

## **Excerpt from June 19, 2014, meeting minutes of the then-Newark Bicycle Committee**

Tom [Coleman] said he'd like to initiate a city project for implementation of the Bike Plan. Mark [Deshon] opened up discussion about solutions for two-way bike traffic on Delaware Avenue. James Wilson spoke about the many benefits of a "two-way protected lane" (a.k.a. cycle track). Mark indicated he was uncertain about the consensus of the group with regard to a cycle track on Delaware Avenue. James, Jeff, and Mike [Fortner] all felt this is the most important thing we can achieve as a committee project-wise. So, Mark asked those gathered to vote as to whether or not we really want this.

The committee then voted unanimously to make some configuration of a two-way protected lane for cyclists on Delaware Avenue a major planning priority. Tom suggested getting a resolution from City Council for this as well.

One of the hurdles is that DelDOT's current road design manual doesn't make this possible. Karl Hassler asked if we should participate with DelDOT in redesigning the manual. James insisted that talking tactics is premature at this point. He explained that DelDOT needs a partner and that it is naturally reluctant to initiate change on its own. He pushed the idea of getting both the mayor and city manager to co-sign a letter to DelDOT indicating that the City of Newark is ready and willing to make this a priority. Mark agreed to speak about this on behalf of the committee with Mayor [Polly] Sierer and [City Manager] Carol Houck and begin drafting a letter that would include language that would indicate the City is interested in getting this project done in the next few years and is not willing to wait until 2018, when its next BFC application is due.

Jeff [Riegner] said that because DelDOT has a strong focus on bicycle-friendliness right now, they are very receptive to implementing bicycle infrastructure. "The committee should request DelDOT's participation in as wide a range of projects as reasonable." Tom mentioned that DelDOT typically has agreed to pay for something as long as the city agrees to maintain it. He feels we need to suggest that the City pay for this project and get DelDOT to agree to maintain it. Jeff said he feels like this is a reasonable request.

In any case, it looks like active collaboration among the City, DelDOT, and our committee will be essential to get this project accomplished and to further show the LAB we're serious about bettering the city's BFC status. Mark asked if, in parallel with our committee's efforts, it would help if the University of Delaware would push for "Bicycle Friendly University" status. All agreed this would be a bonus for the City of Newark.