

Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #11

April 23, 2026 - Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #11

Date: April 23, 2026

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

Attendees:

Council Members Present

Name	Position	Email
Maureen Kelley	Alternate for Shanté Hastings, DeIDOT Secretary	Maureen.Kelley@delaware.gov
Sharon Bryson	Alternate for Joshua Bushweller, Office of Highway Safety Director	Sharon.Bryson@delaware.gov
John McNeal	Alternate for Susannah Eaton-Ryan, Chair for the State Council for Persons with Disabilities	John.McNeal@delaware.gov
Thomas Nickel	DeIDOT ADA Title II Coordinator	Thomas.Nickel@delaware.gov
Jared Kauffman	Alternate for John Sisson, The Chief Executive Officer of the Delaware Transit Organization	Jared.Kauffman@delaware.gov
Matt Rogers	Alternate for David Culver, General Manager of the Department of Land Use of New Castle County	Matt.Rogers@newcastlede.gov
Jesse Lindenberg	Alternate for Sarah Keifer, Director of Planning Services for Kent County	Jesse.Lindenberg@kentcountyde.gov
Michael Smith	Governor Appointed Resident from New Castle County	MichaelSmithEcon@gmail.com
Brian Goff	Governor Appointed Resident from Kent County	BGoff@chpk.com
Janelle Cornwell	Executive Director of League of Local Governments	deleaguelocalgovs@gmail.com
Bill Payne	Governor Appointed Resident from Sussex County	Ublcreek@icloud.com
William Jiron Jr.	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Physical Disability	Bigwillie1@msn.net

Members Absent

Name	Position	Email
Kris Connelly	Alternate for Sarah Keifer, Kent County Director of Planning Services	Kris.Connelly@kentcountyde.gov
Elliott Larkin	Director of Land Use and Planning for the City of Wilmington	ETLarkin@wilmingtonde.gov
Jamie Whitehouse	Director of the Sussex County Planning & Zoning Office	Jamie.Whitehouse@sussexcountyde.gov



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(Vacant)	Governor Appointed Resident with Developmental Disability	N/A
(Vacant)	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Visual Disability	N/A

Support Staff

Name	Organization	Email
Kelly Valencik	DeIDOT	Kelly.Valencik@delaware.gov
Stephanie Johnson	DeIDOT	Stephanie.Johnson@delaware.gov
Aaron Bell	DeIDOT	Aaron.Bell@delaware.gov
Matthew Langton	DeIDOT	Matthew.Langton@delaware.gov
Sophie Thompson	JMT	SThompson2@jmt.com
Anthony Nobile	JMT	ANobile@jmt.com

Guests / Members of the Public

Name
Samantha Bulkilvish (Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination)
Josh Thomas (Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination)
Caitlin Reed (DeIDOT Office of Highway Safety, Outreach & Education Subcommittee Member)
Kayla Mason (DeIDOT Office of Highway Safety, Outreach & Education Subcommittee Member)
Thomas (Chip) Kneavel (DeIDOT, Outreach & Education Subcommittee Member)
Cooper Bowers (New Castle County Department of Planning)
Mike Petit de Mange (Citizen, Land Use Subcommittee Member)
Matthew Harris (University of Delaware, Land Use Subcommittee Member)
G Vorsheim (Unknown)

Meeting Purpose

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

1. Introduction

- Kelly Valencik called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Kelly then provided an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Sophie Thompson then led the roll call. With thirteen Council members present, the Pedestrian Council had a quorum at this meeting.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Kelly Valencik asked the Council to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- No Council members opposed or abstained. The meeting minutes from the January 22nd, 2026 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 of Fatal Pedestrian Crashes in Previous Quarter

- Stephanie Johnson reviewed the Fatal Pedestrian Crashes from the Quarter 1 of 2026. There were five fatal crashes total, with two fatalities occurring in New Castle County and the remaining three being in Kent County. Sophie Thompson then provided the crash data from Quarter 1 of 2025, of which there were five fatalities as well.
- Stephanie introduced the newest Outreach and Education subcommittee members, Caitlin Reed and Kayla Mason, from the Office of Highway Safety Community Relations team.
- Bill Payne noted that there are corridors he is noticing trends with, such as Route 1 between Lewis and Rehoboth, Route 13 in Dover, and another in Newark.
 - He stated there have been no infrastructure projects in these corridors that he is aware of to influence traffic calming in the name of pedestrian safety, outside of educational programming.
 - Stephanie shared that DelDOT has been utilizing funds for law enforcement to improve pedestrian safety and address traffic violations.
 - Jared Kauffman shared that he has noticed that many accidents in these reports occur on major arterial roads rather than local streets. He noted how road design acts as enforcement and calms traffic, citing Baynard Boulevard where a two-lane arterial was converted to one-way with a bike lane and notably reduced speeds. Jared also pointed out that one of the fatalities occurred on 4th Street in Wilmington, which is listed as an arterial road in a residential area, arguing that these arterial designs play an impactful role in traffic management and pedestrian safety.
 - Another council member asked about potential discussions surrounding a study with the Dover-Kent MPO of Route 13 due to the fatality in front of Windswept Enterprises LTD Inc.
 - No one was aware of the specific study they were referring to.
 - John McNeal shared that he has personally witnessed an increase in erratic pedestrian behavior, indicating that pedestrians need to have more accountability along these high-traffic corridors.
 - Jared noted the importance of the Safe Systems Approach when planning for traffic improvements
 - Stephanie reiterated that pedestrian safety and crashes are being taken very seriously at DelDOT and they will follow up on the concerns brought attention to throughout the meeting.

5. Guest Speaker: Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC)

- Josh Thomas introduced the role of the OSPC
- Josh discussed the overarching goal of state planning strategies of Smart Growth and shared what key planning areas across the state they are prioritizing for growth through incentives, with pedestrian-based infrastructure taking priority.
- Samantha Bulkilvish introduced the issue of sprawl and how it is impacting pedestrian facilities and connectivity. She presented data that reflects Delawareans reliance on cars to get around.
- Samantha described how effective planning supported by diversity, education, entertainment and recreation, transportation, and proximity to services creates a sense of place.
- Josh presented example strategies for addressing sprawl and thereby supporting pedestrians.
 - Updating zoning ordinances
 - Access to funding
- Josh then stated the OSPC's recommended strategies for improving statewide infrastructure
 - Supporting community comprehensive plan updates
 - Focus statewide spending to support growth in areas where density is needed.
 - Supporting the development of community master plans
 - Outline how to create Downtown Development Districts
 - Support for Zoning Reform
 - Accelerate State Permitting
 - Site Readiness Fund/Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIFF)
 - Preserve Agriculture and Open Space
 - Implement strategies for climate change mitigation within comprehensive plans
- Bill Payne commented that DelDOT plays a role in sidewalk connectivity along these main arterials, citing (from a Sussex County perspective) that there is a lack of planning work across the county.
 - Kelly noted that the OSPC provides support to improve the planning processes in Sussex County
- John thanked the OSPC for the presentation, while also noting that he recalls a very similar presentation from when the council was initially created. He spoke to a potential need to assess the council's successes to evaluate what the council is missing in their approach.

6. Public Meeting Calendar Overview

- Sophie introduced the State of Delaware Government Information Center's (GIC) public meeting calendar, available for the public and members of the Council to direct comments to their appropriate platforms.
- Sophie provided an overview of DelDOT's 'Projects Portal' on their website to share the status and information regarding all their projects.

7. Subcommittee Updates

Land Use Subcommittee

Sophie provided a brief update regarding the Land Use Subcommittee, which last met on April 20th. The next meeting will be held on May 18th.

Discussion items from the recent meeting include:

- Office of State Planning Coordination – possible Land Use Subcommittee involvement with Route 9 corridor study and the Livable Delaware plan
- Everyone Gets Home Summit
- Strong Towns Guest Speaker
- House Bill 247 – Everyone Gets Home Act

Outreach & Education Subcommittee

Sophie also provided a brief update regarding the Outreach and Education Subcommittee, which last met on April 9th. The next subcommittee meeting is planned to be held on May 14th.

Discussion items from the recent meeting include:

- Pedestrian safety and awareness messaging discussion
- Safety materials to be purchased from FY-2026
- New subcommittee members from OHS
- 2026 Everyone Gets Home Summit

8. Agency Updates

- Sophie provided an opportunity for Council members representing various agencies to provide updates applicable to the Pedestrian Council.
- The Council was not provided with any pertinent information from any Council members representing agencies.

9. Everyone Gets Home Summit

- Sophie gave an overview of the logistics and current standing of the Pedestrian Council and its role in supporting the Everyone Gets Home Summit.
- She provided JMT's finalized advertisement for the Pedestrian Council that will be included in the program for the Everyone Gets Home Summit.

10. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grants

- Sophie gave an overview of the SS4A grant established in 2022 with \$5 billion in funds to be distributed between 2022-2026. She shared the eligible list of applicants and the application process.

11. Next Meeting Dates

- Sophie Thompson presented the dates for the upcoming meetings of the Council and its subcommittees for 2026, with the next Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 23rd from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The following Council meeting will then take place on October 22nd from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- The next Outreach and Education Subcommittee meeting will occur on Thursday, May 14th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- The next Land Use Subcommittee meeting will occur on Monday, May 18th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Sophie indicated that the subcommittees will be meeting prior to the next Council meeting, while offering an opportunity for any interested Council members to join either of the subcommittees.

12. Closing Remarks

- Kelly Valencik brought the meeting to a close at 2:52 p.m. All Council members agreed.