Delaware Bicycle Council
December 3, 2025
Zoom Webinar
Meeting Minutes

Members Present
Fran Cardaci, At-Large Representative
Lauren Butscher, Division of Public Health
Tom Hartley, Kent County Representative
Scott Hoffman, At-Large Representative
Michael Krumrine, DNREC 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
Sgt. John Wheatly, Delaware State Police

Members Absent
Mack Cochran, Trails & Greenways Council
Amanda Kelly, New Castle County Representative

Guests
John Bare, Bike Delaware
Kevin Conlon, Cape Gazette
Ian Friedland, Public
Paul Moser, DelDOT
Collins Roth, Public
Becky Stewart, Public
Karen Zakarian, Public

I. Welcome/Introductions

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

Minutes/Agenda Review:
The Council reviewed the meeting minutes of October 1st. Tom Hartley made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Michael Tyler seconded the meeting minutes. All agreed. No one opposed.

II. Public Comment

No public comments.

III. New Business

2025 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant
Scott Hoffman stated that there were eight applications submitted, and the grant working group met virtually or on-site with the applicants. After the interviews, the working group ranked all the applications, based on the criteria of the Innovation Grant, and what the Council is trying to achieve. This year the total amount for the grant is $50,000 and based on the rankings of the working group, there are two projects being recommended. Sussex County to complete a feasibility study of Route 9 crossing of Georgetown to Lewes Trail that was being championed by Walt Bryan, for at least two years prior to his passing. The amount for this grant is $35,000. The other project being recommended is for improvements to McKees Lane in the City of Newark that will extend their bicycle network. The innovative part about that project is that the City will convert this one-way street to include contraflow bike lanes. The amount for this grant is $15,000. Scott then indicated the projects being recommended for the grant by the working group is Sussex County's feasibility study of the Georgetown to Lewes crossing of Route 9 in the amount of $35,000 and the City of Newark's construction for adding contraflow bike lanes on McKees Lane in the amount of $15,000. Michael Tyler indicated he spoke to Todd Lawson and was glad to see this moving forward. Michael Wagner made the motion to accept the working group's recommendation. James Wilson seconded the motion. John Fiori asked each member their vote, where there were 12 Yes and 0 No. Motion passed. John Fiori will be sending out the award letters to Sussex County and the City of Newark. John will then begin the process of transferring the funds to the municipalities.

Nominees for 2026 Chair and Vice Chair
Fran Cardaci oversaw the nominations for the 2026 Chair and Vice Chair. John Fiori stated that Scott Hoffman was Chair and Michael Wagner was Vice Chair. James Wilson nominated Scott Hoffman for Chair, which he accepted but indicated his family is moving so depending on where they move will determine if he will be able to serve on the Council. Michael Wagner volunteered for the Vice Chair in 2026. James Wilson indicated that although Mike Wagner has been a superb Vice-Chair, he would not be eligible to succeed Scott Hoffman if he were no longer able to serve. John Fiori clarified that only private citizens can be the chair and since Michael Wagner is a state employee he is not eligible to be Chair. Fran Cardaci indicated for now, the nominees are Scott Hoffman for

Chair and Micheal Wagner for Vice Chair and if Scott Hoffman ends up not being able to serve on the Council, then the Council will deal with it at that point. No other nominations were made. Nominations will be closed and voted at the next Council meeting on February 4, 2026. Additional nominations could be e-mailed to John Fiori or during the next Council meeting prior to voting.

Addendum for 2026 Cycling Infrastructure Grant Application
Scott Hoffman wanted to discuss an addendum for the 2026 Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant. John Fiori stated that on the innovation brant website under About the Grant, there is the following, "**Projects should be in areas where the local jurisdiction (applicant) has control of the necessary right-of-way either through ownership or agreement. The local jurisdiction is expected to maintain the facility once constructed**", whereby the revision proposed is, "local jurisdiction (applicant) has ***or could obtain*** control of the necessary right-of-way". James Wilson indicated he was not sure the language is exactly right, because the circumstance that likely would be is a municipality that does not own the street, in which the Department owns the street where it is not about obtaining control of the main street from the department, but rather just getting permission for their vision for change. It may need to say, "or could obtain permission". Scott Hoffman indicated this is to just let everybody know and does not need to be voted on tonight and asked James Wilson if he could prepare some language for the February meeting. James Wilson asked a question from the Department's point of view, what should happen before they apply for a grant to explore an option to change something that the Department owns? Wendy Polasko responded that it depends on that town agreement. There are a lot of roadways within municipalities that the department owns and maintains, but a lot of those are only face of curb to face of curb. It's not necessarily back of curb and beyond. Each agreement is different, and sometimes, even within a municipality, the roadways are different. That municipality would have to contact the Department and make sure that we all agree as to where ownership begins and ends. Then it would be where they are looking to make the improvements? If it is a wide shared use path that is outside back of curb, and the Department only owns curb face to curb face, then it is outside of DelDOT's maintenance responsibility. It could then be a right-of-way use agreement, or there's other agreements that would allow that municipality to take ownership of certain facilities within that right-of-way. James Wilson asked Wendy Polasko if she could edit the sentence and Wendy agreed and would send something to John Fiori.

Delaware Bicycle Council Member Updates
John Fiori announced that Pam Eaton submitted her resignation from the Council in early November and Michael Krumrine submitted his resignation from the Council on December 2nd. The Boards & Commissions Office has been notified and will be working on finding replacements.

IV. Old Business

Memorial Plaque for John Kurpjuweit
Scott Hoffman indicated this agenda item was tabled at the last meeting since Michael Krumrine was absent. Scott Hoffman asked Michael Krumrine if he had any updates? Michael Krumrine indicated that nothing has changed and DNREC is not interested in having a plaque on the bridge. Scott Hoffman asked there were still a couple options if not able to do the plaque. Michael Krumrine indicated the options were a memorial tree or bench. Michael Tyler responded that he

did not understand why the plaque could not be installed as it would not be expensive and it would be a nice opportunity to promote those champions of our cycling community. A bench or tree would cost too much whereas Sussex Cyclists could not afford it. Scott Hoffman asked Michael Tyler if this topic should be kept on the agenda. Michael Tyler responded to keep this on the agenda if the cost was minimal. Michael Krumrine indicated that from DNREC perspective it has absolutely nothing to do with money, it is something that is typically not done these days. It is an odd precedence, and that is what management is concerned about. Michael Krumrine recommended Michael Tyler to contact DNREC Director of Parks & Recreations as he will have the final determination on this matter. Michael Tyler indicated he will reach out to DNREC.

No Mopeds Signs on Trails/Pathways

Scott Hoffman provided an update on DelDOT's response to the No Moped sign being installed on trails. The DelDOT response letter was sent to the Council, in which Scott summarized that DelDOT is recommending not to install the sign but did recommend another course of action to Council. Marty Lessner circulated a rebuttal to DelDOT's argument that people would be confused about the distinction between mopeds and e-bikes. The Council agrees that signs should be put up to clarify that mopeds are not allowed on trials, as the law already prohibits this. John Bare pointed out that there is no specific definition of a moped in Delaware Code, and James Wilson emphasized the importance of combining education with the threat of enforcement to effectively manage trail safety. Sgt. John Wheatly explained that while enforcement is possible without signs, signs would strengthen prosecution and provide clear guidance to users. James Wilson expressed disappointment that DelDOT had not consulted with state police before sending their letter, and the discussion highlighted the need for both education and enforcement to effectively address the issue of e-bike usage. Council agreed that signs would be a first step toward enforcement, with the potential need for grant funding to support police efforts, and they acknowledged the need to educate users about the different classifications of bikes and mopeds. Paul Moser suggested a focused approach on specific problem areas rather than state-wide enforcement due to technological and resource constraints. Marty Lessner expressed frustration with DelDOT's rejection of their request for signage, leading to a discussion about whether the Council should push back on the decision or find alternative partners for implementation. The Council discussed enforcement and education strategies for e-bike regulations on bike paths, with a focus on setting wattage limits and addressing safety concerns. Marty Lessner proposed drafting a response to DelDOT's letter regarding signage for mopeds and e-bikes, while James Wilson emphasized the importance of consulting with police before making enforcement decisions. The Council agreed to pursue a multi-pronged approach, including working with municipalities and pushing back on DelDOT, while also exploring opportunities to implement enforcement actions with willing partners. The Council discussed drafting a response to the DelDOT letter regarding e-bikes, with Marty Lessner outlining key points including Delaware State Police involvement in law enforcement input. Sgt. John Wheatly suggested inviting the Chief Traffic Engineer to the February Council meeting to explain their positions. The group also considered forming a bicycle enforcement committee, with Sgt. John Wheatly potentially leading the effort, though James Wilson expressed concerns about capacity. Collins Roth from Rehoboth Beach shared his interest in the e-bike issue and offered to educate local authorities about the distinction between electric bicycles and mopeds. The Council agreed to include the e-bike discussion in the next meeting agenda.

Michael Wagner made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Hartley seconded the motion at 6:50 p.m. All agreed, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 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://youtu.be/HJk3hs7uQ_4