

Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #4

October 23, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #4

Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Council Members Present

Name	Position	Email
Maureen Kelley	Alternate for Nicole Majeski, DelDOT Secretary	Maureen.Kelley@delaware.gov
Sharon Bryson	Alternate for Nathaniel McQueen, Office of Highway Safety Director	sharon.bryson@delaware.gov
Robin Martin	Alternate for Thomas Nickel, DelDOT ADA Title II Coordinator	Robin.Martin@delaware.gov
Michael Smith	Governor Appointed Resident from New Castle County	michaelsmithecon@gmail.com
Lloyd Schmitz	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Visual Disability	lloydschmitz@gmail.com
Brian Goff	Governor Appointed Resident from Kent County	bgoff@chpk.com
William Jiron Jr.	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Physical Disability	bigwillie1@msn.net
Bill Payne	Governor Appointed Resident from Sussex County	ublcreek@icloud.com
Jamie Whitehouse	Sussex County Planning and Zoning	jamie.whitehouse@sussexcountyde.gov
Jared Kauffman	Alternate for John Sisson, CEO of the Delaware Transit Organization	Jared.Kauffman@delaware.gov

Members Absent

Name	Position	Email
Ben Shrader	Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities	bshrader@risede.org
Kris Connelly	Alternate for Sarah Keifer, Kent County Director of Planning Services	Kris.Connelly@kentcountyde.gov
Dr. Kevin Spence	Executive Director of League of Local Governments	deleaguelocalgovs@gmail.com
Elliot Larkin	Director of Land Use and Planning for City of Wilmington	gkaminsky@wilmingtonde.gov
Kara Colpo	DOS ADA Title II Coordinator	Kara.Colpo@delaware.gov
Antoni Sekowski	Alternate for Charuni Patibanda, NCC Land Use General Manager	antoni.sekowski@newcastlede.gov
Omar Noor	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Developmental Disability	Omar.Noor@delaware.gov

Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #4

October 23, 2024 - Meeting Notes

DeIDOT Support Staff

Name	Organization	Email
Kelly Valencik	DeIDOT	kelly.valencik@delaware.gov
Pamela Steinebach	DeIDOT	pamela.steinebach@delaware.gov
Maria Andaya	DeIDOT	maria@andaya@delaware.gov
Angie Hernandez	JMT	ahernandez@jmt.com
Sophie Thompson	JMT	sthompson2@jmt.com

Guests

Name	Organization
Michael Reader	Delaware State Police Patrol (DSHS)
Cyndie Romer	State Representative
Bob Rager	

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct the fourth Delaware Pedestrian Council meeting. The following items were discussed:

1. Introductions

Maureen Kelley called the meeting to order with an opening welcome at 9:00 a.m. Maureen then led the roll call from 9:00 am – 9:06 am.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Maureen Kelley asked the Council to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. William Jiron Jr. motioned to approve the minutes from Pedestrian Council Meeting 3. Michael Smith seconded the motion.

3. Public Comment

Kelly Valencik provided an opportunity for members of the public to share questions or comments. No questions or comments were stated by the public.

4. Review Fatal Pedestrian Crashes in Previous Quarter

Kelly Valencik provided an overview of fatal pedestrian crashes by quarter. Quarter 3 of 2024 had 6 fatal pedestrian crashes in New Castle County, no fatal pedestrian crashes in Kent County, and two fatal pedestrian crashes in Sussex County. Sharon Bryson then gave an overview of the pedestrian crashes. She noted that impaired pedestrians seem to be trending up again. She also gave a brief overview of the fatal pedestrian crashes in 2024.

Sharon volunteered to give a similar overview of pedestrian crashes at future meetings.

Bill Payne asked if Sharon has any statistics from longer time periods to help give a better idea of the big picture of pedestrian crashes. Sharon replied that she has 5-year trends information which will be shared with the group after the meeting. She noted that trends do not change significantly quarter to quarter but that she will work to share this quarterly with the Council.



5. Subcommittee Updates

Michael Smith provided a brief update from the first coordination meeting with the Land Use Subcommittee, which met for an initial informal meeting to discuss meeting logistics on October 11th. The group is planning to meet monthly via Zoom. Discussion items from the first meeting included reviewing meeting logistics, the draft mission statement, and the subcommittee goals. The Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee is still in need of a chair at this time.

6. Pedestrian Action Plan Phase II Comments

At the previous Pedestrian Council meeting, the Council was given an overview of Phase 2 of the Delaware Pedestrian Action Plan. Council members who attended in-person were provided with a printed copy of the Draft Phase 2 Plan to review, and virtual attendees were provided with a link to the plan.

During the October Council meeting, Sophie Thompson asked the Council if they had any questions or comments related to the plan. The Council did not share any comments regarding the plan during the meeting. The Council received comments via email from Michael Smith and Jared Kauffman.

7. Council Budget

Kelly Valencik presented the 2025 Council budget to the group at \$20,100 for supplies and \$1,000 for travel. These funds must be spent by June 15, 2025. Suggestions on how to spend the funding includes taking pedestrian-related training, tours / field visits such as bus tours of pedestrian safety installation projects or areas of concern with the Council and DelDOT staff, pedestrian safety materials and supplies, and mileage reimbursements.

8. October – Pedestrian Safety Month

Sophie shared an overview of Pedestrian Safety Month. Upon the recommendation of the Delaware Pedestrian Council, Pedestrian Safety Month started in Delaware in 2017. In 2020, NHTSA first declared October as National Pedestrian Safety Month. Sophie provided a background of pedestrian safety month, an overview of DelDOT's pedestrian related programs, and a list of DelDOT Pedestrian Safety related events in October.

9. DelDOT Speed Limit Determinations

Sonya LaGrand, a guest speaker from the DelDOT Traffic section presented an overview of DelDOT's process for determining speed limits.

10. Legislative Updates

Sophie provided a summary of legislative updates across Delaware. There were no statewide legislative updates, but there was an update to Sussex County regarding buffers and pathways. An ordinance was recently adopted in Sussex County which encourages developers to use natural woodlands as buffers when possible. Walking trails are permitted in the buffer area, which may encourage additional trails in Sussex County. This ordinance takes effect in February of 2025. Jamie Whitehouse (Sussex County Planning and Zoning) answered a few questions from the Council regarding this ordinance.

11. Agency Updates

Council Members who represent agencies as part of the Pedestrian Council were asked to provide round-robin updates to the general Council with any recent pedestrian-related updates from their respective agencies, such as the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, ADA Title II Coordinators, DTC, Department of Land Use and Planning for the City of Wilmington, Department of Planning Services for Kent County, Sussex County Planning & Zoning, and the League of Local Governments. Aside from the Sussex County buffer ordinance which Jamie Whitehouse discussed, there were no additional updates.

12. Guest Speakers

Sophie Thompson shared that coordination with Smart Growth America is in progress to plan for a representative from Smart Growth America to attend an upcoming Council meeting to present to the Council. Potential topics include:

- Trends in pedestrian fatality data at the national, state, and local level
- Causes of pedestrian fatalities and strategies to address them
- Complete Streets as a way to achieve mobility, health, environmental, and economic goals
- Transportation safety as an equity issue

The Council voted to bring a speaker from Smart Growth America to present virtually via Zoom at an upcoming Pedestrian Council meeting for one hour, and then again in the future for an in-person presentation at the Dover Public Library to encourage members of the public to attend and interact with the Council. This event is set to be organized by the Pedestrian Safety Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee once fully established.

13. Draft Annual Report

Sophie shared a reminder that the Delaware Pedestrian Council is required to submit an annual report of the Council's activities throughout the year, as well as a list of recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council. A draft version of the annual report is in progress and will be shared with the Council for review before being approved in the January Council meeting.

14. Next Meeting Dates

Sophie Thompson shared that the next Council meeting will be held in approximately 3 months on Thursday, January 23rd from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM for the first Council Meeting of 2025. Additional upcoming meeting dates include the second meeting of 2025 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 24th, the third meeting of 2025 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 24th, and the fourth meeting of 2025 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 23rd.

15. Closing Remarks

Maureen Kelley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m. All agreed.