



**PETER C. SCHWARTZKOPF**  
*Speaker of the House*  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
14<sup>th</sup> District

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**Route 1 Pedestrian Safety Task Force  
Safety Audit  
Minutes- October 2, 2013**

Secretary Bhatt welcomed the members and guests onto a DelDOT bus to begin the DelDOT Safety Audit of Route 1 at 10:10am. Present members of the Route 1 Pedestrian Safety Task Force included Co-Chairs Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf and DelDOT Sec. Shailen Bhatt, Rep. Steve Smyk, Sen. Ernie Lopez, Sussex County Councilwoman Joan Deaver, Rehoboth Beach Mayor Samuel Cooper, Leonard Read, State Police Lt. Mike Nelson, Bill Klemkowski, Roger Roy, and Danya Quillen. DelDOT representatives present included Matt Buckley, Bobbie Geier, Jeff Leonard, Mark Luszczyk, George Spadafino, Geoff Sundstrom, and Shante Hastings. Other guests included Dewey Beach Mayor Diane Hanson, Richard Klepner of the Office of Highway Safety, Bobbi Dunham of the Sussex Cyclists, and Joe Atkins Dept of Corrections.

The bus started Lowes at 20364 Plantation Rd, Lewes. Speaker Schwartzkopf encouraged the participants to pay attention to the right of way as they tour the corridor. George Spadafino noted that the right of way will vary from 150 to 200ft out from northbound center lane. Mark Luszczyk reminded participants to evaluate the road elements and road side features. Ideally, they would do a safety audit during various times of day, under different weather conditions, and at different times of the year.

**STOP 1: Tokyo Steak House, 17906 Coastal Hwy, Lewes**

Lt. Mike Nelson pointed out the overgrowth of grass and weeds on the sidewalk. Joe Atkins of the Department of Corrections said he would get crews to this location to maintain this sidewalk. The group discussed the problem with easements and expressed frustration that businesses are not taking responsibility for the sidewalks in front of their stores. Sec. Bhatt shared that DelDOT is focused on creating complete streets whenever it is looking at a new project. This focus is tied to federal funding and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There was discussion whether bicycles were allowed to ride on the sidewalk. Speaker Schwartzkopf clarified that bicyclists are allowed to ride on sidewalks unless it is restricted, typically by a municipality. Councilwoman Deaver noted the safety concerns with all the entrances onto Route 1. Sec. Bhatt followed up noting that access management is key to improved safety on Route 1. Lt. Nelson added that the majority of accidents are angle collisions, so someone is pulling out of an entrance and they get hit by someone riding the shoulder. Mark Luszczyk suggested changing the dotted line between the through lane and bus lane to a solid line. The solid line would discourage people from crossing into the bus line. Crossing the solid line is not a ticketed offense; it is discouraged but not prohibited. Mark Luszczyk added that putting a bicycle friendly rumble strip down could also discourage people from entering the bus lane at any time. Roger Roy pointed out that the road markings for the right turn lane were faded at this point on the highway. Mark Luszczyk said that DelDOT will be updating the markings on the road by next beach season. They plan to include a tapered line in the bus lane to clearly mark where you should enter if you plan to make a right turn. Rep. Smyk suggested that the goal should be to make the corridor idiot proof for visitors.

#### STOP 2: Tanger Outlets Midway, 34986 Midway Outlet Dr., Rehoboth Beach

Lt. Nelson noted that most of the fatalities on the Route 1 corridor are older males, and typically alcohol is involved. Speaker Schwartzkopf pointed out that traffic backup gets fierce before Tanger Midway due to the ADA compliant traffic light.

DeIDOT representatives discussed the possibility of creating a barrier between the right turn lane and the other lanes using white tubes. Rep. Smyk asked about segregating the highway into high speed lanes and local lanes. Matt Buckley shared that jug handles could be used in order to reduce the number of left turn lanes. Mountable curbs could also be added to right turn lanes to prevent people from riding that lane without turning.

Speaker Schwartzkopf commented that eventually the bus lane will be the 4<sup>th</sup> through lane. Speaker Schwartzkopf and Danya Quillen expressed concerns about aggressive bus drivers riding up on cars. Leonard Read suggested putting the bicycles in the middle of the highway with a barrier or on a multiuse path.

#### STOP 3: IHOP, 36670 Bayside Outlet Dr., Rehoboth Beach

Speaker Schwartzkopf asked DeIDOT about other safe ways for pedestrians to cross the road without a full traffic light and crosswalk that can tie up traffic significantly. DeIDOT suggested a string of lights, not at an intersection, that would be used as a pedestrian crosswalk called a pedestrian hybrid beacon. These lights would flash red when a pedestrian wanted to cross the road.

Roger Roy pointed out the utility poles that are in the middle of sidewalks impeding the route for bicycles or wheelchairs. DeIDOT noted the significant utility project required to move the poles. Mark Luszczyk noted that new sidewalks maintain a five foot width by curving sidewalk around one side of the utility poles; old sidewalks may not do that and are major impediments.

#### STOP 4: The Starboard, 2009 Coastal Hwy, Dewey Beach

Mayor Hanson pointed out the need for sidewalk repair in Dewey. Sec. Bhatt and Speaker Schwartzkopf discussed if the new sidewalks would need to meet ADA standards. They concluded that any new sidewalks have to meet the ADA standards.

The group stressed the need for enforcement of the rules for pedestrians, noting that pedestrian behavior changes when people get tickets. Mayor Cooper stressed the importance of keeping cars' speeds down.

The co-chairs thanked everyone for their participation and the Safety Audit concluded at 12:20pm.