



# Following Five Points

## December 2024

**Your Update to the Five Points Transportation Study**

Visit the Study Website

## Project News

### October Working Group Meeting Recap

The Five Points Transportation Study Working Group held a hybrid meeting on Monday, October 28, 2024 at the Cape Henlopen High School Library. The meeting included a review and status updates of the Five Points Transportation Study Implementation Plan. To view the Working Group meeting presentation and meeting packet, [please click here](#).

As of the October Working Group meeting, there were 72 of 78 recommendations in progress, ongoing or completed.

Austin Gray with DelDOT's Statewide and Regional Planning Division, was introduced as DelDOT's new Project Manager for the Five Points Transportation Study. Austin

shared that October is Pedestrian Safety Awareness month, noted that Delaware is one of the deadliest states for pedestrians, and provided tips on how pedestrians can stay safe while walking on Delaware roadways such as wearing bright colored clothing to be visible, using crosswalks to cross streets and intersections, as well as walking on sidewalks or in the shoulder facing traffic when sidewalks are not present.

Other items on the October meeting agenda included:

**Area Construction Updates** - George Pierce and Brian Behrens from DeIDOT's Project Development South provided the following updates on key Five Points area design and construction projects:

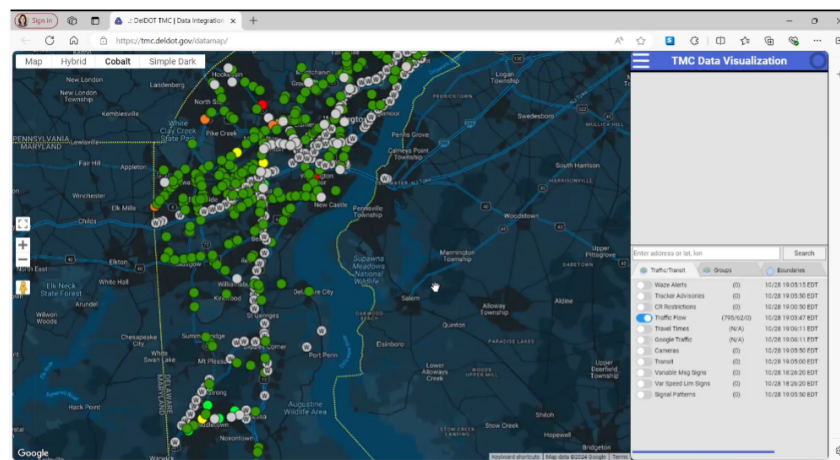
- **Plantation Road, Robinsonville Road to US 9 (Phase 1)** – Construction is almost done. The full roundabout is open to traffic and the SR1 southbound connection is also open to traffic. However, based on observations by DeIDOT from the summer, additional improvements (widening) will be made to US9 between the new SR 1 connection and SR 1 in early 2025.



- **US 9 Widening (Old Vine Road to SR 1)** – Design for this project is under way. This project consists of widening US 9, from SR 1 to Old Vine Road, to provide two travel lanes in each direction with a center turn lane, as well as drainage and bicycle and pedestrian improvements. It should be noted that this project is included in both the Henlopen Transportation Improvement District (TID) and the Five Points Transportation Study Implementation Plan.
- **SR 1, Minos Conaway Road Grade Separated Intersection** – Design and right-of-way acquisition is complete; utility relocation occurred during the summer and fall. DeIDOT is ready to begin construction and is preparing to go out for bid for construction contractors. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring

or early summer 2025.

**SR1 Congestion Management and Traffic Operations** – Gene Donaldson, DeIDOT's Traffic Management Center (TMC) Operations Manager, provided a demonstration of DeIDOT's Integrated Traffic Management Systems (ITMS). Gene showed how technology helps DeIDOT address traffic issues with the goal of keeping traffic moving smoothly and provided an overview of the types of alerts that are communicated with the public. DeIDOT uses a system of detectors and cameras to provide real-time traffic and travel information. He noted that traffic monitoring is a 24-hour process that involves a lot of communication with other DeIDOT divisions, EMS, and other partners to make sure detours are in place and communicated especially when there is an incident. All ITMS elements work together to help increase safety on Delaware's roadways. The public can access real time travel data at [www.deldot.gov/map/](http://www.deldot.gov/map/).



**SR 1 Low Stress Bikeway Update** – Leah Kacanda, WRA Project Manager, provided a general overview of the study for new Working Group members. She highlighted the funded projects currently included in the Capital Transportation Program (CTP) with construction funds and schedule in place; planned projects which are in the CTP but do not have funds programmed or a construction schedule; and project recommendations which include new ideas developed for the study. Next steps include outreach to property owners, recommendation prioritization, and a public workshop in winter/spring 2025. Leah also noted that her team is currently preparing supporting documentation that would allow DeIDOT to pursue federal funds for the Marsh Road/Shady Road Pedestrian/Bike Bridge over SR1.



## Save the Date! January Working Group Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

Hybrid Meeting – Cape Henlopen High School Library and via Zoom

The next meeting of the Five Points Transportation Study Working Group will be held on **Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** Like previous Working Group meetings, this will be a hybrid meeting. The Project Team will provide an update on the status of the Five Points Transportation Study Implementation Plan. Other discussion topic(s) may include\*:

- Update on Capital Transportation Program (CTP) Projects in the Five Points Area
- Office of State Planning Coordination – Statewide Development Trends and Annual Report

[Please click here](#) to view the agenda and for Zoom meeting access information.

*\*\*Discussion topics are subject to change until final publication on the DeIDOT Public Meeting Calendar*

**Please note: Working Group meetings are open to the public, however, due to space limitations, members of the public are encouraged to attend via Zoom. Zoom access information will be provided on the day of the meeting**

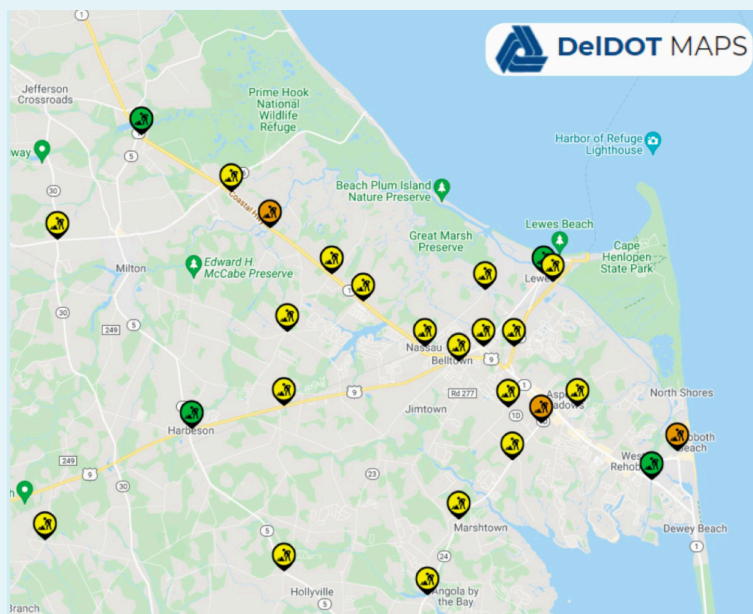
on the Five Points Transportation Study website.

# Area Project Updates

## Active DeIDOT Projects In and Around Five Points

At the Working Group's request, DeIDOT is providing a map of active projects in and around the Five Points area. Use the map to view any active project and/or visit the links below to view the websites for a selection of projects.

[View the Interactive Map](#)

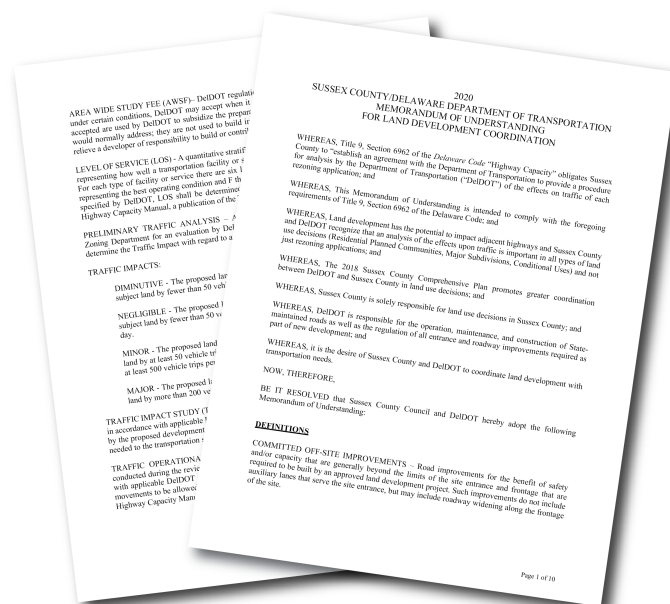


- [Bridge 3-714 on S266 \(New Road\) over Canary Creek](#)
- [Removal of Bridge 3-928R, Lewes RR Swing Bridge over the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal](#)
- [Plantation Road Improvements, Robinsonville Road to US 9](#)
- [Plantation Road Improvements, SR 24 to US 9 - Phase 2](#)
- [Realignment of Old Orchard Road at Wescoats Corner](#)

- [SR 1 & SR 16 Grade Separated Intersection](#)
- [SR 1 at S264 & S258 Intersection Improvements](#)
- [SR 1 and Cave Neck Road Grade Separated Intersection](#)
- [SR 1, Minos Conaway Road Grade Separated Intersection](#)
- [SR 24, Mulberry Knoll to SR 1 SR 24, Love Creek to Mulberry Knoll Road](#)
- [Cave Neck Road, Hudson and Sweetbriar Roads Intersection Improvement](#)

## DelDOT/Sussex County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Did you know that DelDOT and Sussex County have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for land development coordination? Signed in September 2020, the MOU outlines a cooperative framework to improve the planning and review process for land development projects in the county. The agreement aims to ensure that transportation infrastructure is aligned with land development goals and that growth in Sussex County is managed in a way that supports safe, efficient transportation systems. The 2020 MOU replaces the previous MOU from 1988.



The MOU facilitates collaboration between DelDOT and Sussex County in areas such as road access, traffic impact analysis, and infrastructure needs for new developments. It emphasizes the coordination of land use and transportation planning to prevent congestion, improve safety, and ensure that new developments

are well-served by appropriate transportation networks.

By formalizing this partnership, the MOU helps streamline the approval process for land development projects, ensuring that both transportation and land use are considered together from the outset. This approach fosters more sustainable development, enhances transportation planning, and supports the long-term growth and development of Sussex County.

[For more information on the MOU and other DeIDOT initiatives happening in Sussex County, please click here.](#)



## Knowledge Corner

### Keeping Older Drivers Safe

The **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)** provides valuable information and resources regarding **older drivers**, focusing on promoting safety, independence, and awareness.

**Older Driver Safety Awareness Week** took place between December 2-6, 2024. This is an annual event organized by NHTSA designed to raise awareness and improve the safety of older drivers on our roadways. According to NHTSA data, between 2012 and 2021, the U.S. population of people 65 and older increased by 29%. Fatal traffic crashes involving older drivers 65+ years old increased by 4.7% from 7,515 in 2021 to 7,870 in 2022; this represents the highest number of fatalities in traffic crashes involving older drivers since NHTSA began tracking in 1975. As the older driver population continues to increase on our nation's roads, it is essential to help them become more confident and knowledgeable drivers.



The campaign highlights the importance of maintaining safe driving practices as people age and addresses common challenges faced by older drivers, such as changes in vision, hearing, mobility, and reaction times. It encourages individuals to assess their driving abilities, consider alternative transportation options if necessary, and promote safe driving habits.

Talking with older adults about their driving can be difficult. Several agencies and organizations provide resources for older drivers, families, and healthcare professionals, including tips on how to stay safe behind the wheel and information about driving assessments and modifications.

- [NHTSA offers tools and guidance](#) for older drivers to assess their driving skills and consider modifications to their vehicles or driving habits if necessary. NHTSA also emphasizes the need for regular health check-ups and discussing driving concerns with family members or healthcare providers. The agency encourages older adults to explore alternative transportation options, such as public transit or ride-sharing services, if they find it difficult to drive safely.
- The [American Association of Retired Persons \(AARP\) Smart Driver Course](#) is the nation's first and longest-running safe driving course designed for older drivers. It is available nationwide in a classroom or online setting. Plus, upon completing the course, some participants may be eligible for a multi-year discount on their auto insurance.
- [CarFit](#) is a free, in-person educational program that helps older drivers make adjustments in their car to ensure it "fits" just right for maximum safety and comfort.
- [We Need to Talk](#) is a free program developed by AARP that provides online information and in-person seminars to help families have those difficult conversations with family and loved ones about when to hang up the keys and stop driving. It is available in English and Spanish.

- [AARP Smart DriverTEK](#): is a free workshop on the latest vehicle safety technology. The workshop is available online, virtually via Zoom, or in-person in select areas.

## What is Delaware Doing?

With more than 250,000 drivers over the age of 60, the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has established a [Senior Driving Website](#) that provides information and resources so that older drivers can safely stay on the road as long as possible. A key tool on the DMV website is a [Driver Self Assessment](#) that drivers can use to compare their driving skills with the skills required for safe driving. Other resources include links to video testimonials, a sample licensing exam, and senior driver risks and tips.



On December 3, 2024 the [Delaware Office Highway Safety \(OHS\)](#) launched the [“Drive Safe Seniors” initiative](#) focused on motivating drivers aged 65-plus and their loved ones to work together to prevent crashes. OHS is launching the campaign during Older Driver Safety Awareness Week and will continue the initiative throughout 2025. It will be highly educational and give senior drivers, and their loved ones, a deeper understanding of age-related driving issues. In addition, the initiative will provide tips and tools for taking meaningful action to prevent seniors from getting behind the wheel when it is no longer safe for them to do so. The campaign will provide education and information on how age-related health changes can affect driving skills, how certain medications may impair driving, and other signs that a senior's ability to drive safely may be diminishing. Additionally, it includes tips for loved ones and caregivers on how to have those “tough conversations” with seniors, as well as suggestions to help maintain their independence and mobility without relying on driving.

This is not the first time OHS has implemented tactics to increase senior driver safety. “Drive Safe Seniors” introduces several new elements to increase effectiveness:

- Outreach will target approximately 25 ZIP codes identified with a significant population of senior drivers.
- OHS will continue with the “Drive Safe Delaware. Love Your Neighbor.” branding to provide compelling, cohesive messaging that unites all OHS safety campaigns.
- Communications include social media ads, grassroots partnerships, and organic social media.
- The OHS [ArriveAliveDE.com](https://www.arrivealivede.com) website offers important steps that seniors and caregivers can take to increase driver safety.
- [ArriveAliveDE.com](https://www.arrivealivede.com) also offers a quiz to engage seniors, family members, and caregivers in learning and working together when it comes to safe driving.

