Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #9

October 23, 2025 - Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Delaware Pedestrian Council | Meeting #9

Date: October 23, 2025

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

Attendees:

Council Members Present

Name	Position	Email
Maureen Kelley	Alternate for Shanté Hastings, DelDOT Secretary	Maureen.Kelley@delaware.gov
Sharon Bryson	Alternate for Joshua Bushweller, Office of Highway Safety Director	Sharon.Bryson@delaware.gov
Thomas Nickel	DelDOT ADA Title II Coordinator	Thomas.Nickel@delaware.gov
Jared Kauffman	Alternate for John Sisson, CEO of the Delaware Transit Organization,	Jared.Kauffman@delaware.gov
Jamie Whitehouse	Sussex County Planning & Zoning	Jamie.Whitehouse@sussexcountyde.gov
Michael Smith	Governor Appointed Resident from New Castle County	MichaelSmithecon@gmail.com
Brian Goff	Governor Appointed Resident from Kent County	BGoff@chpk.com
William Jiron Jr.	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Physical Disability	Bigwillie1@msn.net

Members Absent

Name	Position	Email
Bill Payne	Governor Appointed Resident from Sussex County	Ublcreek@icloud.com
Kris Connelly	Alternate for Sarah Keifer, Kent County Director of Planning Services	Kris.Connelly@kentcountyde.gov
Dr. Kevin Spence	Executive Director of League of Local Governments	DEleaguelocalgovs@gmail.com
Elliott Larkin	Director of Land Use and Planning for the City of Wilmington	ETLarkin@wilmingtonde.gov
Kara Colpo	DOS ADA Title II Coordinator	Kara.Colpo@delaware.gov
Omar Noor	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Developmental Disability	OmarNoor0724@gmail.com
Susannah Eaton-Ryan	Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities	N/A
(Vacant)	Governor Appointed Resident Representative with a Visual Disability	N/A

Support Staff

Name	Organization	Email
Kelly Valencik	DelDOT	Kelly.Valencik@delaware.gov
Stephanie Johnson	DelDOT	Stephanie.Johnson@delaware.gov
Emily Hufnal	DelDOT	Emily.Hufnal@delaware.gov
Darnell Gittens	DTI	Darnell.Gittens@delaware.gov
Anthony Nobile	JMT	ANobile@jmt.com
Sophie Thompson	JMT	SThompson2@jmt.com

Guests / Members of the Public

Name
Collin Willard (Living Labs, Assistant Policy Scientist at University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration)
Alex McClellan (Living Labs, University of Delaware Graduate Research Fellow)
Angel Magee
Matheu Carter
Matthew Rogers

Meeting Purpose

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

1. **Introduction**

Kelly Valencik called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Kelly then provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Sophie Thompson then led the roll call. With eight Council members present, the Pedestrian Council had a quorum at this meeting.

2. **Public Comment**

Kelly Valencik provided an opportunity for members of the public to share questions or comments at 1:18 pm. No questions or comments were stated by the public.

3. **Review of Fatal Pedestrian Crashes in Previous Quarter**

Sharon Bryson from the Office of Highway Safety provided an overview of fatal pedestrian crashes by quarter. During Quarter 3 of 2025 there were a total of six fatal pedestrian crashes, with three fatalities in New Castle County, three fatalities in Kent County, and zero fatalities in Sussex County. This number is slightly lower than Quarter 3 of the previous year (2024), which saw eight pedestrian fatalities, but is not a significant reduction.

Sharon Bryson also provided a detailed overview of the pedestrian crashes, sharing the OHS data for Quarter 3 of 2025. Many of the fatal crashes in this quarter involved pedestrians walking in the roadway late at night or early in the morning, including a 24-year-old pedestrian who was walking on a road without shoulders or sidewalks. Another fatality involved a 62-year-old woman who was struck by a 24-year-old woman who was driving a stolen vehicle at a high speed and ran a red light.

4. Pop-up Project Updates from University of Delaware Living Labs Research Group

Collin Willard (UD Assistant Policy Scientist) and Alex McClellan (UD Graduate Research Fellow) provided a status update on the University of Delaware's Living Labs group's pop-up project materials. The team shared updates regarding the Middletown project on East Cochran Street and S. Catherine Street, which focused on speed reduction, crossing safety, and placemaking. Collin and Alex shared the background of this project, an overview of the outreach which was conducted for the project, and the data results of the pop-up materials so far. Before the project began, average vehicle speeds were around 26 mph, with top speeds of around 64 mph. After the pop-up materials were implemented, average vehicle speeds dropped to 18 mph, with a top speed of 43 mph. These results highlight the effectiveness of pop-up materials for speed reduction. The Living Labs' presentation may be read in full in the Council Meeting #9 Presentation PowerPoint file on the Pedestrian Council's website.

5. Subcommittee Updates

Land Use Subcommittee Update

Michael Smith provided a brief update regarding the Land Use Subcommittee, which last met on October 20th. The next meeting will be held on November 17th.

Discussion items from the recent meeting include:

- Creation of yearly recommendations and review of draft Annual Report
- Improving pedestrian safety through modifications and improvements to land use planning, regulations, and processes in Delaware, such as the Pedestrian Priority Area program and the Complete Streets Design Guide.
- How state agencies and municipalities can better identify gaps in the system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks to create a system of sidewalks and pathways that is continuous and interconnected.

Outreach & Education Subcommittee Update

Jared Kauffman also provided a brief update regarding the Outreach and Education Subcommittee, which last met on October 8th. The next subcommittee meeting is planned to be held on November 12th.

Discussion items from the recent meeting include:

- Creation of yearly recommendations and review of draft Annual Report
- Coordination to donate reflective safety materials to the Hope Center
- Discussion of ideas for FY 26 budget
- Messages for effective outreach
- Education and outreach to decision-makers

6. Council Budget

Kelly shared an update regarding the 2025 Council budget items. Last year, the Council approved its budget to be spent on pop up pedestrian safety project materials, the safety outreach materials, and to support the Everyone Gets Home Summit. The same budget has been proposed for 2026. Kelly asked the Council if there are any additional ideas for ways to spend the budget, or any requested changes to the proposed budget breakdown. No comments were made by the Council members. Kelly shared that the budget is planned to be voted on during the upcoming January 22, 2026 Pedestrian Council meeting.

7. Agency Updates

Kelly shared an overview of the Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month events which DelDOT is conducting throughout October. Sophie also provided an update on the social media posts which DelDOT has created to support Pedestrian Safety Month and share pedestrian safety practices.

Sharon Bryson shared a presentation from the Office of Highway Safety regarding recent pedestrian safety initiatives. Sharon shared that OHS (working with the University of Delaware and the City of Newark) has developed a specialized pedestrian-oriented safety campaign with an educational video, as well as social media posts and other forms of messaging. Sharon emphasized the importance of emphasizing in this campaign that pedestrian safety is everyone's responsibility, not just the responsibility of pedestrians. Students who are not following the law will be referred to the University to receive a pamphlet and watch the safety video to try to correct their behavior, and non-students will either receive a warning or a ticket. Click here to view the OHS's Pedestrian Safety video. The OHS presentation may also be read in full in the 'Council Meeting #9 Presentation' file on the Pedestrian Council's website.

Tom Nickel (ADA Title II Coordinator) shared an ADA related update. Tom mentioned that US DOJ has withdrawn the 2023 PROWAG Final Rulemaking and no longer intends to pursue this action.

Any other Council Members who represent agencies as part of the Pedestrian Council were then asked to provide round-robin updates to the general Council with any recent pedestrian-related updates from their respective agencies. No additional Council members provided any updates.

Sophie shared a legislative update regarding e-bikes and mopeds. The Delaware Bicycle Council is proposing signage changes to help restrict mopeds on Delaware's network of paved pathways and trails. The City of Harrington is also considering a ban of all electric bicycles within city limits.

8. Pedestrian Priority Areas Update

Anthony Nobile provided an overview of the Pedestrian Priority Areas efforts. He shared how the priority areas were identified, with an explanation of each step. Step #1 involved pedestrian crash hot spot identification, Step #2 involved additional criteria review and scoring, and that Step #3 involved the final score ranking. Anthony shared an overview of the priority areas in each county, with priority areas throughout Wilmington, New Castle, Newark, Dover, Georgetown, Rehoboth Beach, Seaford, Dewey Beach, and Lewes. This process has identified locations that have pedestrian safety concerns which are not currently being studied and provided a process that could be used by DelDOT to more systematically identify and prioritize pedestrian focused projects using available data.

9. 2025 Annual Report

The draft version of the end of year annual report for 2025 has been sent to the members of the Pedestrian Council prior to this meeting. The annual report typically includes the Council's progress throughout the year, Council recommendations, and end-of-year requests/guidance to state agencies or legislative changes. Sophie asked the Council members if they had any modifications or revisions to the draft report so far. There were no comments made by the Council. If there is anything not currently included that the Council members would like to be included in the 2025 Annual Report, please reach out to Kelly Valencik. The final draft of the 2025 Annual Report will be sent to the Council for review in early January.

10. Approval of Previous Minutes

Sharon Bryson asked the Council to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Michael Smith motioned to approve the minutes from Pedestrian Council Meeting #8. Tom Nickel seconded the motion. No Council members opposed or abstained. The meeting minutes from the July 24, 2025 Council meeting were approved.

11. Next Meeting Dates

Kelly Valencik shared that the next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. After that, the next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

12. Closing Remarks

Sharon Bryson brought the meeting to a close at 2:44 p.m. All Council members agreed.