

Land Use Subcommittee Meeting #13

August 17, 2026 - Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, August 17, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members

Name	Position	Email
Michael Smith (Chair)	Governor Appointed Citizen Advocate	MichaelSmithEcon@gmail.com
Jamie Whitehouse	Sussex County Planning and Zoning	Jamie.Whitehouse@sussexcountysde.gov
Sabrina Shultz	DNREC	Sabrina.Shultz@delaware.gov
Lauren Sawin	AECOM, Delaware Commute Solutions	Lauren.Sawin@aecom.com
William (Bill) Payne	Governor Appointed Resident from Sussex County	ublcreek@icloud.com

DeIDOT Support Staff

Name	Organization	Email
Aaron Bell	DeIDOT	Aaron.Bell@delaware.gov
Kelly Valencik	DeIDOT	Kelly.Valencik@delaware.gov
Connor Walker	JMT	CWalker@jmt.com
Sophie Thompson	JMT	SThompson2@jmt.com
Angie Hernandez	JMT	AHernandez@jmt.com

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to hold the thirteenth Land Use Subcommittee meeting, and to discuss the following:

1. Call to Order

- Michael Smith called the meeting to order, took attendance, and welcomed attendees to the thirteenth meeting of the Land Use Subcommittee.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Jamie Whitehouse and Sabrina Shultz gave their motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous subcommittee meeting on May 18th, 2026. Bill Payne abstained.

3. Public Comment

Land Use Subcommittee Meeting #13

August 17, 2026 - Meeting Notes

- a. Michael Smith provided an opportunity for members of the public to share any questions or comments. No questions or comments were stated by the public.

4. Subcommittee Discussion Items

- a. Develop End-of-Year Goals and Prioritize Future Work
 - i. Identify 2-3 specific outcomes or recommendations the subcommittee would like to complete by the end of 2026.
 - 1. Jamie Whitehouse announced an upcoming Sussex County Route 9 Corridor Public Workshop on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 17th. The workshop will inform growth scenarios for the Route 9 corridor between Georgetown and Lewes.
 - 2. Jamie shared that this would be a great opportunity to distribute the recently purchased safety materials, which Kelly noted was available.
 - 3. The Council recently approved funding for reflective headwear more appropriate for the winter months.
 - 4. Kelly shared the council has an inventory of the flashing pedestrian safety lights and reflective fanny packs purchased with the previous year's budget.
 - a. Coordination will occur between Jamie Whitehouse and Kelly Valencik regarding quantities and distribution.
 - 5. Bill cited sidewalk gaps along Beaverdam Road near the Five Points area and the Lowe's shopping area in Lewes.
 - a. Michael Smith suggested the Subcommittee look at a specific project for review and develop recommendations.
 - ii. Create a list of potential land use and pedestrian safety initiatives for the subcommittee to focus on next year.
 - 1. Bill Payne expressed concerns regarding a perceived lack of planning for pedestrians within DelDOT's transportation planning efforts. He noted:
 - 2. Concerns about a lack of ADA compliant crossings throughout the state.
 - 3. Concerns about lacking pedestrian infrastructure at roundabouts.
 - 4. Desire for more strict pedestrian accommodation requirements within development review processes.
- b. Everyone Gets Home Act Follow-Up
 - i. Research implementation efforts and potential impacts of the Everyone Gets Home Act.
 - ii. Angie Hernandez explained the Act provides additional legislative language supporting tools already available to DelDOT and did not create new authority for them.
 - iii. It reinforces and allows for the use of roadway classifications, controlled access strategies, and the use of low-speed street designations as safety tools.

Land Use Subcommittee Meeting #13

August 17, 2026 - Meeting Notes

- iv. No specific roadway has yet reportedly received a low-speed street designation.
- v. Question/action item for the Subcommittee is identifying corridors where the low-speed street designation may be appropriate.
- vi. While not eligible for low-speed street designation, Bill Payne identified Route 1 between Lewes and Dewey Beach as a potential area of focus for council recommendation to DelDOT.
- c. Development Review Coordination
 - i. Reach out to Wendy Polasko and explore opportunities to engage with the Development Coordination group.
 - 1. Kelly provided an overview of Wendy Polasko and DelDOT's development coordination group, sharing the idea that the Council could act as a liaison for the group in situations where comments on development applications are regarding pedestrian safety.
 - ii. Identify ways pedestrian safety considerations can be incorporated into development review processes.
 - 1. This task has not been progressed at this time.
- d. PLUS and OSPC Monitoring
 - i. Michael and Jamie discussed the purpose of the OSPC PLUS dashboard.
 - 1. The subcommittee is encouraged to review the dashboard and recommend projects of interest.
- e. MPO Guest Speaker Questions
 - i. The subcommittee is encouraged to submit/prepare questions for the MPOs ahead of the October Pedestrian Council meeting.
 - ii. Topics for discussion will likely include Safe Streets for All, and an ongoing Sidewalk Gap Analysis study by WILMAPCO.
- f. Strong Towns Training
 - i. What type of training will this be? Could be shared through DelDOT as part of Pedestrian Safety Month and open for others to join outside of the Council/Subcommittee.
 - 1. Michael and Sophie Thompson reported difficulty contacting Strong Towns.
 - 2. Could be pushed to end of 2026 or early 2027.
 - ii. Members discussed pursuing presentations from additional organizations if Strong Towns remains unavailable.

5. Any Other Topics?

- a. Kelly announced she has been selected as DelDOT Secretary Shante Hastings meeting alternate, following Maureen Kelly's retirement.

6. Next Meeting Date

Land Use Subcommittee Meeting #13

August 17, 2026 - Meeting Notes

- a. The next meeting timing remains under review. Kelly will coordinate and distribute an updated calendar invite.

7. Closing Remarks

- a. There were no additional remarks. Michael then brought the meeting to a close at 1:53 pm.

Action Items

- Kelly Valencik and Jamie Whitehouse to coordinate pedestrian safety materials for the Sussex County Route 9 Corridor Workshop.
- Members to monitor the PLUS Dashboard and provide feedback to the Office of State Planning
- Members to prepare/submit questions for WILMAPCO and Dover/Kent MPO before the October presentation.
- Continue outreach to Strong Towns and explore alternative speaker organizations.
- Sophie Thompson to distribute the next meeting invitation and confirm scheduling.