

# Delaware Bicycle Council
# April 10, 2024
# Zoom Webinar
# Meeting Notes

**Members Present**
Lauren Butsher, Division of Public Health
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Marty Lessner, Council on Transportation
Jackie McDermott, Office of Highway Safety
Wendy Polasko, DelDOT Representative
Michael Tyler, At-Large Representative
Michael Wagner, Department of Education
James Wilson, New Castle County Representative

**Members Absent**
Walt Bryan, Sussex County Representative
Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Michael Krumrine, DNREC Representative
Evette Morrow, At-Large Representative

**DelDOT Support Staff**
John Fiori, Bicycle Coordinator, DelDOT

**Guests**
Chris Asay, Public
John Bare, Bike Delaware
Marissa Bennici, Public
J.T. Fleming, Public
Ian Friedland, Public
Bill Weller, Sussex Cyclists
Karen Zakarian, Public

## I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Scott Hoffman. John Fiori took a roll call of the Council members present and quorum was met.

**Minutes/Agenda Review:**
The Council reviewed the meeting minutes from the February 7th meeting. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. James Wilson seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

## II. Public Comment

John Bare requested to address the Council to thank John Fiori for working on updating the current Delaware Bicycle Law brochure that was last updated in 2018. John Bare reached out to several individuals that included members of the Delaware Bicycle Council and various members of bike clubs in hoping for some feedback on top 10 bicycle laws that should be made better known to cyclists and motorists because it is not a one-way street on getting that information across. John Bare encouraged anyone who received that letter to respond and if anyone who did not receive the letter would like to participate to e-mail John at john@bikede.org or let John Fiori know as we will be working on this.

Chris Asay requested to address the Council that the rapid flashing signal along the POW-MIA Parkway has finally been repaired and is working.

Bill Weller requested to address the Council if the Council would request the Five Points Working Group include the SR 1 & King's Highway Intersection modification project in the working group project progress reports as currently the Five Points Working Group does not include this project although it is within the Five Points Working Group limits of the projects they are tracking. Bill would like the Council to request that the working group add this project and report on it at their quarterly meetings. John Fiori will reach out to the Project Manager for the Five Points Working Group and report back to the Council.

Marissa Bennici requested to address the Council about the crosswalk inf front of East Elementary School on South Little Creek Road, there is a flashing yellow light above the crosswalk but cars are not stopping and do not know if it is because when they are driving on Little Creek Road toward Targe, it is a slight incline and it seems cars have no regard to stopping for cyclists when they are using the crosswalk. Did not know if something could be done with relocating the crosswalk of if this would even be a problem that is brought up with the Council. John Fiori will reach out to the Traffic section and report back to the Council.

Karen Zakarian requested to address the Council which she had a question about the crossover at Old Orchard Road in Lewes, where there are spinners to slow down, are there plans to change anything there to make it a little more noticeable? John Fiori responded that crossing is part of a DOTS project that will be totally redesigning that crossing but the project will not start for a few years. Karen was asking if there is a way to make it more apparent to slow down. If you know the area then you know to slow down but if you do not know the area, it could be a problem.

## III. New Business

**Review 2024 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant Application**

John Fiori was asking the Council if there are any changes to the grant application prior to sending out the call for applications to all municipalities and the three County offices. Scott indicated once the application is ready he would present to the Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT). There were no changes to the application in which John Fiori will send out the call for application with a dues date of August 31, 2024.

**2024 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant Working Group**

Scott Hoffman asked for volunteers to be on the 2024 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant Working Group. John stated that the 2023 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant Working Group consisted of Scott Hoffman, Walt Bryan, Michael Krumrine, Fran Cardaci and Shebra Hall but she then resigned from the Council a short time after. Scott Hoffman, Fran Cardaci, Tom Hartley, James Wilson, Marty Lessner and Lauren Butsher were nominated. Scott Hoffman asked for a motion to accept those nominated to be on the 2024 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant Working Group. Tom Hartley made the motion and Fran Cardaci seconded the motion. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

**Everyone Gets Home Summit**

James Wilson made a presentation on the summit that Bike Delaware has been hosting since 2012, where during that summit then Governor Jack A. Markell announced that we should spend millions to make Delaware one of the most walkable and bikeable states in America. In 2013, the Level of Traffic Stress for bicycle network planning was presented that is used today in bicycle infrastructure improvements. In 2014 the summit brought people from places that are really bicycle friendly to give Delaware ideas. In 2015 the President of the League of American Bicyclists attended to announce Delaware was ranked 4$^{th}$ as being a Bicycle Friendly State. In 2015 the summit presented protected bike lanes, which Delaware had none and in 2023 a protected bike lane was open in Newark. In 2016 discussed the trails that were beginning to come on-line. In 2018 was a presentation on are bike lanes safe, the introduction of the low stress bikeway sign and the opening of the Jack A Markell Trail. In 2019 a group of representatives from the Netherlands attend to discuss what they are doing for bicycle safety. In 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic the summit went online. In 2022 and 2023 the summit became the Everyone Gets Home Summit. Between 2019 – 2022 bicycling was increasing more then any other state. In 2024 we are skipping because we feel like we set a very high bar with past summits and tried to put that program together this year and it just did not come together in time but making a promise that will have a great program next year.

## IV. Old Business

**Update of Feasibility of Georgetown to Lewes Trail Crossing SR9 at Cool Spring**

Walt Bryan was not able to attend so the agenda item has been deferred to the June Council meeting.

**E-bikes on Trails**

Scott indicated that at the April meeting the Council did have a discussion on e-bikes but Michael Tyler who requested this agenda topic was not able to attend. Scott asked Micheal if he wanted to add anything about e-bikes. Michael indicated that what was read in the meeting minutes was e-bikes going too fast but did not think that was the issue. The issue is caution, courtesy and control the users on these bikes and some users do not seem to be able to control the bikes as well as they should. Michael received complaints from bike shops and other riders that they do not know how to ride the e-bikes and are just not in control and that is the real issue, where those individuals felt they should not be on the trail at all. Mike was not aware of any accidents that have been reported but the concern is they have a bike that goes quick, and they do not seem to know how to control them. Everything that was said in the previous meeting is exactly right, you cannot enforce speed and again it is probably something we cannot deal with because we have already these bikes to be on the trail, on the street and on the sidewalks. Michael's opinion is that these are motorized vehicles, and they should not be allowed on the trail.

Tom Hartley made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Tyler seconded the motion at 6:15 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be held as a hybrid of in-person and virtually.**

To view the Delaware Bicycle Council video on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sT7gle7NGGk