

Members Present

Richard Klepner, Chair	OHS
Peter Haag, Co-chair	DelDOT
Darlene Cole	DVI
Tracy Condon	DSP
Lauren Devore	DNREC
Chip Kneavel	DelDOT
Kim O'Malley	
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Mike Wagner	DOE

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Paul Moser	DelDOT

Members Absent

Brian Clarke	DelDOT
Todd Webb	DelDOT

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Richard Klepner.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

All members, staff and guest introduced themselves.

III. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF THE April 25, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Lauren Devore made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Wagner and approved by all members present.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Enforcement Update: Lt. Condon presented the results of a survey that she conducted among traffic lieutenants. They are usually the ones with first-hand experience with crashes.

Her questions included:

Why do you think pedestrians in Delaware get struck so often? What is your remedy for correcting the issue? How do you think we can help decrease pedestrian fatalities in Delaware? List in order. Do you feel like many pedestrians are walking without a care for their safety and oblivious to their surroundings? If yes, how best to deal with this? Do you think having sidewalks in every roadway will help decrease pedestrian crashes? Do you think crosswalks are beneficial, if no why? Do you think pedestrian signals are beneficial? If no, why? What specific area do you think is the most dangerous for pedestrians in Delaware and what do you think should be done to alleviate danger? Do you think ticketing pedestrian or educating them is effective? Do you have any other useful information about this topic?

Highlights of her survey:

Each troop area has its own pedestrian related issues. Down south, there aren't any sidewalks on the back roads. Up north, busy highways were built many years ago and people are crossing them at various places and they get struck and get killed because many of them were on drugs or had

been drinking.

What she learned from the responses was for DSP and OHS to tailor their job to what's happening depending on the part of the state. In the beach area, it's believe that alcohol consumption lead to bad decisions. Western Sussex – no shoulders and sidewalks in many places where people walk. Route 40 and 13, many people cross to and from work at convenient places. Most traffic lieutenants believe that education is the best way.

Lt. Condon got the approval to move forward with her plan so that each recruit will be taught to warn a pedestrian about these kind of stuff. Community outreach and SROs in schools are also important. SROs can come in to Driver's Ed classes to make a short blurb on pedestrian safety and things that drivers should be aware of.

Many believe that sidewalks would decrease pedestrian crashes and fatalities. Crosswalks are beneficial only if people use them. Pedestrian signals are beneficial.

Police officers feel they should educate first, enforce later. Education is important. Most people don't respond to fines. Something needs to be done about that.

Lt. Condon also gathered and compiled data about drug use and how it contributes to traffic crashes. Number of fatalities with drugs in their system: pedestrians – 27 killed in 2016, under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol – 13; alcohol only – 8.

People who are walking without a care in the world should be stopped and educated. People who are drunk needs to be stopped and talked to the following day.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Reach out to schools and parents:

Regarding the contracts with parents and teachers, Mike Wagner suggested a plan implementation before approaching the schools

Governor John Carney Jr. declared October as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month. Maria Andaya is going to send out a script to schools regarding Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month for their morning announcements.

Walk to School Day – Chip Kneavel said 5-6 schools are interested in participating.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ADJOURN

Linda Osiecki made a motion to adjourn. Chip Kneavel seconded.