

2017 Annual Progress Report and Recommendations Lewes Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

December 11, 2017

TO: Lewes Mayor and Council
FROM: Michael Tyler, Chairman, LBPAC

As the second city in Delaware to be recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a bicycle-friendly community, we look forward to move toward raising our status from Bronze to Silver.

Our efforts to promote Lewes as a pedestrian friendly community also are reflected in our Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Map and Guide. In the interest of safety our committee will continue to seek support to install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon crosswalk signal on Savannah Road at Second Street. DelDOT supports this concept and has installed one on Gills Neck Road at the Junction and Breakwater Trail crossing. Another continued concern raised by many residents is keeping cyclists from riding on our often busy sidewalks. We hope to offer some ideas and will need support from the Lewes Police Department as we move forward in 2018.

But for now here is a brief summary of what we've done this year and hope to achieve in 2018:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Map and Guide: After three seasons distributing copies of Lewes's "Bicycle & Pedestrian Friendly MAP & GUIDE" we again had a "best seller." We added the Lewes Historic Byway and made a few improvements. Placed in bike rack holders, distributed to real estate offices, placed in racks at the Cape May Lewes Ferry and the Lewes Chamber of Commerce and at Lewes bike shops, this helpful brochure has gotten much positive feedback from cyclists and shops throughout town. Committee members Jack Fisher and Sandy Phelan have been diligent in keeping the brochure holders full, often on a daily basis.

Public Outreach: Mayor Becker led a group of local cyclists to his office in City Hall on Friday, May 18 continuing the city's tradition to observe National Bike to Work Day and in conjunction with Bicycle Month which mayor and council endorsed by official proclamation. We hope other council members will join the Mayor next May. We continued to promote July as Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety month by mayoral proclamation and for the last 11 years have displayed our large blue banner on Savannah Road.

Helmet Ticket Program: Our fifth year of Lewes' Helmet/Ice Cream ticketing program that rewards young cyclists aged 12 and younger for wearing their bicycle helmets, saw a marked increase from past years thanks to very keen efforts by LBPAC member Dee Lott and our bicycle police staff. From Memorial Day to Labor Day they ticketed kids with an "official" ticket facsimile good for an ice cream cone. Two Dips rewarded 131 cyclists up from last year's 108; Kings tickets totaled 151 more than double last year's 72 and Dairy Queen treated 37 young helmet wearers up from 25 last year. We, and the ice cream merchants of course, were pleased with the positive comments about the program and we plan to continue it. We hope that this effort will be embraced by all of our police as we regard this as good community policing.

Lewes Night Out August 1st: Staying with our community cycling safety efforts, the LBAPC distributed nearly 50 new bicycle helmets free mostly to youngsters and also several adults who said they would set the example to be safe while riding a bike. In addition to the distribution of youth-focused bicycle literature and other items, two of our bicycle police not only assisted with our bike rodeo but took charge guiding more than 20 youngsters through a course focusing on teaching basic cycling skills. Their efforts enabled our committee members to devote time to fit helmets and spread the word about pedestrian and bicycle safety at our booth.

Shields School Second Grade Field Day: For the third year in a row I worked with second graders to show how a bike works, help them learn the ABC's of bicycling and the proper way to use and wear a helmet. I distributed about 120 second-grade level booklets to a pretty enthusiastic group of youngsters and future cyclists.

Bicycle Friendly Community: The bike parking facility on Gills Neck Road along the Junction and Breakwater/Gordons Pond trail saw good use in its first year. I noted more than 40 bikes parked on the Fourth of July alone. We produced a hangtag for bicycles parked in town secured to meters or benches or that block sidewalks instead of our being fastened to our bike racks. The meter readers were given a supply of these hangtags to direct "illegal" bike parkers to our parking facility. We hope this effort will educate cyclists where to park and not park.

Lewes Historic Farmers Market: We continued to set up a bike and pedestrian info table at the LHFM however it is difficult to be seen or recognized with no single entrance to the park. I have asked the farmers market folks to consider allowing a community tent or location in the park so we can be inside the park and have a better opportunity for folks to become aware of our efforts for bicycle and pedestrian safety. We set up only four times each year,

Copies:

City Manager Ann Marie Townshend

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—Dewayne Fox, Dee Lott, Jack Fisher, Sandy Phelan

LPD Chief Tom Spell