

## **Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: 09/24/2026

Time: 10:00 am to 11:05 am

Location: South Bethany Beach Town Hall

Facilitator: Robert Shields (Facilitator called meeting to order)

### **ATTENDEES**

Robert Shields, Kathy Wood, Ed Kelchner, Mark O'Brien, Dennis Roberts, Rob Herb, Chief Lovins

### **ABSENT**

Richard Braida

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Item #1: Approval of Meeting Minutes 08/13/2026**

Details: Approved all in Favor.

#### **Item #2: Public Comment ( 3- minutes limit per speaker)**

Details: No Public Comments with one online zoom listener

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Item #3: Discuss the Delaware Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant**

Details: Discussion resulted in this program was not the best fit for South Bethany due to the town's small size. In addition, the program requires matching funds which may be problematic due to budgeting constraints.

#### **Item #4: Discuss implementation on Grab a Flag pilot project**

Details: A site scouting mission was conducted by Chief Lovins, Nick from Town Maintenance and committee chair Bob Shields and member Mark O'Brien. The two pilot sites will be located on Rte 1 at Anchorage Drive and Bayshore Drive with flag stations on the East and West Sides. Town maintenance will install the flag containers once the order is received. These containers will be attached to town stop signs on the East side and new break away posts located on the West side of Rte.1. The tentative plan depending on delivery and installation is to soft launch the program in October 2026.

After the soft launch the committee recommends a formal request submitted to DelDot for the additional 8 (est) crosswalks in preparation for a Spring 2027 launch. The Spring launch will include an educational video which will be available on the Towns website and issued to the media based on the Mayor's approval.

**Item #5: Discuss updated budget request for B&PSC**

Details: Budget is approved for pilot grab a flag project but a new request must be submitted for consideration of the complete project of an additional 10 (est) crosswalks in 2027. There will be a small surplus remaining from the current approved budget because the Council only approved a portion of the original signage request.

**Item #6: Discuss installation of new safety devices**

Details: New safety devices are awaiting installation and completion is expected soon with no definitive completion date given.

**Item#7: Discuss lessons learned during the summer of 2026**

Details: A discussion occurred regarding the specific safety record of South Bethany Beach compared to neighboring towns and Sussex County. Our SB Beach record in 2026 is very good regarding bicycle and pedestrian incidents yet our neighboring towns and the State of Delaware struggled with very poor rankings including pedestrian and bicycle accidents. Continued education and safety encouragement and enforcement by Chief Lovins and his force play an important role.

**Item#8: Discuss traffic sensor data**

Details: A discussion occurred regarding the traffic data in and out of the Cat Hill development. As expected heavy congestion occurs inbound in the morning hours and outbound during the late afternoon hours due to beach and cut through traffic. The committee recognizes the record growth in Sussex County and the reality that our cut through congestion will only worsen. Although the seasonal no right turn off of Kent certainly helps and the data supports that notion... we must look ahead and

plan accordingly. Traffic congestion and speed affect the safety of our pedestrians and bicyclists. The committee believes that further discussion is warranted regarding the restrictions through Cat Hill during the summer season.

**Item#8: Report on the recent Bethany Beach P&BSC meeting**

Details: Bob Shields attended this meeting and shared the accident reports which occurred in Bethany Beach this past summer. Although we share the same difficulty

crossing Rte 1 as Bethany Beach does, we certainly don't have the congestion and traffic due to our ( fortunate) lack of retail commerce.

**Misc:** It was reported that there is a large bayberry bush obstructing the views of pedestrians and motorists. The problem exists on S 2nd street and will be investigated by Chairman Shields and Chief Lovins.

by: Mark O'Brien ( Committee member )

Signature: <Mark O'Brien>

Date: 08/13/2026