



**Delaware Bicycle Council
October 2, 2024
Zoom Webinar
Meeting Notes**

Members Present

Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Lauren Butsher, Division of Public Health
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Michael Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety
Wendy Polasko, DelDOT Representative
Michael Wagner, Department of Education
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative
Sgt. John Wheatly, Delaware State Police

Members Absent

Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Marty Lessner, Council on Transportation
Michael Tyler, At-Large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff

John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT

Guests

Chris Asay, Public
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
J.T. Fleming, Public
Maureen Cassidy, Public
Paul Moser, DelDOT Planning

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Scott Hoffman. John Fiori took a roll call of the Council members present and quorum was met.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

Scott Hoffman introduced the newest Council member, Sgt. John Wheatley with the Delaware State Police. Sgt. Wheatley indicated he has been in law enforcement for 20-years with 17-years in Delaware at the end of October. Have spent 10-years in the collision reconstruction unit conducting fatal crash investigations, seven in Kent County and three in Sussex County and have the knowledge when it comes to bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles in collision reconstruction.

The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from the August 7th meeting. James Wilson made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Fran Cardaci seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

II. Public Comment

Bill Weller requested to address the Council where Bill presented information to the Council during the last meeting concerning traffic signal detection of bicycles and it was not on this meetings agenda. Scott Hoffman responded that at the last meeting it was requested if John Fiori could contact DelDOT's Traffic section to attend an upcoming meeting and explain how the detector loop operates as an initial look into this issue. This was an agenda topic but then received a follow-up via e-mail that essentially Traffic believes that the detector loops a currently installed should be able to detect bicycles and requested the Council's help to investigate this situation further. Scot and Bill looked at some resources into this issue, where Bill is going to look at what kind of guidance other states use for installation of detector loops and Scott will be doing follow-ups at the consulting company he works for that know more about detection loops to try and return to the Council at the December meeting with some additional information and potentially have some recommendations for the Council on items to ask DelDOT to do. Bill then asked that at the last meeting it was discussed to have Michael Tyler request that the Kings Highway and SR 1 reconfiguration project be added to the Five Points working group meeting scheduled for October 28th and wanted to confirm that was still going to happen. John Fiori indicated that Michael Tyler was not attending tonight's meeting but will follow up with him (**NOTE: John Fiori e-mailed Michael Tyler on October 3, 2024, and he responded that he would attend the Five Points working group meeting to make the request**). Bill then wanted to point out that in the agenda it mentions the meeting is in a different conference room than located and the public is directed to go to a difference entrance. John Fiori indicated he will revise the meeting location for December's meeting. Lastly, Bill indicated at the last meeting there was a presentation from Bike Delaware on roundabout designs and is there going to be follow-up discussions? John Fiori indicated since the last meeting the Design Guide Memorandum for Roundabouts has been approved, which did not give sufficient time for a representative from Traffic to attend this meeting but are going to try to attend the December meeting to discuss the revised design guide memorandum.

Maureen Cassidy requested to address the Council where Maureen resides in Sussex County within the Glade community at the end of Holland Glade Road and wanted to share a link with over 54

letters by residents regarding their concerns for safety along the half-mile portion of Holland Glade Road. The link was shared with Sussex County Council when they requested an application for the Bikeway Innovation Grant and wanted to make sure the link was included in the application and wanted to share it with the Council. Scott responded that this application is under the second item under new business in the agenda that Fran Cardaci will be discussing. If this application should move forward the grant working group will be meeting with Sussex County and the other applicants. It was also requested if John Fiori could prepare an executive summary for all the applications. The working group will have a better education about the issue in addition with the information Maureen is providing of their evaluation of the grant applications.

III. New Business

Bicycle Safety in Driver Education Program

Michael Wagner presented to the Council Lesson 12 in their student driving education curriculum and this part of the lesson concerning safety tips on pedestrians and bicycles. There are introductory questions, objectives for pedestrians, bicyclists and micro-mobility users. For bicyclists, there is information for the students, and a bicycle awareness video. The videos are not too long that students begin to zone out but are quick shots of things. There is a video of an actual bike lane in Delaware that a teacher can have a discussion with students about where you should see a bicyclist. On the final exam there is not just one question about sharing the road with bicycles but there are several, which there are 100 questions on the final exam. Other information on sharing the road with bicyclists is spread through the curriculum but there is a specific section on this subject. All instructors in the state have access to use these lessons. There will be a revision period, where driver education teachers can talk about what went well and what needs to be revised.

2024 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant

Fran Cardaci presented to the Council that six applications were received including the application that was discussed earlier in the meeting from Sussex County. However, the application from Sussex County was submitted a couple of days after the deadline, where it is up to the Council in full to determine whether to accept that application. The innovation grant working group is making the recommendation to Council to accept the application. Walt Bryan made the motion to accept the Sussex County cycling innovation grant application. James Wilson seconded. All agreed. No one opposed. Fran then requested John Fiori to begin scheduling the meeting with Sussex County. Fran indicated the meetings will begin on October 14th.

IV. Old Business

Update of Feasibility of Georgetown to Lewes Trail Crossing SR9 at Cool Spring

Walt Bryan presented to the Council that he has talked to Todd Lawson with Sussex County and Mark Chura with Sussex Land Trust, where Todd Lawsons had concerns with a tunnel at the crossing at Cool Spring due to the water table being high. Walt recommends that in 2025, Sussex County apply for a grant to do a feasibility study to establish the water table level which will establish the feasibility of installing a tunnel as opposed to a bridge.

Priority Bikeway Projects Update

John Fiori had no updates.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Scot Hoffman introduced agenda topics for the December Council meeting which were: vote to award the Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant, discussion on DelDOT's revised roundabout design guide memorandum; bicycle detector loops and any updates on the Georgetown to Lewes Trail Crossing SR 9 at Cool Spring. John Fiori added that nominations for the 2025 Chair and Vice-Chair will be requested with voting occurring at the February 2025 Council meeting.

Walt Bryan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Hartley seconded the motion at 6:15 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held as a hybrid of in-person and virtually.

To view the Delaware Bicycle Council video on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/zKBXdiJiBM8>