

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DOVER

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER FIFTY-FOUR**

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: REESTABLISHMENT OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WALKABILITY AND  
PEDESTRIAN AWARENESS

WHEREAS, pedestrian related fatalities have been consistently high in recent years (25 deaths in 2013; 27 deaths in 2014; 26 deaths in 2015 to date); and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to eliminate pedestrian fatalities in Delaware; and

WHEREAS, my administration's First State Trails and Pathways Initiative, Executive Order No. 6, and Executive Order No. 26 promote the walkability of communities by linking communities through interconnected pathway networks, creating and maintaining Complete Streets, and focusing transportation investment in Level 1 Investment Areas of the Strategies for State Policies and Spending; and

WHEREAS, during 2014 Delaware Department of Transportation ("DelDOT") accomplished many pedestrian focused improvements along our roadways such as the installation of a pedestrian-hybrid beacon at the intersection of DE Route 8 and Heatherfield Way and upgrades to pedestrian facilities (crosswalks, pedestrian signals/buttons) at 28 intersections; and

WHEREAS, Delaware has an extensive network of greenways, trails, sidewalks and pathways for the enjoyment of its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, improving the walkability of a community increases property values by making these communities more connected, linking our work, schools, parks, libraries and businesses together; and

WHEREAS, land-use and traffic patterns and a lack of interconnectivity in many suburban areas make families dependent on motor vehicles for almost every activity; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of understanding of Delaware law relating to pedestrians and how motorists are expected to approach and respond to pedestrians in crosswalks and how pedestrians are expected to follow rules of the road.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JACK A. MARKELL, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order the following:

1. The Advisory Council on Walkability and Pedestrian Awareness (hereinafter, "Pedestrian Council") is hereby reestablished. The Pedestrian Council shall consist of no less than eighteen members which shall include the following:
  - a. The Secretary of the Delaware Department of Transportation ("DelDOT");
  - b. The Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control ("DNREC");
  - c. The Secretary of the Department of State ("DOS");
  - d. The Secretary of Delaware Safety & Homeland Security ("DSHS");
  - e. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services ("DHSS");
  - f. The Secretary of the Department of Education ("DOE");
  - g. The Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities;
  - h. The Chair of the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council;
  - i. The Chair of the Wilmington Metropolitan Area Planning Council;
  - j. The Chair of the Dover/Kent Metropolitan Area Planning Council;
  - k. The Sussex County Administrator;
  - l. The President of the Delaware Healthcare Association;
  - m. The Executive Director of the American Heart Association of Delaware;
  - n. The DelDOT ADA Title II Coordinator;

- o. The Department of State ADA Title II Coordinator;
  - p. One citizen representative who has a physical disability appointed by the Governor;
  - q. One citizen representative who has a visual impairment appointed by the Governor; and
  - r. Such other persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint.
2. All members of the Pedestrian Council serving by virtue of position may appoint a designee to serve in their stead. All members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. The Chair shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Pedestrian Council.
3. The Delaware Department of Transportation ("DelDOT") shall provide staff and fiscal support to the Pedestrian Council as part of DelDOT's ongoing responsibility.
4. The Pedestrian Council shall advise the Secretary of DelDOT on the following issues in an effort to make walking a safe, convenient, efficient, and comfortable means of transportation:
- a. Identifying gaps in the system of pedestrian paths and sidewalks in an effort to create a system of sidewalks and pathways that is continuous and interconnected;
  - b. Providing advice regarding design standards for crosswalks, sidewalks and pathways ensuring ADA compliance;
  - c. Providing advice regarding implementation of DelDOT's Sidewalk and Multi-Use Path Maintenance Policy;
  - d. Reviewing traffic rules to help support a safe pedestrian environment;
  - e. Providing advice regarding accessibility and connectivity in an effort to make transit a more viable option for all Delaware citizens; and
  - f. Developing strategies for pedestrian safety education and awareness.
5. The Pedestrian Council shall assist DeIDOT with the periodic re-evaluation and implementation of the Statewide Pedestrian Action Plan and shall make recommendations regarding the prioritization of pedestrian infrastructure improvements especially within Level 1 and 2 Investment Areas.

6. The Pedestrian Council shall provide a report of its activities and any recommendations annually to the Office of the Governor and any affected state agency on a yearly basis.

7. Executive Order No. Eighty-Three, issued by Governor Ruth Ann Minner, dated March 9, 2006, is hereby rescinded.



APPROVED this 13<sup>TH</sup> day of October, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Minner", written over a horizontal line.

Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. M. Hall", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State