



## **December 2025 Monthly Meeting**

December 18, 2025 Hybrid Meeting - WILMAPCO / Zoom

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Member Attendees:** Bob McBride (Chair), Mark Deshon, David Schultz, JT Fleming, Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Sophia Marianiello

**Partner Liaison Attendees:** Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO / Newark Bike Project; Paul Moser, DELDOT; Alaina Battle, UDPD / EMS; John Bare, Bike Delaware

### **Remembering one of the early founders of the Newark Bicycle Coalition**

We observed a moment of silence in the memory of Jerome Russell Lewis, of Newark, DE, who passed away on December 13, 2025. In 1973, Jerome created the Institute for Public Administration (IPA), which became the largest and most comprehensive center in the Biden School and the university's primary unit to support Delaware state and local government. He served as director of IPA until his death, overseeing hundreds of public service projects, sharing his high regard for the importance and excitement of public service with his students and staff, and improving the quality of public services in communities across Delaware.

Many long-time BikeNewark members and Partners shared their appreciation for his efforts setting in motion committees, and other public organizations that resulted in BikeNewark being organized. We thank him for all the good things he started, and the people he encouraged to do good things for their neighbors and the greater community.

### **Review of Events this Year**

Bike Safety Days on UD Campus – Mark reported that the 4 events this year were very successful with a large number of helmets and bike lights given away. The UD Police Department officers on site were very helpful. Many thanks are due to John Fiori of the DE Bicycle Council for co-sponsorship.

**First Friday** rides final report for 2025 – Bob reported that there's a small but steady upward tick in numbers of participants. We reached about 28 individuals this year with rides most months between March and October.

*New to Newark* weekend ride in November did not attract any participants despite the advance publicity (which was not extensive this year). Weather was marginal with early rain this date but dry at ride time. We will need to investigate a better way

### **Oct 28 DE Bicycle Council McKee's Lane Project**

City of Newark was awarded a DE Bicycle Council grant for the McKee's Lane contraflow project of \$15,000. Tim Filasky of Newark Public Works thinks that City staff can do all of the projected work within the grant funding without need for additional funds. No estimate on when this might be accomplished.

### **UD Lerner First Year Business student project**

Bob received reports from 3 groups of UD First Year Business students who represent a new point of view for us: 18-19 year olds who are new to living/studying in Newark. We asked them to study how a nonprofit business can better serve the UD Community as well as the great Newark Community in advancing bicycling use, safety and education.

Bob was impressed at the scope of the work of some of the groups who created their own surveys and compared bicycling organizations in other cities. He plans to summarize the work of the 3 study groups and present a comprehensive report at a future meeting.

Dave mentioned this service is available to all nonprofit organizations and that you can request it every year if your organization wishes.

### **Engineering Committee /Bikeways Maintenance Reports**

Mark reported that DELDOT has cleared most of the Rt 72 (S.Chapel Street) side use path which had been largely covered up by brush and dirt in recent years. We reflected that to keep this path open BikeNewark & Partner Organizations should adopt the Rt72 Bikeway Side use Path (there is a DELDOT program to do this) to provide regular maintenance.

Paul suggested George Hollis @DELDOT or Kathryn.Beasley@delaware.gov DELDOT Public Information office may be helpful in telling us about what is required to do this.

Rt4-Rt72 Intersection improvements are out to bid by DELDOT after being designed as part of the Newark TID program.

Gravenor Lane Bikeway/ECG project is still on hold. No progress on gateway unlocking/access. Karl has completed refinishing and restocking the Trail Kiosks with improved signs.

There has been some attention to the Newark Bikeways sign requests for new installs and replacements from the City. City needs to reorder some bikeways signs for replacement as well adding signs to Kershaw/Olan Thomas and Northeast Bikeways. Some new signs are needed for the Cleveland Ave/ N Chapel St. and Paper Mill Rd intersection as well.

No movement on S. College Ave or other federally-involved projects.

WY Road intersection project is at the mercy of DELDOT discretionary funding.

Reaching out to the Engineering Lab at UD to create project analyses to help push projects along might be a good strategy to keep focus on this need for better traffic management for all users.

Keeping up attention to and maintenance of installed projects is also important to make sure people remember that amenities require planning AND upkeep.

## **Treasurer Report**

Ending balance 12/18/2025 (\$ 2,268.70)

Increase(decrease) in balance for the year 2025 (\$ (604.47)

see the attached report for further details.

## **Updates from Partner Organizations**

### **BikeDelaware**

Dover DE trail grant has been rescinded by request.

Lewes Georgetown Trail grant has been expedited by DELDOT

Newport-Newark Trail has not been canceled-it is not withdrawn- but no action recently

### **Ebikes, EMoPeds and operation on Bicycle Trails issues**

NJ is considering full licensing of Ebikes with plates, registration and insurance.

BikeDE is working on a DE bill to identify new class of EMoto vehicles that are not in the Class I-III Ebike constellation that is now recognized. This would define ebikes and mopeds more precisely and establish that they cannot be used on bike pathways or bike lanes in some cases.

We should make this information a part of any future safety sessions that BikeNewark sponsors. There is a write-up on these issues Heather has used for the Newark Bicycle Plan update that could be used. We have already discussed with Newark Parks & Recreation staff the policy on use of Ebikes in City Parks and existing policy and definitions seem to be adequate for now. Regulations for the rest of the City might need to be considered in light of new classes of E-Vehicles which might operate on streets. BikeNewark could help with this.

### **Newark Bicycle Plan Update**

Heather reported that in review of the final draft by City groups some suggested some minor changes in the format that seem to be easy to accomplish. The Final Draft Plan has not been approved yet but likely will be soon.

### **Engineering Class at UD**

Paul taught a class at UD during the past summer on Transportation design issues. This was designed for engineering as well as public policy planning and design professionals/advocates This class may be canceled due to lack of students (only 3) Paul may get a chance to teach it again in some future summer session (or winter term) if more students can be encouraged to enroll.

### **Review of Accomplishments for 2025**

We hope to use this to ask membership for ideas on accomplishments and goals through online forms and then compile the data for setting goals

Bob will assemble a basic list for Mark to publish with communications encouraging members to rejoin BikeNewark. We will set this up online in a google documents or Survey format asking what people are interested in BikeNewark doing in the future.

This will be like using online “sticker voting” which we have done in the past

### **Rethinking BikeNewark meetings for 2026**

Alternating meeting times between 4:30-7pm has not resulted in more people attending meetings this year. We thought today that picking a single time and staying with this schedule made the most sense.

Please let us know if you have any other good ideas about meeting schedules.

**Old and New Business**

No more business for this year!

**Holiday Fellowship**

We ate some cookies and cheese and had some time to celebrate daylight getting longer!

Next Meeting

**Upcoming Meeting Times and Places for 2026**

January 15 , 2026	Virtual Meeting	4:30 pm
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Minutes by Robert McBride