



Delaware Bicycle Council
August 5, 2026
Zoom Webinar
Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Nathan J. Attard, DNREC Parks & Rec Representative
Lauren Butscher, Division of Public Health
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Ian Friedland, Sussex County Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Marty Lessner, Council on Transportation
Wendy Polasko, DelDOT Representative
Michael Wagner, Department of Education
Michael Tyler, At-Large Representative
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative

Members Absent

Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Amanda Kelly, New Castle County Representative
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety

Guests

John Bare, Bike DE
Kevin Conlon, Cape Gazette
J.T. Fleming, Public
Wesley Hicks, DelDOT Planning
Ray Quillen, Public
Lisa Rice, Public
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Karen Zakarian, Public

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Scott Hoffman. John Fiori took a roll call of the Council members present, and quorum was met.

Minutes/Agenda Review:

The Council reviewed the meeting minutes of June 3rd. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Michael Wagner seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

II. Public Comment

John Bare raised concerns about a proposed trail etiquette signage, specifically questioning the legal basis for the "Bicycle and Stop Sign" designation. In 2017 Delaware was the first state in over 35 years to pass a stop-as-yield law, where cyclists will treat stop signs as yield signs. He referenced an April 2022 letter from Scott Hoffman requesting a different approach to stop sign deployment of bicycle traffic to avoid encouraging disrespectful behavior toward traffic signs. The stop sign referendum as SR1-16-DE, nobody knows what it means yet, some people have claimed that it is a bicycle-specific stop sign, which means bikes must stop. If you want people to stop, use the R-11, the red sign and hope DelDOT reconsiders how that is being worded. John Bare also noted that while Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are permitted on bike paths, Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited, though he questioned the process for this restriction since he was unaware of the required public hearing.

III. New Business

Review & Vote on FY27 Delaware Bicycle Council Budget

John Fiori presented the proposed FY27 Delaware Bicycle Council Budget, where the total budget is \$70,000.00 that consists of \$900 for Travel, \$52,000 for Contractual Services that includes the \$50,000 grant and \$17,100 for Supplies for the purchase of bicycle lights and parts to keep the bike garage operating. Michael Wagner made the motion to accept the FY27 Delaware Bicycle Council Budget. Tom Hartley seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

Truth in E-Bike Marketing Act

Representative Kamela Smith presented the Truth in E-bike legislation, which requires sellers to provide a clear written disclosure of the legal classification to consumers. The act also prohibits mopeds from operating on public pathways, bike lanes, and sidewalks. The act also requires that crashes involving e-bikes or mopeds be identified on the state's crash reporting website. James Wilson, who helped draft the legislation, explained that it addresses consumer confusion about the difference between electric bicycles and higher-speed e-mopeds or e-motorcycles, citing numerous incidents where parents thought they were purchasing regular bicycles for their children. The Truth in E-Bike Marketing Act is not the last thing that we are going to have to do, but it is a big first step. Also, positive feedback has been received from People for Bikes where they indicated Delaware is the first state to make it illegal to market and sell electric mopeds or electric motorcycles like electric bikes. Scott Hoffman asked Representative Smith if she could provide any insight into what other legislators' opinions are in terms of e-bikes in general. Representative

Smith responded that her colleagues were learning a lot from the truth in e-bike legislation but are becoming more aware of it. It was a shock for a lot of people to know that this was happening here and across the nation.

Michael Wagner wanted to make a follow-up comment pertaining to driver education and the links John Fiori sent on e-bike safety. During their annual Current Issues in Driver Education Summer PD, those videos were introduced where the teachers indicated they need to go back into the curriculum and add focus points that instructors really need to highlight the e-bike situation.

E-Bike Guidance and Policy

John Fiori wanted to inform the Council that DelDOT met with their consultant to kick off the E-Bike Policy Development project. The goals of this project are to research best practices across the country to develop guidance for planning, operation, and regulations of e-bikes and other battery-powered motorized devices for recommendation to Delaware. The information will be used to recommend enforcement practices, develop appropriate speed guidance for different contexts among shared-use paths in Delaware, and address areas of concern within Delaware's micromobility policy and classification. As the project progresses the consultant will be making a presentation at future Council meetings. Also, DelDOT has created a new e-bike page on the DelDOT website and will be open soon. The website will have information on the classes of e-bikes, how to safely operate e-bikes as well as other safety information on bicycles. This website is not a resolve-everything-at-once type deal, where will be able to add information when available. John will inform the Council when the link is open for the Council to review. James Wilson had concerns over the effort and funding for the project as this topic was discussed earlier in the meeting, where the more urgent safety problem has nothing to do with e-bikes, and has everything to do with electric mopeds and electric motorcycles. Scott Hoffman responded that there is still confusion among the three classes of e-bikes and if the consultant can do a presentation, that is the opportunity for the Council to comment. Nate Attard did make a follow up comment that this is basically creating a communication strategy for DelDOT around e-bikes, so others work on legislation in the future, at least there will be an authoritative source to reference.

Trail Etiquette Sign

John Fiori wanted to inform the Council that along the Georgetown to Lewes Trail within the City of Lewes there were numerous trail etiquette signs installed. These signs were placed under the stop signs along the trail where over time many of these signs went missing or damaged. It was requested that those signs be replaced, where with new laws in effect and concerns with e-bikes, John created a revised trail etiquette sign. John indicated this sign has not been reviewed internally and has not been approved. The goal is when this sign is finalized, that not only could they be installed along the trail, but to have some of these signs placed in the kiosk panels. Once the official draft is ready, it will be presented to the Council.

IV. Old Business

No Mopeds Signs on Trails/Pathways

The Council discussed signage issues regarding electric vehicles and mopeds on trails, with Marty Lessner highlighting pushbacks from DelDOT and noting that current Delaware State Park

regulations prohibit e-bikes unless written permission is obtained. Nate Attard revealed that a regulatory proposal is being considered to allow Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on trails designated for bicycle use, with a hearing occurring the evening of August 5th. The Council expressed concern about the lack of notification regarding the proposed regulation change and agreed to address this issue in future meetings, with Nate Attard committing to bring appropriate personnel to explain the decision-making process.

Tom Hartley made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Marty Lessner seconded the motion at 6:30 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 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/eh2DY7PyXto>