

Lewes Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of the *Lewes Comprehensive Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan* is to create a community that encourages people to do more walking and bicycling and to provide a continuous, safe bicycle and pedestrian network that ensures a contemporary pedestrian-friendly environment for visitors and residents alike. Safe, well-designed pedestrian walkways and bikeways will encourage residents and visitor to adopt a healthy lifestyle, will reduce the number of vehicles on City streets as well as the need to create more parking spaces in the City of Lewes.

In order to accommodate and encourage safe pedestrian travel within the city limits of Lewes, the Mayor and Council hereby adopt an official Bicycle & Pedestrian Policy for the City of Lewes.

1. PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS:

- a) All painted or applied crosswalk and pedestrian road markings shall be consistent in design and properly aligned at all intersections.
- b) Within the historic downtown district, special textured sidewalks, specifically designed to calm traffic while retaining an aesthetic appeal compatible with their surroundings shall be constructed at key locations within the district.
- c) Crosswalks shall be wide enough to permit a minimum of three abreast. Also traffic bars shall be placed on the roadway three feet of either side of pedestrian crosswalks to provide stopping space and a safety buffer for pedestrians.
- d) Appropriate signs shall be located near all crosswalks and shall instruct motorists of the City of Lewes law that they must yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. The Lewes Police shall enforce this designation and issue warnings or citations as appropriate for infractions.

2. PLANNING COORDINATION:

- a) Bicyclist and pedestrian well being and safety shall be a cooperative undertaking. All City employees, working committees, agencies and ordinance review committees of the City of Lewes shall, where applicable, consider pedestrian safety in their plans and developments. These include, but are not limited to, the Board of Public Works, the Parks & Recreation Committee, the Lewes Planning Commission, the City Building Official, the Mayor & Council, and any group or individual responsible for effecting or enforcing actions that may have an impact on pedestrian safety.
- b) Prior to and following the peak tourist season from May 1 to September 30, a cooperative effort shall be made to ensure continuity of safe bicycle and pedestrian travel throughout Lewes from season to season. The Lewes Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (LBPAC) shall meet no fewer than bimonthly beginning in January and shall be comprised of five members appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. One member of City Council and one officer from the Lewes Police Department shall serve as ex-officio members of the LBPAC. Its primary aim will be to identify hazardous conditions or unsafe walkways, recommend crosswalk repairs, improvements, modifications or additions.
- c) The Committee will also assess visitor and resident feedback regarding pedestrian safety and initiate appropriate action for review by the Mayor & Council. This committee will also identify any other areas that may affect concerns such as crosswalk use or bicycling and pedestrian safety and recommend solutions that meet the stated purpose of the City's Pedestrian Plan.

3. SIDEWALK DESIGN:

- a) Where feasible, sidewalks shall be wide enough (5-feet minimum) to accommodate pedestrian travel three abreast. Also, signs and lighting as well as other utilities shall not impair or obstruct such travel or create unsafe walking conditions. Sign height along a sidewalk, for example, shall be more than 84 inches from the bottom of the sign to the pavement surface.
- b) The City shall install, where appropriate, bike racks, benches, plantings and the like to encourage and enhance the cycling and walking experience and provide a pleasant environment for pedestrian travel.
- c) The Lewes Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee shall review curbing at all intersections within the City in order to meet ADA standards and remove any obstacles that interfere with pedestrian travel.

4. EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- a) The Lewes Police Department shall enforce “Yield to Pedestrians” in the crosswalk especially in high traffic areas in the downtown business district as well as in other high pedestrian traffic spots such as at Cape Henlopen Drive and Savannah Road, Beebe Hospital, the IGA, the Lewes Library and Huling Cove.
- b) An annual effort shall be made by the City of educate residents and visitors alike about the need for pedestrian safety. For example, declaring July Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Month, City tax bills may contain walking safety slogans or be accompanied by the City Pedestrian Safety brochure or similar safety literature. Special walking events, radio spots (during Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Month) or other public activities may be conducted to create awareness and promote community involvement.

5. IMPLEMENTATION:

- a) The Lewes Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee shall make recommendations regarding any amendment to City ordinances or how the Pedestrian Policy is to comply with the Comprehensive Long Range Plan. Implementation of any ordinances or appointments to the LBPAC will be at the discretion of the Mayor and City Council.

Approved: August 1989
Updated: December 2005
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