information so it could be placed on a map. Scott Hoffman and Bill exchanged contact information and will coordinate on transferring the information.

James Wilson asked Scott Hoffman if he had been contacted by Adventure Cycling Routes. Scott responded that he will be having a meeting with them to on June 4, 2020 to discuss what is going on and look for an opportunity for them being the official sponsor for state routes. James Wilson asked if they would like to offer us or guidelines and resources that would be of any help? Heather Dunigan responded that they developed a route and started coordinating with Maryland. The Maryland State Highway administration referred them to her. Heather has been working on obtaining approvals from local governments where the route goes through New Castle County and has been coordinating with WILMAPCO's counter partner in Philadelphia region to identify and obtain approvals for the route up in Pennsylvania. For Maryland most of the approvals are in place but have a mix of approvals in New Castle County. The next round should be able to get a route designated as a US Bicycle Route. James Wilson asked a follow-up question if within the State of Delaware has Adventure Cycling Route provided any input about this alignment for US Bicycle Route? Heather responded that she provided some schematics on the initial route that followed the East Coast Greenway since it uses many of the nicest facilities in New Castle County.

Bruce Kauffman asked if message boards could be installed to alert motorists of bicycles and pedestrians being on the road and sidewalk. John T. Fiori responded that at the April meeting as part of the Short-Term Bicycle Safety Countermeasures presentation, Planning will be investigating the possibility of purchasing two (2) message boards in FY21. However due the pandemic where many events are being cancelled/postponed that use these message boards, John T. Fiori will contact the South District Office to see if there are any message boards that could be borrowed. John T. Fiori indicated he cannot make any promises or guarantees but will ask the District.

John T. Fiori stated that an e-mail will be sent out by Jeff Riegner with WRA that will include James Wilson for the SR1 Low Stress Bikeway feasibility study kickoff meeting, which is currently being scheduled. The kickoff meeting will be in June with anticipated final approval in April of next year.

Roger Roy asked Marc Cote' about funds for FY2021 and what should be expected, and will there be any cuts of the bicycle funding? Mar responded that that DelDOT is fully funded for the remainder of FY2020 while FY2021 will be stable as planned but FY2022 is still unsure.

III. New Business

New Castle County Bike Plan

Heather Dunigan with WILMAPCO presented the New Castle County Bike Plan. The plan was endorsed by WILMAPCO on May 7, 2020. The plan was developed by a partnership with DelDOT, local governments and a variety of stake holders. This plan builds on the 2017 Bicycle Plan. The vision for the New Castle County Bicycle plan same vision the Blueprint for a Bicycle-Friendly State Bicycle plan which had a good vision that had a lot of thoughtful development of it. For the outreach with the bicycle plan, we did not want to have many workshops with WILMAPCO hosting it by themselves, so we partnered with local governments and associates and community groups to co-host events. Many were held in conjunction with Town Council meetings so that they had a mixture of audience of people coming for that meeting who could also provide comments on the bicycle plan or coordinate with other transportation planning workshops. There was also an online survey that provided 286 responses. The data collected was used to define some of the goals for the projects. These goals included, identifying a bicycle transportation network; improving safety through design, maintenance and enforcement; incorporating bicycle elements into Land Use, Planning and Zoning; expanding equitable access to bicycling; providing bicycle access to transit; encouraging bicycle parking and other facilities. For implementation and evaluation, recommended identifying the bicycle network by pulling together other plans that had been developed. There are requests for new projects and new connections to places where people felt comfortable riding. Many said there are a lot of great facilities already out there that have a lot of debris and do not know who to turn to when they find an issue. It is recommended to have one report number where people can report their bicycle concerns to where the call can be directed to the right agency. There were concerns with parking and end of trip facilities, in which they could not get to their destination and have no secure place to park. Bikes and transit work well together as a combination to extend the reach. All the buses within New Castle County do have a bike rack on the buses. This serves to get where the bike routes end to their destination. For safety enforcement, some did not feel safe on a lot of existing bike lanes. Need to ensure low stress routes are designed to accommodate a broad range of users. There are many great bicycle safety laws in place, where some have come from Delaware Bicycle Council members. There is a lack of awareness by both drivers and bicyclists. Recommend increasing the knowledge by marketing the laws. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many have been using bicycling to get to their destination instead of using the transit. Great programs such as Urban Bike Project and Newark Bike Project provides free and low-cost bicycles for people who need them. Recommend expanding fleet bicycles through employers and other government agencies as well as bike share programs in areas

where people are in greater need for bicycles. For land use, WILMAPCO works directly with local governments, reviews all comprehensive plans and zoning codes. Very few of the municipalities and local governments really go beyond just mentioning bicycling within their codes. The plan includes several measures to encouraging communities to apply for a bicycle friendly community status. There needs to be more marketing of existing facilities, expanding the use of low stress bicycle, expanding Safe Routes to School curriculum, promoting bicycle friendly business districts, and having more open family friendly rides. The prioritization process uses the quantitative measure that assesses their transportation network for the bicycle plan. Recommend giving points based on proximity to different land uses such as commercial areas, parks, libraries, schools. Suggested giving credit for things that filling gaps in the system as well as points for different demographics. Giving credit for higher dense areas in terms of the population and employment and environmental justice mobility challenged areas. Also giving points towards safety, addressing areas where there is concentration of pedestrian and bicycle crashes. And then using the other factors such as coordination with local development and local support. The plan will be upgraded by WILMAPCO every four years as they develop the regional transportation plan.

James Wilson asked Marc Cote' what is next for DelDOT now that the New Castle County Bike Plan is completed? Marc responded that all these plans will hopefully turn into projects and will go through DelDOT's prioritization process to become a Capital Transportation Project. Marc also would want Planning to follow the bike plan when looking at projects within our existing CTP as well as being able get private developers to continue to work towards that plan and continue to get those projects prioritized and keep funding at higher levels than in the past to help those projects become a reality sooner than in the past. James then asked Marc if he would come back to the Council in two months or if not then sometime this year to provide feedback on the New Castle County Bike Plan and whether or not looking to put some money towards feasibility on some projects that have been prioritized from the New Castle County Bike Plan. Marc indicated he can provide an update later in the year.

Governor Carney's Safe Yielding at Stop Signs Report

Cpl. Tyler Wright indicated that due to current events that the report could not have been completed in time for the council meeting but should be available at the next meeting. This item will be an agenda item at the August 5th Council meeting.

IV. Old Business

Innovation Grant Application Video Update

Walt Bryan indicated that he will begin taking drone aerials of Bridgeville, Milford, Milton, Lewes and New Castle in the next couple months.

Although not an agenda item, Tom Hartley asked for an update on the grant applications. John T. Fiori stated the grant applications were sent out on May 12, 2020 to all the municipalities and the three County Offices with the deadline of August 31, 2020.

Priority Bikeway Project

John T. Fiori began the presentation by indicating the complete list of projects were on the Delaware Bicycle Council website and he will only present on new or updated projects.

NEW: Georgetown to Lewes Trail, Cool Spring Road to Fisher Road

Constructing a 10' wide shared-use path from Cool Spring Road to the intersection of Fisher Road, then crosses US9 on the east side of Fisher Road and connects back onto the railroad line. The survey plans were submitted with comments returned in May 2020.

UPDATE: Georgetown to Lewes – Log Cabin Hill Road to Cool Spring Road

The construction of a 10' wide shared-use path from the end of the existing path at Log Cabin Hill Road to Cool Spring Road has been completed.

NEW: Capital City Trail Phase III, South State Street to US13

Construct a 10' wide shared-use path on the south side of SR10 from South State Street to 0.35-miles west at First Tenth Court, tying into the improvements of the East Camden Bypass project (T201709503). The preliminary plans were submitted with comments returned in June 2020.

UPDATE: Milton Rail to Trail – Phase 2

The construction of a 10' wide shared-use path from Federal Street to Lavinia Street in Milton has been completed. Details for ribbon cutting ceremony are currently being developed and once this information is released, it will be forwarded to the Council.

UPDATE: Senator Bikeway Phase I Saulsbury Road to Washington Street

The no parking signs that were revised to "Hearse permitted during funeral service only" have been installed. Dover Police Department has been enforcing the no parking order within the cycle track.

Corporal Tyler Wright made a comment the lighting is needed where the Georgetown to Lewes Trail crosses Sweetbriar Road. At night is completely dark and if someone is out there on the trail coming home late at night they could get hurt by a car because there is no lighting there at all. Tom Hartley asked John T. Fiori to see if lighting was ever considered and would a study be required?

Scott Hoffman had a question on what is being constructed along Route 10? John T. Fiori stated that this is phase two of the Capital City Trail from South State Street to the Gateway Shopping Center.

Prior to adjourning the meeting Roger Roy wanted to make a statement for the Council to continue having the meetings virtually with the positive impacts being easier to achieve a quorum, less traffic on the roadways and no commuting. John T. Fiori responded that he already had this conversation with Annie Cordo, Deputy Attorney General, in which currently under the state of emergency, public meetings are permitted to be held remotely but once the state of emergency is lifted, if there is not anything allowed to continue this then we would have to meet in person. Marty Lessner indicated that reading the statute for the Delaware Bicycle Council, the council is required to meet a minimum five times per year and does not specifically outline how the meetings are to

be held in which in Marty Lessner's legal opinion is the Council can decide how to hold their meetings providing the meetings are open to the public. James Wilson indicated that there may be times where an in-person meeting is required and asked Tom Hartley and John T. Fiori for the August Council meeting if they could meet at DelDOT and other Council members and public could attend remotely. Tom Hartley indicated he was willing to do that, but John T. Fiori was against this for personal reasons on having to be in contact with anyone during and after the pandemic even if social distancing can be maintained. Roger Roy requested that this be an agenda item to discuss further at the August meeting. Tom Hartley asked John T. Fiori to contact the Deputy Attorney General for clarification on having council meetings remotely prior to the August meeting. Until notified otherwise the next council meeting will be held remotely.

Tom Hartley entertained a motion to adjourn. Roger Roy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Walt Bryan seconded the motion at 6:50 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday August 5, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held virtually unless otherwise determined.