



2024 Annual Report

Delaware Pedestrian Council

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Pedestrian Council and Subcommittee Members

Delaware Statewide Pedestrian Council Members

Organization	Name
The Secretary of the Department of Transportation	Maureen Kelley (Alternate for Nicole Majeski)
The Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security	Sharon Bryson (Alternate for Nathaniel McQueen)
The Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities	Benjamin Shrader
The Americans with Disabilities Act Title II coordinator with the Department of Transportation	Thomas Nickel
The Americans with Disabilities Act Title II coordinator with the Department of State	Kara Colpo
The Chief Executive Officer of the Delaware Transit Organization	John Sisson
The General Manager of the Department of Land Use of New Castle County	Antoni Sekowski (Alternate for Charuni Patibanda)
The Director of the Department of Land Use and Planning for the City of Wilmington	Vacant
The Director of the Department of Planning Services for Kent County	Kris Connelly (Alternate for Sarah Keifer)
The Director of the Sussex County Planning & Zoning Office	Jamie Whitehouse
The Executive Director of the League of Local Governments	Dr. Kevin Spence
(Governor Appointed) resident of New Castle County	Michael Smith
(Governor Appointed) resident of Kent County	Brian Goff
(Governor Appointed) resident of Sussex County	Bill Payne
(Governor Appointed) citizen with physical disability	William Jiron Jr.
(Governor Appointed) citizen with developmental disability	Omar Noor
(Governor Appointed) citizen with visual impairment	Lloyd Schmitz

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Land Use Subcommittee Members

Position	Name	Affiliation
Chair	Michael Smith	Governor Appointed Resident from New Castle County
Council Member	Jamie Whitehouse	Sussex County Planning and Zoning
Council Member	Bill Payne	Governor Appointed Resident from Sussex County
Non-Council Member	Jared Kauffman	DART
Non-Council Member	Anthony Aglio	DelDOT
Non-Council Member	Kelly Valencik	Delaware RASCL, DelDOT
Non-Council Member	Sabrina Schultz	DNREC

Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee Members

Position	Name	Affiliation
Chair	Jared Kauffman	DART
Council Member	Bill Payne	Governor Appointed Resident from Sussex County
Non-Council Member	Robin Martin	Office of Civil Rights ADA Compliance Specialist
Non-Council Member	Malasia Reid	DART
Non-Council Member	Brian Goff	Chesapeake Utilities
Non-Council Member	Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Non-Council Member	Megan Niddrie	OSHS
Non-Council Member	Chip Kneavel	DelDOT

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Introduction

The Pedestrian Council (“Council”) was reestablished and codified in 2023 to assist in the goal of eliminating pedestrian fatalities and make walking a safe, convenient, efficient, and comfortable means of transportation in Delaware. (84 Del. Laws, c. 58, § 1.)

The Council shall do all of the following:

- (1) Advise the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and the Commissioner of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security on the following issues:
 - a. Identifying gaps in the system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks in an effort to create a system of sidewalks and pathways that is continuous and interconnected.
 - b. Designing standards for crosswalks, sidewalks, and pathways, ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, [42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.] and considering the practicality of completing projects using the standards.
 - c. Implementing the Department of Transportation’s Sidewalk and Multi-Use Path Maintenance Policy.
 - d. Reviewing of traffic rules to help support a safe pedestrian environment.
 - e. Accessibility and connectivity in an effort to make transit a more viable option for all Delaware residents.
 - f. Developing strategies for pedestrian safety education and awareness.
- (2) Assist the Department of Transportation with the periodic reevaluation and implementation of the Department of Transportation’s Statewide Pedestrian Action Plan and make recommendations regarding the prioritization of pedestrian infrastructure improvements, especially within Level 1 and Level 2 Investment Areas, as the areas are determined under § 9101 of Title 29.
- (3) Provide advice or recommendations to other appropriate agencies or municipalities.
- (4) Assist with annual pedestrian safety events and outreach initiatives.
- (5) Review facts and circumstances of Delaware pedestrian fatalities on a quarterly basis. The review should identify trends, if any, and make recommendations to improve pedestrian safety.
- (6) Submit an annual report of the Council’s activities and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council. The Council shall also provide copies of the annual

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report to each affected state agency or municipality and make the report available on the Council's website.

- a. The Council may form a subcommittee or multiple subcommittees to assist in completion of the Council's duties under this chapter. A subcommittee may include members of the public or from another state agency or nongovernmental organization relating to relevant areas of expertise. A subcommittee member is not required to be a council member.

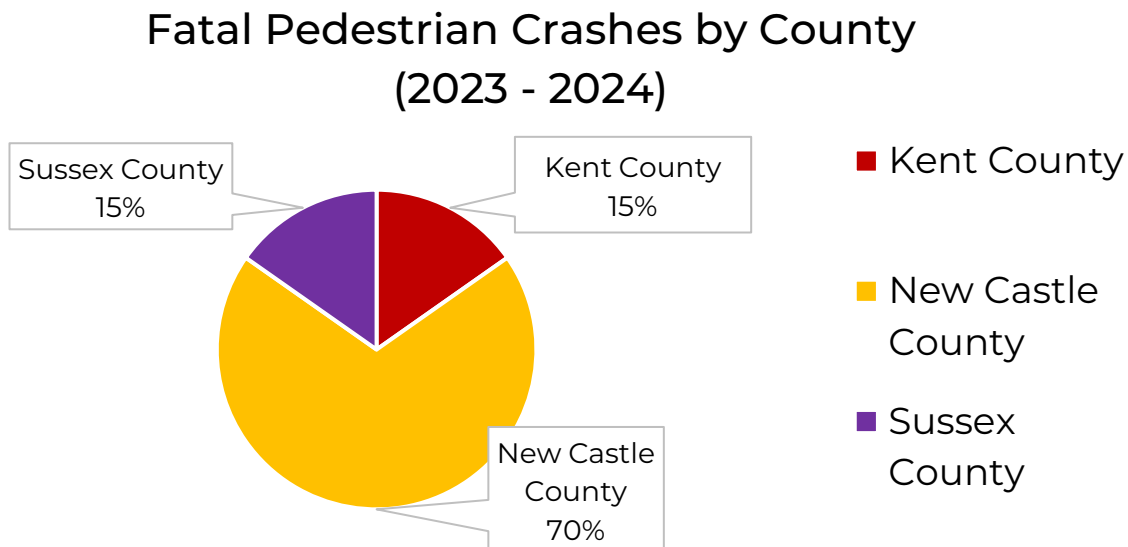
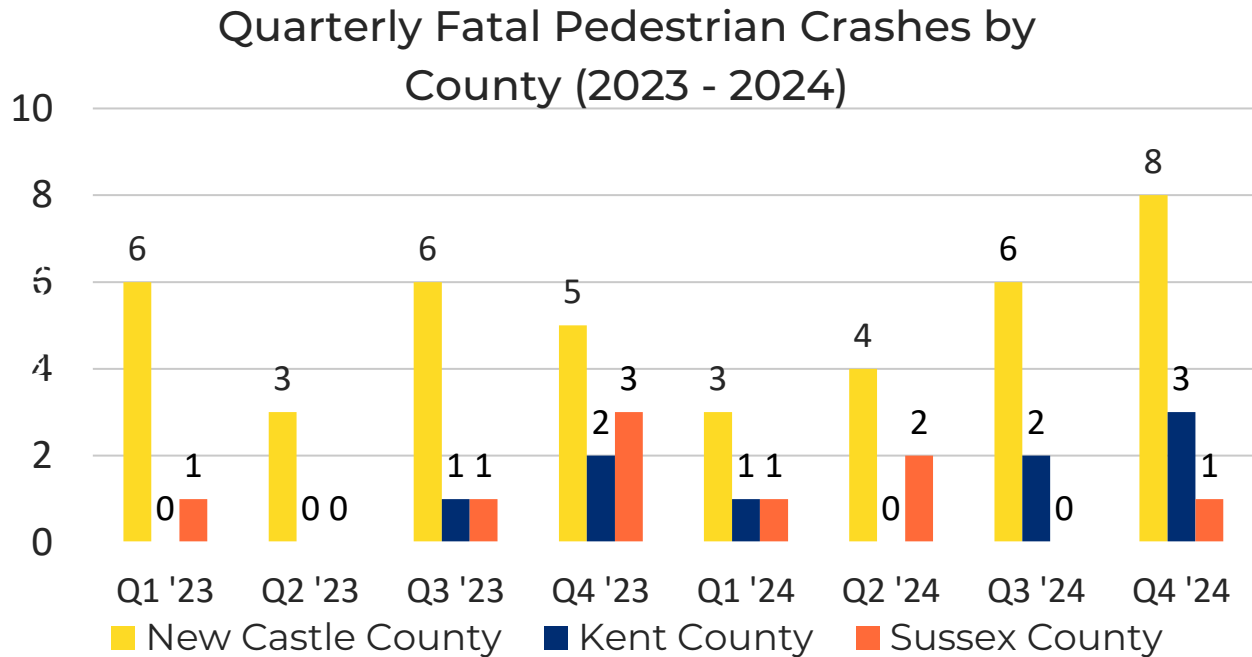
(84 Del. Laws, c. 58, § 1.)

Pedestrian Fatalities

In 2024, there were a total of 36 fatal pedestrian crashes in Delaware. For comparison, in 2023 there were 28 fatal pedestrian crashes in the state. During Quarter 4 of 2023 (October through December), ten fatal pedestrian crashes occurred in Delaware, with five fatalities in New Castle County, two fatalities in Kent County, and three fatalities in Sussex County. Quarter 1 of 2024 saw a total of five fatal pedestrian crashes, with three fatalities in New Castle County, one fatality in Kent County, and one fatality in Sussex County. During Quarter 2 of 2024 there were a total of six fatal pedestrian crashes, with four fatalities in New Castle County, zero fatalities in Kent County, and two fatalities in Sussex County. Quarter 3 of 2024 had a total of eight fatal pedestrian crashes, with six fatalities in New Castle County, two fatalities in Kent County, and zero fatalities in Sussex County. During Quarter 4 of 2024 there were a total of twelve fatal pedestrian crashes, with eight fatalities in New Castle County, three fatalities in Kent County, and one fatality in Sussex County.

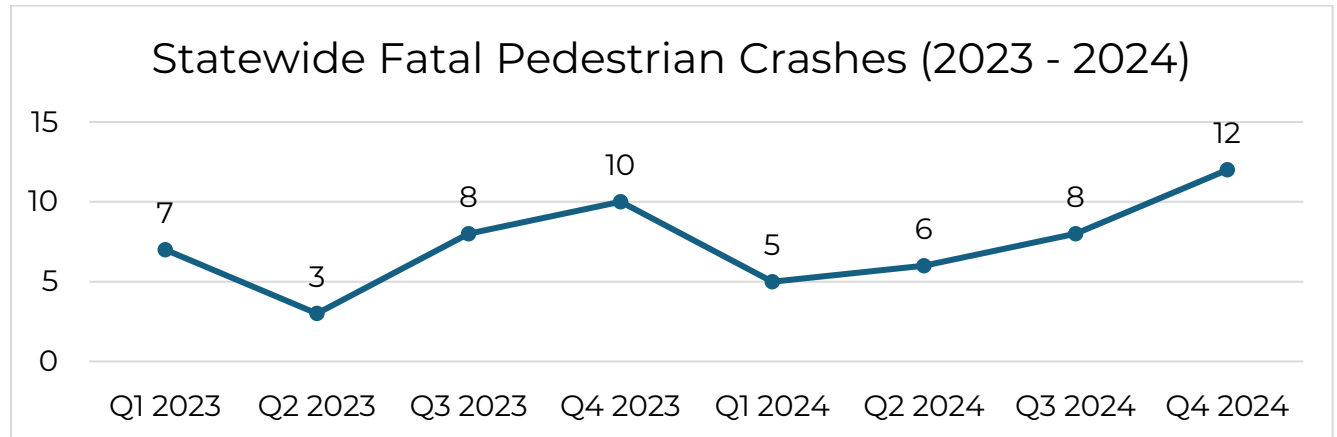
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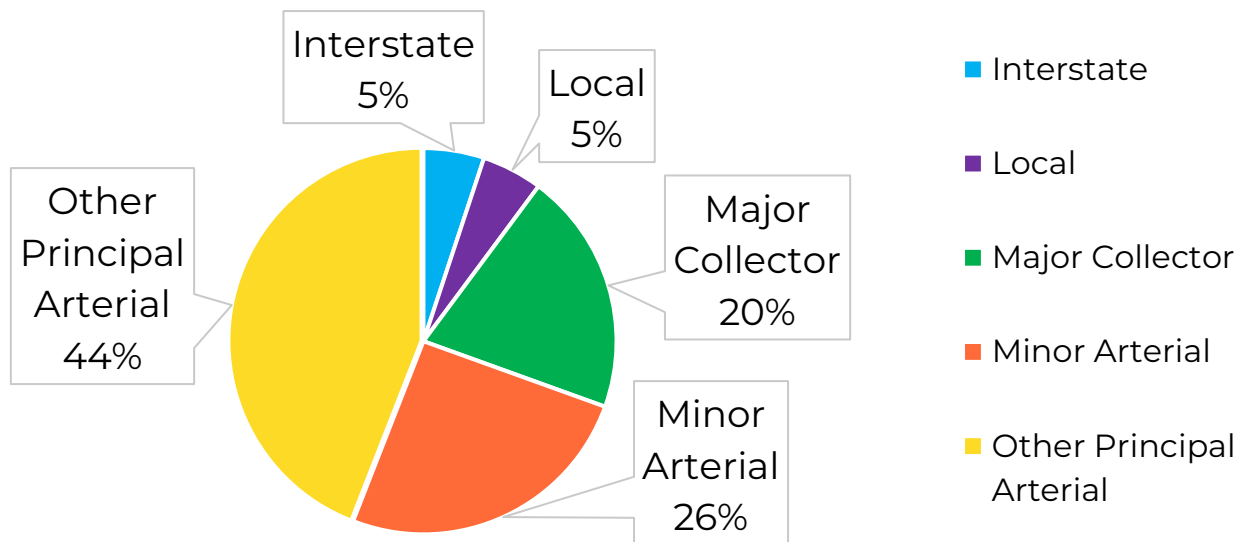


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Fatal Pedestrian Crashes by Roadway Classification of Crash Area (2023 - 2024)



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Summary of Council Accomplishments

In 2024, the Pedestrian Council was fully established with all 17 designated members joining. Below is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Council in its first year:

- Voted and appointed a chair to the Council.
- Created Pedestrian Council website with links and helpful information for the public to understand Council purpose and ways to be involved.
- Approved Council funds to support DelDOT's 'Be DelAWARE' Campaign by providing pedestrian safety items such as reflective bags, lights, and other similar items to help increase pedestrian visibility.
- Created two subcommittees: Land Use Coordination Subcommittee and a Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee.
- Appointed a chair to the Land Use Coordination Subcommittee.
- The council received a variety of presentations and trainings to help orient them to their new roles and better understand responsibilities and roles in pedestrian planning in Delaware. The presentations and trainings focused on the following:
 - Understanding different state and local governmental roles in pedestrian planning and investments.
 - Crosswalk design requirements and spacing
 - Passing of the 2024 Everyone Gets Home Act and its implications on pedestrian safety and mobility
 - Speed Management of Delaware's Roads – How DelDOT sets speed limits
- Reviewed and provided comments on DelDOT's Draft Pedestrian Action Plan Phase 2 Plan document.
- Began planning for a guest speaker from Smart Growth America for the January 2025 meeting to provide additional training to council members.
- Began planning an in-person public event for 2025 at the Dover Library to invite legislators and the public to learn more about the council and their goals.

The Pedestrian Council meets on a re-occurring quarterly basis. The meeting agendas and notes from each Council meeting are posted to the Council website:

https://deldot.gov/Programs/pedestrian_council/index.shtml. Below is a summary of the meetings held in 2024 with a summary of meeting topics and outcomes of each meeting.

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Pedestrian Council Meeting #1 – January 24, 2024

During the first meeting, the Council reviewed the history, purpose, and logistics of the Delaware Statewide Pedestrian Council. The group shared their names and what they plan to achieve on the Council. Common themes included: improving pedestrian movement throughout cities and neighborhoods, working more collaboratively with DelDOT, and creating walkable communities. Additionally, the Council reviewed the fatal pedestrian crash data from Quarter 4 of 2023.

Pedestrian Council Meeting #2 – April 24, 2024

At the second meeting, the Council reviewed Quarter 1 2024 fatal pedestrian crash data, appointed Maureen Kelley as chair, and discussed what the various agencies who make up the Council are doing to prevent pedestrian fatalities, such as DTC and OHS. The Council discussed the dangers of mid-block crossings, as well as the importance of accessibility in pedestrian infrastructure. The Council voted to approve allocating the 2024 Council funds to support DelDOT's 'Be DeLAWARE' Campaign by providing pedestrian safety items such as reflective bags, lights, and other similar items to help increase pedestrian visibility.

Pedestrian Council Meeting #3 – July 25, 2024

During the third meeting, the Council reviewed the fatal pedestrian crash data from Quarter 2 of 2024, welcomed James Wilson, a guest speaker who shared an update on the 2024 Everyone Gets Home Act, and established their interest in creating subcommittees, including a Land Use Coordination subcommittee and a Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee. The Council was also provided with a copy of DelDOT's Draft Pedestrian Action Plan Phase 2 document for their review.

Pedestrian Council Meeting #4 – October 23, 2024

At the fourth meeting, the Council reviewed fatal pedestrian crash data from Quarter 3 of 2024, reviewed a recap of pedestrian crash data from Q1 of 2023 through Q3 of 2024, and received detailed pedestrian fatality data updates from Sharon Bryson (OHSD) and Michael Reader (Delaware State Police). The Council was given an update on the establishment of the Land Use Coordination and Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Engagement subcommittees and discussed potential action items moving forward. Sonya LaGrand from the DelDOT Traffic Section then presented an overview of how DelDOT determines speed limits. The Council decided to bring in Smart Growth America as a virtual guest speaker at the upcoming January meeting. Discussed hosting as an in-person public event in Spring of 2025 at the Dover Library to invite legislators and the public to learn more about the council and their goals for 2025.

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Subcommittees

In 2024, the Pedestrian Council formed two subcommittees: the Land Use Subcommittee, and the Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee.

Land Use Subcommittee

DRAFT Mission Statement: We strive to create vibrant, walkable communities that prioritize safety, accessibility, and the well-being of all residents, while fostering environmental stewardship and equitable land use development.

DRAFT Goals:

- **Safe Streets for All:** Ensure that all land use decisions prioritize pedestrian safety by advocating for the implementation of traffic calming measures, safe crossing infrastructure, and well-lit pathways, reducing pedestrian-related accidents and fostering a secure walking environment for all residents.
- **Promote Walkable Communities:** Advocate for land use policies that prioritize pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and reduce car dependency.
- **Enhance Accessibility:** Ensure that all land use planning considers the needs of individuals of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds.
- **Foster Sustainable Development:** Encourage the integration of green spaces, sustainable design, and environmentally responsible practices in land use decisions.
- **Support Equitable Growth:** Advocate for land use strategies that promote social equity, ensuring that all communities benefit from safe and accessible pedestrian environments.
- **Collaborate and Educate:** Work closely with local governments, planners, and communities to share best practices and raise awareness about the importance of pedestrian-focused land use planning.

Land Use Subcommittee Action Items

- Create recommendations on how state agencies and municipalities can better identify gaps in the system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks to create a system of sidewalks and pathways that is continuous and interconnected.
- Identify recommendations on how to improve accessibility and connectivity in an effort to make transit a more viable option for all Delaware residents.

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Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee

DRAFT Mission Statement: We aim to amplify diverse voices, raise awareness about pedestrian safety, and empower residents with the knowledge and tools to prioritize pedestrian safety in their lives and neighborhoods.

DRAFT Goals:

- **Increase Public Awareness:** Develop and implement outreach campaigns focused on pedestrian safety, educating the public on best practices for creating safe walking environments.
- **Engage Communities:** Actively involve residents in safety initiatives, ensuring their voices and concerns are central to the development of pedestrian-friendly policies and infrastructure.
- **Promote Safety Education:** Collaborate with schools, local organizations, and municipalities to deliver safety education programs that target all age groups, fostering a culture of pedestrian safety statewide.
- **Advocate for Safer Streets:** Work with local and state officials to promote policies and infrastructure improvements that enhance pedestrian safety, such as traffic calming measures, safe crossings, and improved signage.
- **Empower Vulnerable Populations:** Focus outreach efforts on vulnerable and underserved communities, ensuring they have access to the resources and support needed to advocate for safer pedestrian environments.

Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee Action Items

- Organize an in-person public engagement event with a presentation from guest speaker Smart Growth America at the Dover Public Library to encourage members of the public to become more involved in the Delaware Pedestrian Council.
- Plan an event directed at Delaware General Assembly Members to review the Pedestrian Council's achievements and review actions from the Annual Report.

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Recommendations

The table below provides a summary of actions items and progress the Council has made on the requirements established in the Delaware Code (84 Del. Laws, c. 58, § 1.). As this is the Council’s first year, not all items listed in the Delaware Code have been achieved but the Council will continue to progress on these items in 2025.

Senate Bill No. 50 Requirement	2024 Progress	2025 Recommendation
Identifying gaps in the system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks in an effort to create a system of sidewalks and pathways that is continuous and interconnected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has addressed this action in discussions at Council meetings but has not fully formulated a recommendation on this item. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to continue exploring recommendations on how state agencies and municipalities can better identify gaps in the system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks to create a system of sidewalks and pathways that is continuous and interconnected. This item will be explored as part of the Land Use Coordination Subcommittee.
Designing standards for crosswalks, sidewalks, and pathways, ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and considering the practicality of completing projects using the standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA requirements have come up at Council meetings with members inquiring what the requirements are for DelDOT, specifically PROWAG updates. The Americans with Disabilities Act Title II coordinator with the Department of Transportation has provided information to council members on ADA requirements as pertinent to these discussions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to continue working with Americans with Disabilities Act Title II coordinators to identify areas of improvement.
Implementing the Department of Transportation’s Sidewalk and Multi-Use Path Maintenance Policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action progressed in 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DelDOT should provide a presentation on the existing Sidewalk and Multi-Use Path Maintenance Policy and explain how it is implemented in 2025 to the Council. After the presentation the Council will review the policy and make recommendations to modify the existing policy language (if deemed necessary) as well as make recommendations to change how the policy is implemented by DelDOT.
Review of traffic rules to help support a safe pedestrian environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action progressed in 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian Council to assign task force or subcommittee of Council to perform review of traffic rules to identify any legal changes needed to better support a safer pedestrian environment.
Accessibility and connectivity in an effort to make transit a more viable option for all Delaware residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item is being progressed among the Land Use Coordination Subcommittee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Coordination Subcommittee to provide recommendations to Council on how to improve accessibility and connectivity to make transit a more viable option for all Delaware residents.
Developing strategies for pedestrian safety education and awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council used funds to support DelDOT’s ‘Be DeLAWARE’ Campaign by providing pedestrian safety items such as reflective bags, lights, and other similar items to help increase pedestrian visibility. Item is being further progressed among the Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee to provide recommendation to Council on how to develop strategies for pedestrian safety education and awareness. Then work with state agencies and local governments to implement recommendations.
Assist the Department of Transportation with the periodic reevaluation and implementation of the DOT’s Statewide Pedestrian Action Plan and make recommendations regarding the prioritization of pedestrian infrastructure improvements, especially within Level 1 and Level 2 Investment Areas, as the areas are determined under § 9101 of Title 29.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on DelDOT’s Draft Pedestrian Action Plan Phase 2 Plan document. Council has discussed potential to create a pedestrian priority area program as outlined in the Pedestrian Action Plan which would prioritize pedestrian infrastructure improvements in areas with high pedestrian crashes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to continue exploring how to advocate and work with DelDOT to create a pedestrian priority area program targeted at improving pedestrian safety in high crash areas based on data driven approach.

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Provide advice or recommendations to other appropriate agencies or municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No action progressed in 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members of the Land Use Subcommittee, Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee, and the general Council to help to identify agencies and/or municipalities to work with.
Review facts and circumstances of Delaware pedestrian fatalities on a quarterly basis. The review should identify trends, if any, and make recommendations to improve pedestrian safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fatal pedestrian crash data is reviewed on a quarterly basis as part of every Council meeting. The Council reviews trends in the data and has been working to get more information regarding the facts and circumstances of each crash. The Department of Safety and Homeland Security began providing a breakdown of the pedestrian crashes explaining the nature of the crashes including what is known about why the pedestrian was in the location that they were and any contributing circumstances that led to the crash at the October 2024 Council meeting. DSHS will continue to provide this level of information as well as a report for the Council to review at each meeting to be able to better understand why the crashes are happening, so they are able to provide better insight and recommendations to improve pedestrian safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DSHS Council Member to provide a report and presentation at each Council meeting presenting the facts and circumstances of Delaware pedestrian fatalities on a quarterly basis. The Council will review this information, look to identify trends, if any, and make recommendations to improve pedestrian safety to the appropriate state or local agency responsible for the transportation facility where the pedestrian was killed.
The Council may form a subcommittee or multiple subcommittees to assist in completion of the Council’s duties under this chapter. A subcommittee may include members of the public or from another state agency or non-governmental organization relating to relevant areas of expertise. A subcommittee member is not required to be a Council member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Council formed two subcommittees in 2024: the Land Use Subcommittee, and the Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee.A chair has been voted on and approved for the Land Use Subcommittee. The subcommittee has met twice in 2024 and plans to meet monthly. The subcommittee is working to finalize their mission statement, goals, and action items for 2025.A chair has not yet been identified for the Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee, but several interested members have been identified. The Council is working to identify a chair for this subcommittee so that the group can begin making progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to support the Land Use Subcommittee, working with them to identify recommendations and methods to improve pedestrian safety through modifications and improvements regarding land use planning, regulations, and processes in Delaware.Identify a Chair for the Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Education Subcommittee.
Submit an annual report of the Council’s activities and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council. The Council shall also provide copies of the annual report to each affected state agency or municipality and make the report available on the Council’s website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This annual report fulfills this requirement. The Council will provide this report to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council. Since the Council recommendations for 2024 only affect the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), DelDOT will be the only state agency that will be directly provided with a copy of this report. No municipality will be directly provided with the report as there are no recommendations for them either. This report will be made available on the Council’s website for public access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An annual report will be prepared in 2025 following the requirements of Senate Bill No. 50.

