

**Members Present**

Jessie Welch, Co-Chair	Governor's Appointee
Helen Arthur	DHSS
David Bartoo	DNREC
Marsha Carson	DOS ADA Title II Coordinator
Lauren Devore	Sussex County
Ken Grant	AAA
Richard Klepner	Office of Highway Safety
Nicole Majeski	DelDOT
William Payne	Caregiver
Louisa Phillips	AHA
John Sisson	Wilmapco/DTC
Todd Webb	DelDOT

**Members Absent**

John McNeal, Chair	State Council for Persons with Disabilities
Michael Wagner	Department of Education
Doug Denison	Department of State
Bill Jiron Jr.	Governor's Appointee
Reed Macmillan	Dover/Kent MPO

**DelDOT Support Staff**

Farzana Atique	McCormick Taylor
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**Guests**

Annie Cordo	DOJ
Riley Granger	DelDOT
Jared Kauffman	DTC-Planning
Jonathan Kirsch	AHA
Chip Kneavel	DelDOT
Tom Lawless	DelDOT
Paul Moser	DelDOT
Tom Nickel	DelDOT
Jim Pappas	DelDOT
Adam Weiser	WRA

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Council Member, Nicole Majeski.

## II. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (April 23, 2019)

Upon the motion of Mr. John Sisson and seconded by Ms. Louisa Phillips, the minutes for the April 23, 2019 meeting were approved.

## III. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

**Built Environment:** Co-Chair Tom Nickel reported that in the last Built Environment Subcommittee meeting, Bernie Gilbert from DelDOT discussed the sidewalk inventories in Delaware. In the meeting it was discussed that there are 57 municipalities in Delaware and there needs to be a collaborative effort to have municipalities establish their sidewalk inventories to get a better idea of the sidewalk inventories for the whole state. Mr. Nickel mentioned that an action item on this issue is on the agenda for this Pedestrian Council meeting.

**Education and Enforcement:** Chair Chip Kneavel, reported that in the last Education and Enforcement meeting there were discussions about the observance of Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month in October. Action items from the Sub-Committee are on the agenda for this meeting.

**Legislative and Policy:** In the absence of Chair CR McLeod, Ms. Farzana Atique informed the committee that in the last sub-committee meeting held on May 21<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Atique gave a presentation on comparison of pedestrian laws among different states. Ms. Majeski inquired whether the discussion was on the vulnerable law. Ms. Atique informed that the presentation was on Delaware Code (Title 21). Ms. Atique mentioned that Delaware, as well as other states, used Uniform Vehicle Code for establishing pedestrian laws, however many states have modified their laws or added clarification so that the laws are easy to understand. Ms. Atique informed that Lt. Tracy Condon and Mark Luszcz were not present during the presentation. It was decided that Ms. Atique will give another presentation to them to have their input regarding any proposed change in the language of Delaware Code.

Mr. William Payne requested that the sub-committee look into manuals to see whether there are any rules regarding providing sidewalk for pedestrians at farm lands. He remarked that in Delaware there are large size farm lands which do not have any sidewalk or bike path along the property and thereby creating gaps on the sidewalk network.

## IV. PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES UPDATE

Mr. Klepner gave an update on pedestrian fatalities. Mr. Klepner said that at this point we are at 15, last year we were at 13 pedestrian fatalities. 13 fatalities occurred in New Castle County whereas the other 2 occurred in Sussex County. 87% of the fatalities occurred during dark hours and 50% occurred in dark and unlit condition. The fatalities happened on high speed multi-lane roadways.

## V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. The first action item of the meeting was brought by the Built and Environment Sub-committee. Mr. Nickel informed that the Sub-committee recommends that Municipalities need to understand the ways to obtain the funding to start working on sidewalk inventories and thereby establishing lists to prioritize sidewalk needs. Mr. Dave Bartoo informed that the trail and sidewalk database that he uses has good information on sidewalks. Mr. Nickel informed that DelDOT has a sidewalk and trail database, but they are 8-10 years old. Mr. Todd Webb also mentioned that Municipalities lack funding to do work on ADA self-assessment and considers this action item as a good recommendation. He mentioned that City of Milford has been looking into developing pedestrian inventories, but they lack resources to do so. Ms. Welch asked whether there is information as to which municipalities have sidewalk inventories. Ms. Atique informed that upon recommendation from Mr. Nickel she has met with Mr. Matheu Carter to have information on the current list of Municipalities in Delaware, having any form of sidewalk inventories. Ms. Atique mentioned that Mr. Carter provided a draft list and will provide additional information including which database can be shared with DelDOT and the Pedestrian Council Committee.

Upon the motion of Mr. Payne and seconded by Mr. Webb, the Council approved the motion to endorse the recommendation from the Built Environment Subcommittee for DelDOT to send out letters to municipalities encouraging them to apply for funding from their MPOs to develop pedestrian plans that will include lists of prioritized sidewalk needs.

- B. Upon the motion of Mr. Sisson and seconded by Ms. Majeski, the Council approved the motion to endorse the plan of the Education and Enforcement Subcommittee to conduct pedestrian safety events during the month of October, which is Pedestrian Awareness Month. Mr. Kneavel mentioned that there will be a pedestrian safety event in each county and the venues mentioned in the agenda are suggested venues, but other venues can be added.
- C. The third action item is from the Education and Enforcement Subcommittee. During the discussion of the action item, Ms. Welch inquired about the status of the comic book that was supposed to be distributed to school children. Mr. Klepner informed that due to copyright issues the distribution of the pedestrian safety comic book got delayed. But this has been resolved and it is expected to be given to school children in the coming school year.

Mr. Kneavel gave details about the reflective gym bags and noted that those bags are made of nylon/polyester material. Upon the motion of Mr. Sisson and seconded by Ms. Carson, the Council approved the motion to endorse the plan for FY2020 for the Education and Enforcement Subcommittee to purchase items for Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month in the amount of \$5,500. Items requested are 2,500 pcs of reflective gym bags with the message "Walk Smart, Walk Bright".

## **VI. US 13 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STUDY SCARBOROUGH ROAD TO PUNCHEON RUN CONNECTOR**

Mr. Adam Weiser from WRA presented the US 13 Pedestrian Safety Study of Scarborough Road to Puncheon Run Connector. The studied US 13 Corridor is a 5.5-mile Urban Minor Arterial roadway. Scarborough Road to Bay Road consists of a 6-lane divided roadway whereas Bay Road to Puncheon Run Connector consists of a 4 lane divided highway. The speed limit within the corridor varies from 35 mph to 50 mph. Some of the major pedestrian generators are Delaware State University and Wilmington University, Dover Downs Race Track and Casino, Dover Mall etc.

Mr. Weiser informed that pedestrian counts were conducted in October/ November of 2018. There was a total of 52 pedestrian crashes and 34 bike crashes for the corridor from January 2008 to December 2018, of which there were 9 pedestrian fatalities and 2 bicyclist fatalities. Mr. Weiser noted that there was a spike of crashes during noon time and also high number of crashes during 4 pm to 12 am. Mr. Weiser noted that there was also a high occurrence of pedestrian and bike crashes during the weekends.

Mr. Weiser discussed some of the proposed improvements such as fill in the gaps in sidewalk throughout the corridor, reduce lane widths and introduce road diets, coordination with DTC for bus stop assessment, and assessment of barrier to minimize uncontrolled midblock crossings. Mr. Payne inquired whether barriers are being considered as a safety measure. Mr. Weiser informed that they were still working on that aspect and studying different crashworthy pedestrian barriers.

Mr. Weiser went on to mention some of the location specific assessments. Some of the assessment considers adding a fourth leg crosswalk at certain intersections. Mr. Weiser ended the corridor study presentation by listing the next steps, which will include coordination with DTC, Dover police, complete studies and document results by the end of 2019. The findings are expected to be presented to the stakeholders in early 2020.

Mr. Weiser next reviewed the Pedestrian Origin-Destination data. WRA reviewed 48 fatal pedestrian crashes from 2017 and 2018. Origin and destination information was provided in 20 records, origin only in 7 crash reports, and no information in the remaining 12 records. Mr. Weiser explained that using Google Earth crash location, origin and destinations were spotted. The purpose of the study was to determine if conclusions could be drawn from the data. Mr. Weiser shared an example where the crash location was on Philadelphia Pike, south of Holly Hill Road. Origin noted in the data report was a pedestrian exited a DART bus on Philadelphia Pike. The pedestrian ran across the roadway to catch another DART bus on Philadelphia Pike Southbound when the pedestrian was struck. The information was useful as the analyst was aware why the pedestrian crossed the midblock, and as a countermeasure could focus on information

about crossing locations at the bus stop. Bus stop relocation could also be considered. Mr. Weiser also shared unusable O-D data information where conclusions about pedestrian paths cannot be drawn based on origin and destination.

Mr. Weiser proposed some recommendations to improve compliance and data reliability. The recommendations are as follows:

- Changing the name of the data fields to “Origin” and “Apparent Destination”
- Providing Tool Tip within E-Crash for each field
- Providing additional law enforcement training
- Preparing one-page “training” handout to officers
- Continuing to review data trends and monitoring data quality

The full presentation will be published on the Pedestrian Council’s website.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am. The next meeting is on October 22, 2019 at 10:00 am.