

# Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #5

January 23, 2025 - Meeting Notes

**Meeting Title:** Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #5

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

## Council Members Present

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

## Members Absent

Name	Position	Email
Ben Shrader	Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities	<a href="mailto:bshrader@risede.org">bshrader@risede.org</a>
Dr. Kevin Spence	Executive Director of League of Local Governments	<a href="mailto:deleaguelocalgovs@gmail.com">deleaguelocalgovs@gmail.com</a>
Elliot Larkin	Director of Land Use and Planning for City of Wilmington	<a href="mailto:gkaminsky@wilmingtonde.gov">gkaminsky@wilmingtonde.gov</a>
Kara Colpo	DOS ADA Title II Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Kara.Colpo@delaware.gov">Kara.Colpo@delaware.gov</a>
Antoni Sekowski	Alternate for Charuni Patibanda, NCC Land Use General Manager	<a href="mailto:antoni.sekowski@newcastlede.gov">antoni.sekowski@newcastlede.gov</a>



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## DeIDOT Support Staff

Name	Organization	Email
Kelly Valencik	DeIDOT	<a href="mailto:kelly.valencik@delaware.gov">kelly.valencik@delaware.gov</a>
Pamela Steinebach	DeIDOT	<a href="mailto:pamela.steinebach@delaware.gov">pamela.steinebach@delaware.gov</a>
Anthony Aglio	DeIDOT	<a href="mailto:anthony.aglio@delaware.gov">anthony.aglio@delaware.gov</a>
Maria Andaya	DeIDOT	<a href="mailto:maria@andaya@delaware.gov">maria@andaya@delaware.gov</a>
Sophie Thompson	JMT	<a href="mailto:sthompson2@jmt.com">sthompson2@jmt.com</a>
Anthony Nobile	JMT	<a href="mailto:anobile@jmt.com">anobile@jmt.com</a>

## Guests

Name	Organization
Michael Reader	Delaware State Police Patrol (DSHS)
Cyndie Romer	State Representative
Meghan Niddrie	Office of Highway Safety
Robin Martin	Office of Civil Rights ADA Compliance Specialist
Bob Rager	
Mike Hahn	
Carl Tull	
Cherjon Bailey	
Savannah Edwards	
Michael Palmer	
Chip Kneavel	
Bob	
Diane Fogash	
Marc Cohen	
Art Diver	

## 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 1:00 p.m. Kelly Valencik provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Maureen then led the roll call from 1:03 pm – 1:06 pm.

## **2. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Maureen Kelley asked the Council to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Sharon Bryson motioned to approve the minutes from Pedestrian Council Meeting 3. Tom Nickel seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from the October 23, 2024 Council meeting were approved.

## **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**

Sophie Thompson provided an overview of fatal pedestrian crashes by quarter. 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.

Sharon Bryson gave an overview of OSHS data for the pedestrian crashes for Quarter 4 of 2024. She noted that there were 18% more fatal pedestrian crashes from 2023 to 2024. In Quarter 4 of 2024, the age range of those who were killed ranged from 22 years old to 91 years old.

- John Sisson mentioned that many of these crashes occur on major roads with high speed limits (45-55 mph).
- Bill Payne mentioned that Dover and Route 1 don't have enough crosswalks and that the speed limits are too fast. Sophie Thompson shared that the Pedestrian Council support staff are currently working on building a web map to depict the crosswalks, speed limits, and pedestrian crashes on Route 1 near the Delaware beaches.

## **5. Guest Speaker: Smart Growth America**

Heidi Simon from Smart Growth attended the Council meeting as a guest speaker and to presented to the Council. Topics included the following:

- 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

## **6. Subcommittee Updates**

Michael Smith provided a brief update from the first coordination meeting with the Land Use Subcommittee, which met on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The group is planning to meet monthly via Zoom. Discussion items from the meeting included alternative zoning approaches and land use policies, 'stroads' and driveway design, as well as logistics for consistent reoccurring meetings in 2025. Michael shared that the next Land Use Subcommittee meeting will be held in February of 2025.

## **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. Pedestrian Action Plan - Council Action Items**

At the previous Pedestrian Council meeting in October, the Council was given an overview of Phase 2 of the Delaware Pedestrian Action Plan. In the January meeting, Sophie presented an overview of potential actions that the Pedestrian Council could be involved with to partner with the Pedestrian Action Plan. These actions include:

- Action 1.3.1 - Consistent Administration of Policies, Standards, and Guidelines
- Action 1.4.1 - Improve Data Collection of Pedestrian Crashes and Monitor Trends
- Action 1.4.2 - Improve Tracking of Pedestrian Safety Counter Measures Success Rates
- Action 1.4.4 - Establish Statewide Pedestrian Count Program
- Action 2.1.3 – Support and Recommend Legislative Action
- Action 2.1.4 - Support the newly established Delaware Pedestrian Council by Providing Ongoing Technical Assistance
- Action 4.1.2 - Educate the Public on Pedestrian Benefits of Road Diets
- Action 4.2.1 - Increase Public Education on Pedestrian Safety and Awareness

### **9. 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.

- John Sisson mentioned that DTC is in the process of updating their bus stop inventory using DelDOT's GIS data. Their goal is to look at where their inventory currently stands from a compliance standpoint and help prioritize where to update ADA compliance first, based on other planned DelDOT projects, ridership information, and community information.

### **10. Draft Annual Report**

The Delaware Pedestrian Council is required to submit an annual report of the Council's activities throughout the year, with 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 was shared with the Council for review earlier in January. Sophie asked if there are any additional action items to be added or comments. The Council did not make any comments. The Council voted to approve the Annual Report, motioned by Brian Goff and seconded by Tom Nickel.

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## **11. Next Meeting Dates**

Sophie Thompson shared that the next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. The third meeting of 2025 will be held on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and the fourth meeting of 2025 will be held on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Tom Nickel requested that the July meeting (originally scheduled on Thursday, July 23) be moved one week prior to Thursday, July 17, 2025.

## **12. Closing Remarks**

Maureen Kelley asked the Council for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Sharon Bryson made the motion to adjourn, and Tom Nickel seconded. All agreed.