Land Use Subcommittee Meeting #10

March 16, 2026 - Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, March 16, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members

Name	Position	Email
Michael Smith (Chair)	Governor Appointed Citizen Advocate	MichaelSmithEcon@gmail.com
Jamie Whitehouse	Sussex County Planning & Zoning	Jamie.Whitehouse@sussexcountyde.gov
Stephen Bayer	DelDOT	Stephen.Bayer@delaware.gov
Mike Petit de Mange	Dover Kent MPO	Michael.PetitdeMange@doverkentmpo.org
Sarah Bett	Delaware Commute Solutions, AECOM	Sarah.Bett@aecom.com

DelDOT Support Staff

Name	Organization	Email
Kelly Valencik	DelDOT	Kelly.Valencik@delaware.gov
Angie Hernandez	JMT	AHernandez@jmt.com
Sophie Thompson	JMT	SThompson2@jmt.com

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to hold the tenth Land Use Subcommittee meeting, and to discuss the following:

1. **Call to Order**
    a. Michael Smith called the meeting to order, took attendance, and welcomed attendees to the tenth meeting of the Land Use Subcommittee.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
    a. Michael Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous minutes. Mike Petit de Mange seconded the motion. With no opposition or abstentions, the meeting minutes from January 12, 2026 were approved.

3. **Public Comment**
    a. Michael Smith provided an opportunity for members of the public to share any questions or comments. No questions or comments were stated by the public.

4. **Subcommittee Discussion Items**
    a. Office of State Planning Coordination – Possible Land Use Subcommittee Involvement

i. Jamie Whitehouse provided a Sussex County perspective on this collaboration, noting that an upcoming land use study of the Route 9 corridor is underway.
    1. Jamie explained that the study includes four simulated growth scenarios, each reflecting a different level of planning intensity. Although the study is already seven months in progress, he emphasized that it presents a valuable opportunity for the group to provide input, particularly regarding the highly planned scenario and its potential implications for land use along the Route 9 corridor.
    2. Kelly Valencik expressed the importance of making this a recurring agenda item in future meetings to ensure committee members remain aware and prepared to comment on the pedestrian walkability components of the plan's scenarios as the study advances.

ii. Kelly indicated that this agenda item acts as a to-do list item for herself and JMT to reach out to the state planning office to find opportunities for collaboration, such as adding a member from the Office of State Planning to the subcommittee or collaborating on their Livable Delaware plan.

    1. No support staff or members of the subcommittee have had discussion about this item with the Office of State Planning as of March 16th, 2026.

b. Everyone Gets Home Summit – May 7, 2026
    i. Angie Hernandez shared that the primary focus of the summit will be multimodal roundabouts. She noted that the event is also sponsored by Bike Delaware, which indicates there will be a particularly strong emphasis on how pedestrians and cyclists navigate roundabouts in Delaware.
    ii. ii. As part of the Pedestrian Council's sponsorship of the summit, the Council has the opportunity to include a half page advertisement in the program.
        1. Sophie Thompson and Angie Hernandez from JMT will develop the Council's ad for the program.
        2. Michael suggested that some of the language from the Council's annual report could be included in the ad but ultimately left up to JMT's discretion.
    iii. Kelly noted that there will also be pedestrian safety materials from DelDOT for those who are tabling to hand out to attendees.
c. Strong Towns Guest Speaker
    i. The group agreed to aim for early fall to host a Strong Towns speaker; however, due to the high demand for their speakers this timeline may need to be pushed back.
    ii. Mike Petit de Mange suggested the possibility of inviting the speaker to DelDOT's Safety Summit.

1. Kelly noted that her understanding is that the 2026 Safety Summit is planned to be smaller in scale than in previous years. However, if the collaboration with Strong Towns proves successful, this idea could be a strong candidate for consideration as it tends to be held in the fall.
2. Kelly asked if stroads could be a topic discussed by the speaker as it falls under their expertise.

d. Any other topics?

i. House Bill 247 – Everyone Gets Home Act

1. Kelly noted that this item will be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting so the group can serve as a trusted source of information for communities interested in implementing slow speed roads, especially since the act has not yet been enacted or enforced in the state.

ii. Consideration of Scheduling Conflicts for the Land Use Subcommittee

1. Kelly shared that the Education and Outreach Subcommittee is currently polling members to determine a meeting time that works better for all, and that the Land Use Subcommittee has the same opportunity to adjust its meeting schedule to improve member availability if necessary.

5. Next Meeting Date

a. The next meeting will be held on April 23rd, 2026.

6. Closing Remarks

a. There were no additional remarks. Michael brought the meeting to close at 1:45 p.m.