



Delaware Bicycle Council
October 7, 2020
Teleconference Call
Meeting Notes

Members Present

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 Tyler, At-Large Representative
Mike Wagner, Department of Education
James Wilson, At Large Representative
Cpl. Tyler Wright, DE State Police Representative

Members Absent

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety

DelDOT Support Staff

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

Guests

Chris Asay, Public	Bruce Kauffman, DelDOT
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists	Drew Boyce, Century Engineering
Robert Fisher, Public	Lezlie Eustis, Public

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 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 August 5, 2020. Mike Krumrine had a correction on page 1 to remove him from being absent from the meeting. There were no other revisions to the meeting minutes. Tom Hartley asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the August 5, 2020. Roger Roy made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Tom Felice seconded. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

Bob Fisher requested to address the Council concerning the winning Republican candidate for Sussex County District 3, Mark Shaffer. After defeating the incumbent by 44 votes in the primary, Mark was asked by e-mail after a debate on local radio station in Sussex County concerning what was his viewpoint on converting the Georgetown to Lewes Trail to a four lane highway which came up at an early Five Points Working Group meeting and was supported by members of the working group. Bob wanted to inform the Council that Mr. Shaffer wanted to reopen the idea where at the time of the original proposal there was overwhelming public opposition to it. This does not mean that if the Sussex County Council thinks it is a good idea for business, development and residents that the Council will put the proposal back on the table.

John T. Fiori requested to address the Council on a few topics. The first topic was that since Secretary Cohan was retiring at the end of the month would the Delaware Bicycle Council like to prepare a letter of appreciation. Tom Hartley indicated a letter should be prepared and asked if anyone from the Council would like to prepare a draft letter for the Council to review. Shebra Hall said she will prepare the draft letter. Tom asked Shebra once the draft letter is completed to send it to him and John. The second topic was to announce that on September 22, 2020 DelDOT and the City of Dover had their Bike to Work Day at the Dover Library. This was re-scheduled from May due to the pandemic. There were 12 participants which is lower than previous years but to John's knowledge this was the only bike to work event held in Delaware since all others were postponed until May 2021. John wanted to thank the City of Dover and all those who attended the event. The third topic was to announce that in an article by the Cape Gazette, the Jay Kirby ghost bike was placed back along Route 1 near where he was fatally injured but the ghost bike is now located on private property and not within the state right-of-way. Tom Hartley asked John to post the article on the Delaware Bicycle Council website along with the link to the article. **UPDATE:** *After the Council meeting, the link for the Jay Kirby ghost bike was posted on the Delaware Bicycle Council website.*

Chris Asay requested to address the Council concerning pavement markings in Dover. Chris showed the Council of a picture of Cecil Street which was recently striped as part of the Senators

Bikeway Phase 1 project. Cecil Street is a neighborhood street that has very low traffic and speeds. The marking placed is called a sharrow and has been used in Delaware to mark roads. Chris indicated in this case marking the road is to encourage bicyclist to ride along this street because it is bike friendly. The problem is there are other roads in Dover marked with sharrows for a completely different purpose. These are on some busy streets with a lot of traffic and usually parked cars on either side and no shoulders. What is being said is those are reminders to the auto traffic that bicycles are entitled to use that road for transportation but those types roads we do not want to encourage bikes to ride on. Chris see's two different messages being sent; one, automobiles and bikes can use the road and two, saying it is a safe road for bikes. Busy roads are not safe for bikes to ride on. Chris believes there is a problem with the system to marking bikeways and is asking Council to investigate. Maybe have someone from DelDOT's Traffic Engineering Department. Chris had talked to Mark Luszcz about this when he was the Chief of Traffic, but Mark has since left that position. Chris would like to know if there is something that can be done such as having two different pavement markings. James Wilson requested if Chris could provide a picture of where having the sharrows is not good. Tom Hartley wanted to clarify the sharrows Chris is referring to are along Governors Avenue, which are out in the travel lanes. This makes you feel more entitled to be out there and not make you run into the parked cars. Tom Hartley wants to know what the message is and does something need to be changed. James Wilson indicated the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) which gives DelDOT and every other DOT (Department of Transportation) in America guidance when markings are supposed to be used. The guidance is they should not be placed on streets with speed limits above 35-mph. Assuming all streets in Dover are not above 35-mph but there are still streets where auto traffic is heavy and is maybe 35-mph but not able to tell exactly which. A couple of them are 25-mph or they might all be 25-mph. One thing to think about in terms of rather than poking on streets and saying this doesn't make any sense, maybe there is a principle about what kind of level of traffic stress streets should or shouldn't have shared lane markings on them. Marc Cote' indicated he was not sure all the roads in downtown Dover are all 25-mph from US13 and King's Highway west but everything downtown is 25-mph. Marc suggested the real question is how you want to distinguish between roads like Governors and Bradford street? If you put sharrows everywhere? What are you trying to accomplish and go from there? Tom Hartley asked John T. Fiori if he could prepare a response for Chris at the December meeting? John indicated that he will work on a response.



III. New Business

FY2022 Delaware Bicycle Council Budget

John T. Fiori presented that the FY21 Delaware Bicycle Council Budget is \$50,000.00 but due to COVID-19, there is the potential of major budget cuts for FY22 and beyond. Therefore, for DelDOT to begin preparing the FY22 budget it is being requested that the DBC submit their proposed FY22 budget to the Director of Planning by the end of 2020. John indicated the FY22 DBC Budget does not need to be approved at this time only a draft outlining their priorities. Mike Wagner indicated that as done with previous budgets, a working group should be formed to prepare the budget priorities on behalf of the Council. Tom Hartley agreed and opened the floor for nominations. Those nominated were Tom Hartley, Mike Krumrine, Scott Hoffman and Shebra Hall. There was no additional nomination in which nominations were closed. Tom Hartley requested a motion to accept the nominations of the budget working group. Roger Roy made the motion to accept the nominations. James Wilson seconded. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed. The budget working group will prepare a priority list for Council discussion and approval at the December meeting.

2020 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant

John T. Fiori presented an update to the Council that the grant working group performed the interviews with all the applicants for Milton, New Castle, Newark and Sussex County and have completed their draft rankings but a recommendation is not ready to be submitted at this time to the Council for discussion and vote. Reason is that at a previous grant working group meeting, DelDOT indicated that they will prepare an executive summary for all the applications but it would not be completed in time for the Council to vote and award the grant at the October meeting. The executive summary is informational purposes only for the grant working group and Council in prioritizing the applications to award the grant. The executive summary is anticipated being completed by the end of October or early November to give the grant working group enough time to review and determine if there will be any changes to the rankings prior to making a recommendation to the Council at the December meeting. John also indicated there has been a change in issuing the funds to applicant. Previously after the grant is awarded, DelDOT would manage the funds in which the applicant had until the end of the fiscal year to use the funds, which did not provide much time for the applicant. To eliminate this an agreement will be signed between DelDOT and the applicant that the applicant will manage the funds and provide a report to DelDOT and the Delaware Bicycle Council. Having it done this way the entire funds can be transferred to the applicant once the agreement is signed and the applicant can distribute the funds without the previous time constraint.

Concerns at Trail Crossings

Scott Hoffman indicated that at the previous Council meeting during public comment there were safety concerns regarding trail crossings roadways where afterwards Scott recommended this be an agenda item for the October meeting. John T. Fiori provided an update of what DelDOT is doing to improve safety. At this time DelDOT is looking into improving safety at trail crossings by using the following options to include but not limited to Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFB), spinners on top of the bicycle stop signs and rumble strips on the trail prior to the intersection of the roadway. Any improvements implemented would be installed prior to Memorial Day weekend in May 2021. Bill

Weller asked the question if there will be a public meeting for commenting. John responded that he did not know if there will be a public meeting but will verify then provide a response. Bill then asked a follow-up question if chicanes were an option as potential safety improvement? John responded that he was not aware but would ask then provide a response. Tom Hartley responded that since the trail has multiple users of all abilities, there are those that ride an adult trike, tandem bike or have a carrier attached for children where the chicane may not be possible to accommodate those types of bicycles. **UPDATE:** *After the Council meeting, John T. Fiori was able to get a response to the questions by Bill Weller. No public involvement was discussed. This is labeled a safety issue and it was initiated through several legislative requests received for the road crossings and DelDOT did look at chicanes but there is not adequate right-of-way and the existing drainage would be impacted at all locations.*

Mike Tyler asked a question concerning if a bollard could be installed on the Georgetown to Lewes Trail near the intersection of Gills Neck Road since riders do not stop and just go into the roadway. John T. Fiori responded that at the recent Lewes Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting on September 29, 2020 where an agenda item was bollards on the Georgetown to Lewes Trail; Gills Neck Road was one of those locations. John indicated that the City maintains this trail in which the City Council would need to approve the installation of the bollard. John suggested to Mike that he contact the committee to see if they will be making a recommendation to City Council concerning the bollard installation.

Lewes Transit Center Bicycle Safety Memorial/Information Kiosk

Ray Quillen was not able to make his presentation and it will be determined if he will at a future Council meeting.

Online Bicycle Conference



James Wilson made a presentation to the Council that Bike Delaware is hosting an on-line conference on November 19, 2020 called, “Designing Delaware Intersections for People”. The narrative of this conference is making intersections safe for both vehicles and people is a challenge for even the most motivated engineers. To help us solve this problem, Bike Delaware has recruited some of the smartest and most experienced national and international transportation experts to bring their best ideas to Delaware. James indicated registration is free and the link will be activated

within a week. Tom Hartley asked John T. Fiori that once the link is available to register to post the conference on the DBC website. ***UPDATE:** After the Council meeting, the link for the on-line conference has been posted on the Delaware Bicycle Council website and placed in a DelDOT newsletter.*

IV. Old Business

Priority Bikeway Project

John T. Fiori indicated that there were no updates at this time.

Tom Hartley entertained a motion to adjourn. Mike Wagner made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Roy seconded the motion at 7:00 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday December 2, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held virtually unless otherwise determined.