



# Call For Volunteers

## Lewes Historic Byway: Gateway to a Nation

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The City of Lewes Ad Hoc Committee on Byways along with Delaware Greenways is putting out a call for volunteers to help collect traffic data on Saturday, August 17, 2013 between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. We will gather at the Net House at 2:30 PM for orientation and finish work at 6:15 PM with the collection of the completed data sheets.

### WHY DO WE NEED VOLUNTEERS?

A few years back, the City performed a traffic study, which showed the street system to be congested at certain times of the day, especially during the summer. The study also found that the congestion affects travel around town at those times and detracts from the quality of life in the City. The study did not make recommendations as to what to do about this situation. Because these concerns affect the proposed Byway, the Ad Hoc Committee wanted to pursue this matter further and develop management recommendations that will look at how we use the streets, how visitors use the streets and how we can manage our travel better so that the streets do not congest so often. No recommendations to widen roadways will come out of this effort. Volunteers are an important component of this study. Involving members of the community in collecting data builds awareness about this issue in the community. You will be able to relate what you see every day to the data you collect and spread the word about what you saw and did—and also promote more substantive and effective change, which would not be possible without this collaborative effort.

### WHAT WILL THE VOLUNTEERS DO?

Volunteers will collect traffic data and will be stationed at an intersection to count cars, bicycles and pedestrians. Some will observe where congestion begins, noting locations and duration. Because this is the first time you will be collecting data, we will make it easy by limiting what you will be observing.

### HOW WILL THIS DATA BE USED?

DelDOT and the City of Lewes, as part of their day-to-day operations have been collecting traffic data periodically for several years. That data is from hoses placed across the roadway and from radar technology, but it counts only vehicles between blocks. Traffic congestion is typically caused at intersections where people make turns. What we don't know is how many folks make turns at the congested intersections. Once we know this, we can combine the data collected by DelDOT and the City and expand the traffic picture throughout the week. With this information, we can identify traffic patterns of concern, when traffic conditions become unacceptable and finally, develop recommendations for further action.

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER?

You will have participated in a community based effort with your friends and neighbors to help the City find real solutions to the traffic problems everyone has been talking about for years. You will have direct knowledge of traffic conditions and be able to interpret the data you collected and others



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collected. Finally, if you follow the study, as we hope that you do, you will have a better perspective to judge the recommendations and advocate for their implementation.

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?**

Because you will be outside, you should dress very comfortably. Shorts, a lightweight shirt and a hat with a big brim would work well for a sunny and hot day. Bring a lawn chair, sunscreen and something to drink. We will be providing cold drinks, snacks and bathroom facilities, as well as clipboards, pens and data sheets.

### **I'VE NEVER COLLECTED TRAFFIC DATA BEFORE. WILL YOU TRAIN ME?**

Yes. At orientation, we will review how to collect the data. It is very simple to do and I promise you will have no problem. We will also review some simple safety rules. Since you will be on a sidewalk, you will be in a safe position but it's always good to review safe practices such as never turn your back to traffic and look around before you move (things you tell your children and grandchildren all the time).

### **HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS DO YOU NEED?**

We need a minimum of 15 but we can use as many as sign up. If more sign up, we will collect data at additional locations!

### **HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

Please fill out the attached form and email it to:

[jgreene@delawaregreenways.org](mailto:jgreene@delawaregreenways.org)

...or mail it to:

Jeff Greene  
Transportation Planner  
Delaware Greenways  
1910 Rockland Road  
Wilmington, DE 19803

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 302-655-7275 or on my cell at 215-275-5307.

## **THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING AND HELPING TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY.**



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What: Traffic data collection: recording vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle movements, observations of congestion

Where: Meet at the Net House in Canal Front Park

When: August 17, 2013, 2:30 PM for orientation. Finish at 6:15 PM. Count period: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

How: Observing traffic by noting the number of cars, bikes and pedestrians passing through, turning and crossing at your assigned intersection. We'll supply clipboards pens, paper, water, iced tea and breaks. Please bring a lawn chair.

Why: Develop a base of data to develop traffic management strategies.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you? Email:  Phone:

Do you have a car: Yes:  No:  If no, can I get a ride to the Net House? Yes:  No:

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!**