



# Sussex County 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

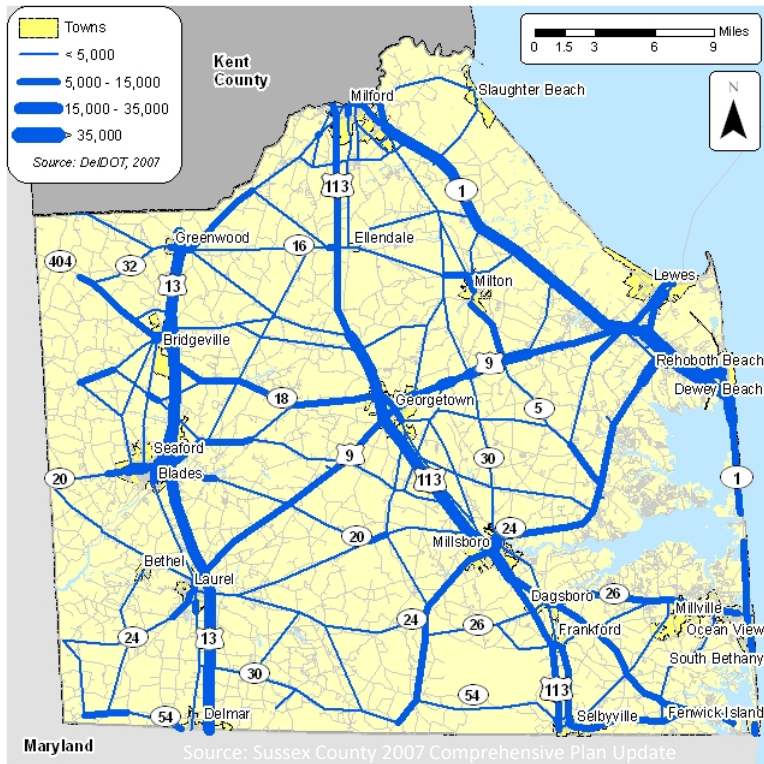


September 27, 2017

# Sussex County

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

### Average Annual Daily Traffic - 2005

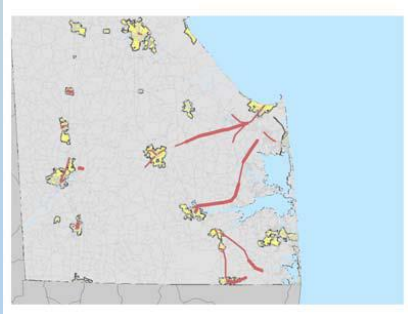


Sussex County is Delaware's largest county, with 938 square miles of land within its borders. Within that broad expanse is more than 37 percent of the State's 6,281 miles of public roadway.

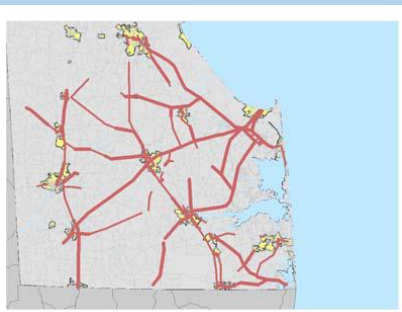
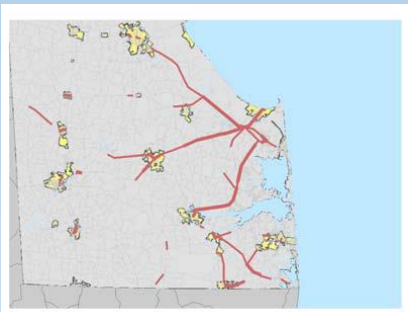
In Sussex County, the most heavily traveled roadways are US 13 and SR 1 (each carrying more than 30,000 vehicles daily), followed by US 113 with more than 24,000 vehicles daily. At the same time, the major east-west routes also are heavily traveled, though these are less capable of extensive traffic. Congestion due to the movement of summer visitors often compounds traffic problems.

As noted in the charts below, congestion is expected to worsen by 2030, even assuming currently planned projects are completed.

### 2000 and 2030 Year-Round Congestion (Volume to Capacity Ratio > 85%)



### 2000 and 2030 Summer Congestion (Volume to Capacity Ratio > 85%)



Source: Sussex County 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update



# Sussex County Priorities

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request



The following items are Sussex County's transportation priorities for the 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program, based on past requests and public input. Each priority is explained in further detail in subsequent sections of this request:

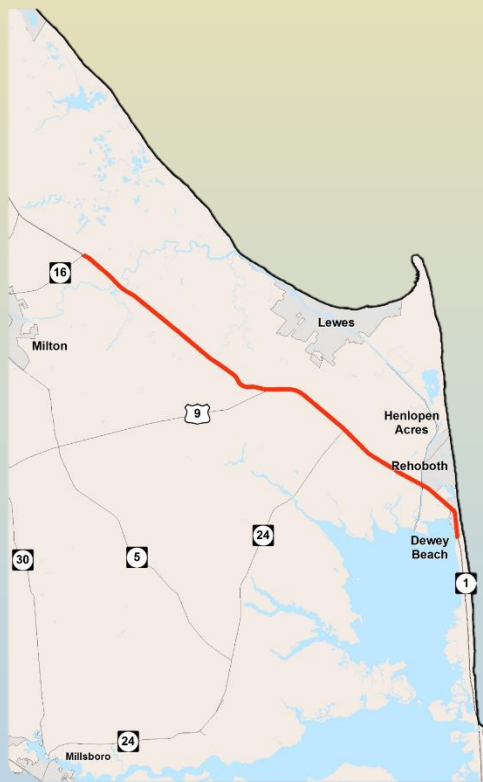
- SR 1 Improvements
- Delaware Coastal Airport
- Park Avenue/US 9 Truck Route
- East-West Improvements
  - ❖ SR 24
  - ❖ Routes 404/9
- Bicycling/Walking Trails
- North-South Highway Improvements
- Scenic Byways
- Local Roads
- Intersections, Signage & Signalization
- Alternative Transportation

# Del. Route 1 Improvements

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Pedestrian and bicyclist safety along the SR 1 corridor in Sussex County's beach communities has gained increasing attention in recent years with numerous accidents, some fatal, occurring along the highway, particularly between the Five Points intersection and Dewey Beach.

Sussex County recognizes finding solutions to the challenges present along SR 1 is not easy. A recently completed \$11.5 million effort to install sidewalks and add or improve existing crosswalks within the corridor stands to enhance pedestrian safety. In fact, these improvements may have been a factor in a lack of fatal pedestrian/bicycling incidents in the corridor during the 2016 summer season. However, pedestrian concerns must be balanced with the needs of the 80,000 daily beach-bound vehicles that depend on a steady traffic flow to reach their destinations. The County continues to call on DelDOT to consider reduced speed limits and simplified, visible signage in the corridor to aid drivers and pedestrians. Additionally, a low-level median barrier also might be appropriate to discourage pedestrian traffic outside of crosswalks.



What is critical is that there be community consensus in whatever decisions are made, to ensure SR1 serves its primary purpose as the gateway to Delaware's beaches, while maintaining safety for those who walk, bike and ride the corridor each day.

Editorial »

Route 1 fatality demand

Hot topics: Route 1 lights, crosswalks

DelDOT: Crosswalks

DelDOT: Funds li-

Police investigate fatal crash near Dewey Sussex roads

Courtesy: Cape Gazette (Summer 2013)

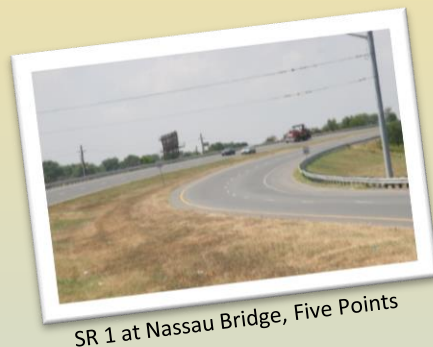
# Del. Route 1 Improvements

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Sussex County supports a multi-faceted approach to enhancing SR 1 to improve pedestrian safety and ensure traffic flow.

### ➤ **Five Points Intersection/US 9 Realignment**

Improvements are needed at the Five Points intersection to reduce accidents at this gateway to the resort area, which is often congested and confusing to motorists. Realignment of the US 9 connection at Five Points could ease congestion and improve safety. Meantime, intersection improvements at Wescoats and Savannah roads and a planned New Road connector could alleviate traffic approaching the Five Points area.



SR 1 at Nassau Bridge, Five Points

### ➤ **Intersection at SR 16 near Milton (programmed in CTP for FY21)**

An overpass with exits at this intersection, similar to the design built at SR 1/SR 30 near Milford, would improve safety by eliminating cross-traffic and the need for a traffic signal.



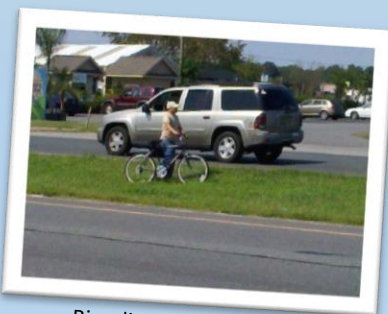
Intersection of SR 16 and SR 1 near Milton

### ➤ **Pedestrian Crosswalks**

Crosswalks at key locations – namely existing intersections – along with reduced speed limits would improve safety, especially for those walking near the retail outlets. Sussex County applauds the State for its recent work to install new crosswalks, particularly the HAWK system, and encourages the State to continue evaluating the corridor for other suitable improvement locations.

### ➤ **Pedestrian/Bicycling Paths**

Continued expansion of the popular Rails with Trails concept along railway corridors, particularly between Georgetown and Lewes, could improve alternative movement to and along the SR 1 corridor. Additionally, dedicated pathways, improved lighting, more visible signage and crossings, and education outreach efforts to visitors could enhance bicycling safety in busy corridors where competing travel modes (vehicular, bicycling, and pedestrian) exist.



Bicyclist crossing SR 1

### ➤ **Commercial Properties Interconnectivity**

Connecting entrances/exits between adjoining commercial properties should be a priority, where possible, along the SR 1 corridor. This would allow those visiting stores the ability to move among the properties without having to re-enter and exit the highway. Such connectivity also should be used in commercial areas along the US 13 and US 113 corridors.



# Delaware Coastal Airport

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request



Delaware Coastal Airport near Georgetown is a critical part of Southern Delaware's transportation system, and the facility continues to provide lift to the local economy.

The airport records nearly 40,000 landings and takeoffs each year, and is home to a vibrant economic and educational base, including ALOFT AeroArchitects with its auxiliary fuel tank installation business and the DeITech aircraft maintenance training program. Currently, there are 20 employers and nearly 1,000 jobs at the adjacent Sussex County Industrial Park, with an annual payroll of more than \$36 million. Meantime, the County has added to the industrial park approximately 75 acres along Park Avenue for expansion, with the first tenant, Atlantis Industries, expected to begin operations by the end of 2017.

Planned airport improvements, notably the extension of the main runway from 5,500 feet to 6,000 feet, will help retain well-paying jobs at the airport and support economic growth in the community. An earlier 500-foot runway extension project began in August 2012 and was completed in late 2013.

Sussex County government plans various improvements totaling nearly \$15 million from FY18 to FY22 at the airport and industrial park complex. Meantime, the local share of costs (County and State) for the additional 500-foot runway extension will be approximately \$12 million. This includes \$6 million for the actual runway extension, and an additional \$6 million for the necessary realignment of Park Avenue (see Page 7). The Delaware General Assembly in June 2015 allocated \$5 million in the Bond Bill for improvements, laying additional groundwork for this important project to get in the air. Already, DeIDOT has begun to move forward on conceptual planning and public outreach, hosting a workshop on the realignment project in August 2016.

The County urges the Council on Transportation, the Department, and the State to continue their work with the County and Delaware's Congressional delegation to secure the necessary federal and state funding for the full 1,000-foot runway extension, which is critical to ensuring aviation safety and continued economic opportunities in Sussex County.

# Park Avenue/US 9 Truck Route

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request



Park Avenue, which remains among the County's highest priorities, is an essential route in the Georgetown area, providing access to the Sussex County Industrial Park, as well as a bypass for trucks and local traffic moving through the central portion of the county. However, this two-lane road – also known as Truck Route 9, the designated road for tractor trailers moving through the Georgetown area – is in need of critical upgrades, from turn lanes and shoulders to intersection improvements and a partial realignment.

During an August 2016 public workshop, DelDOT presented a number of options for a realignment project, including shifting the road's current southern terminus at South Bedford Street to locations farther south, at the intersection with Arrow Safety Road and another at the intersection with Zoar Road.

With new commercial development occurring in the County's adjacent industrial park, truck traffic along this route will continue and increase in the years to come. Beyond truck traffic, a project to realign and make other improvements along Truck Route 9 would provide an opportunity for the State to enhance this route to improve safety for through-traffic and local motorists. It could serve as the base of a future Georgetown bypass to accommodate through-traffic to and from the beaches, as well as along the US 113 corridor, which functions as a critical travel link for daily commuters.

County government requests the Council on Transportation give thoughtful consideration to giving this project higher priority in the state's construction schedule and allocate additional long-term funding for Park Avenue's realignment and other improvements. Doing this would enable the runaway project to move forward sooner and guarantee a safer route for the traveling public.

# East–West Corridors

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

The FY18-FY23 Capital Transportation Program contains approximately \$272 million in estimated State and federal funding for improvements to the county's network of east-west routes. There is approximately \$7 million in the budget for FY18 alone. Projects targeted for funding include preliminary engineering for SR 24 improvements, continued improvements to the US 9 corridor, construction of the North Millsboro Bypass, and construction of grade-separated intersections on SR 16, SR 18/404, and US 9.

Sussex County appreciates the State's ongoing attention to these very critical links to the transportation system by budgeting for these current and future long-term projects.

However, substantially more funding will be needed in the years ahead, particularly for rights of way acquisitions, so improvements on other major east-west arteries can occur across the entire network. These improvements would include:

- Widening corridors with additional lanes and shoulders to accommodate increased traffic volume, improving traffic flow and safety;
- Resurfacing of shoulders to highway standards;
- Intersection upgrades such as the addition of left-turn lanes, increased illumination, and directional signage;
- Better coordination of traffic signals at identified choke points.

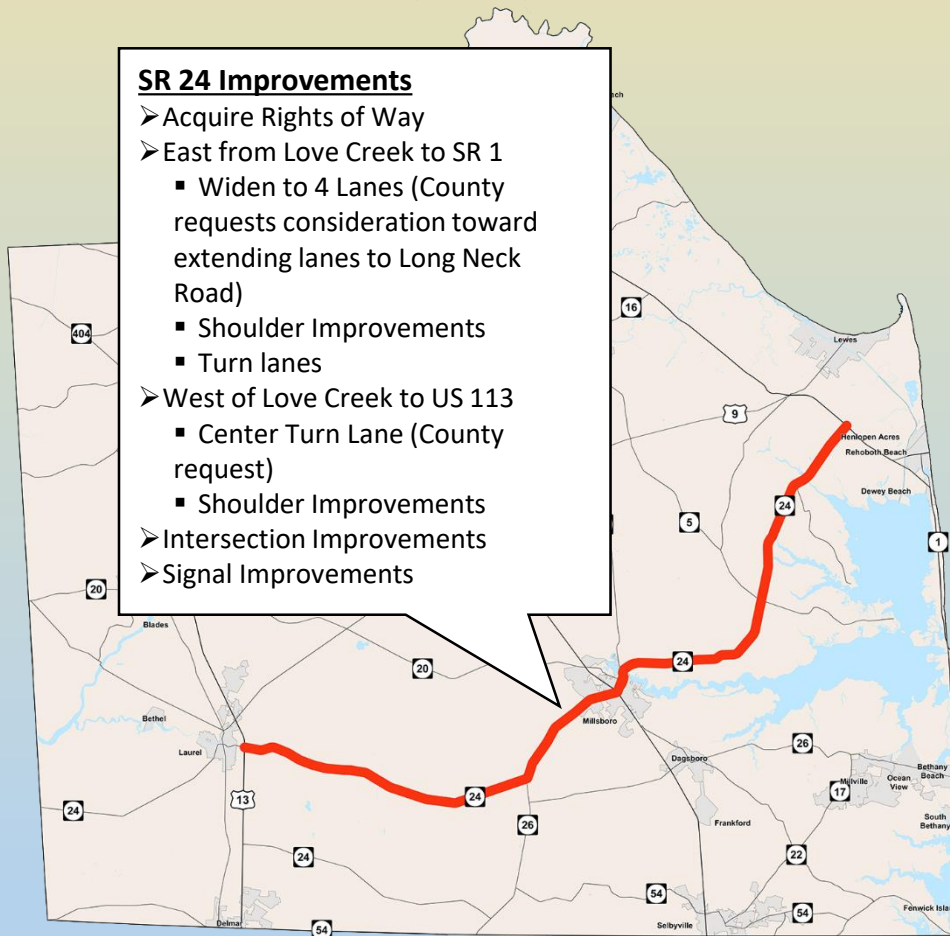
If current travel patterns continue as predicted, increased and frequent congestion will further interfere with local residents' mobility in many areas. Anticipating and funding necessary improvements such as these across the county's entire network of east-west arteries will better meet the travel needs of local residents and visitors for decades to come.



# East–West Corridors

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

State Route 24 is one of Sussex County's primary east-west corridors, allowing entry and egress from coastal communities. East-west routes are critical to allowing local motorists and destination drivers access to homes and commercial centers in the resort area. In more recent years, these routes, in their configuration as two-lane roads, have been insufficient to safely and efficiently move traffic into and out of the area, particularly during peak summer months and evacuations.



# East–West Corridors

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

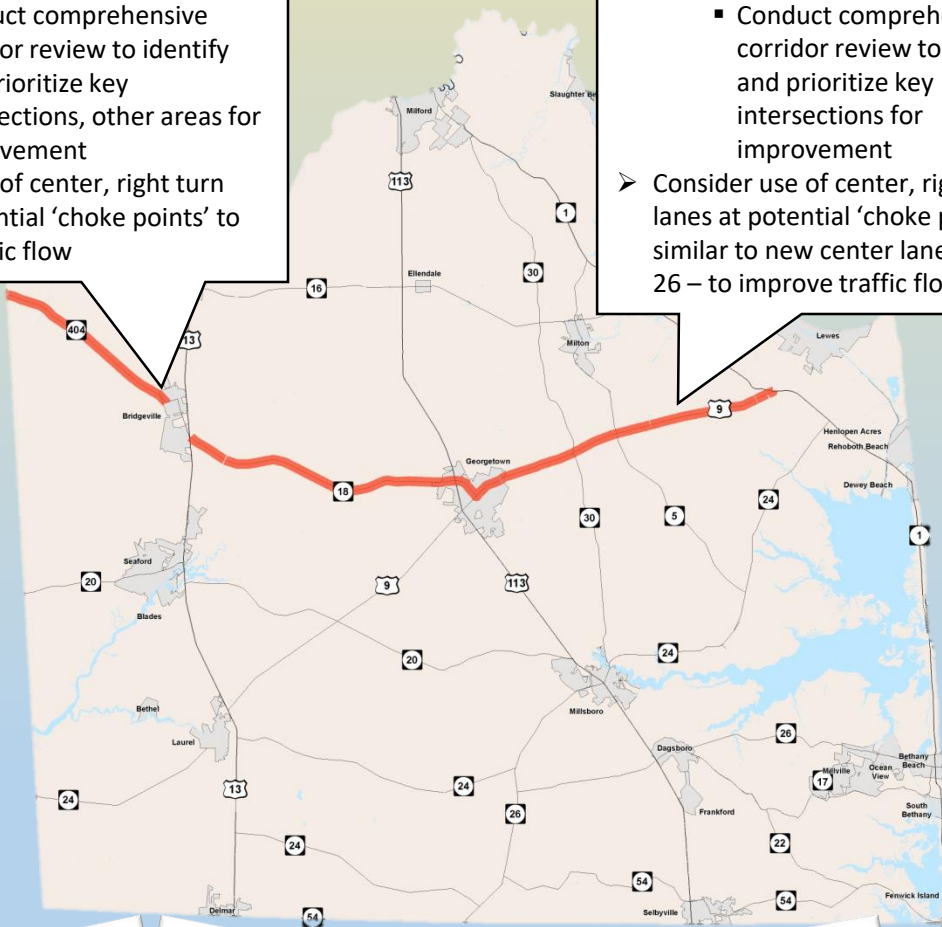
The SR 404/18 corridor, which connects with US 9 at Georgetown, is the principal means of east-west movement in Sussex County. This route, which connects to Route 404 in Maryland, is the gateway for beach-bound traffic during summer months, but a primary artery for local commuting traffic year-round. High traffic volume often limits this two-lane road's capacity; Maryland is widening its portion of the route to accommodate east-west traffic to and from Delaware. Sussex County respectfully requests the State consider a comprehensive transportation study to determine future improvements in this vital corridor.

### SR 404/SR 18 Improvements

- Increase Capacity for SR 404/SR 18 from Maryland east to Georgetown
  - Conduct comprehensive corridor review to identify and prioritize key intersections, other areas for improvement
- Consider use of center, right turn lanes at potential 'choke points' to improve traffic flow

### US 9/SR 404/SR 18 Improvements

- Increase Capacity for US 9/SR 404/SR 18 from Georgetown east to SR 1
  - Conduct comprehensive corridor review to identify and prioritize key intersections for improvement
- Consider use of center, right turn lanes at potential 'choke points' – similar to new center lane along SR 26 – to improve traffic flow



# Bicycling/Walking Trails

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Sussex County supports the continued attention placed on efforts to bring new trails and pathways to Southern Delaware. Just this summer, new phases of the Junction & Breakwater Trail near Lewes and the Assawoman Canal Trail in Ocean View opened, giving cyclists and pedestrians safe, scenic ways to enjoy Sussex County.

The FY18-FY23 CTP contains \$800,000 in funding from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), along with another \$3.2 million expected in federal dollars, to continue the trails initiative that will link communities, parks, and other points of interest in the First State.

Projects that can benefit from this funding include the Georgetown-to-Lewes Rail Trail, which will stretch 17 miles mostly alongside the Delaware Coastline Railroad line from the county seat to the beaches. This multi-use path, with an initial phase completed and another set to begin in Spring 2018, will provide an alternate means for residents and visitors alike to navigate Sussex County, to access other trails, such as the Junction & Breakwater Trail between Lewes and Rehoboth Beach, and would promote a healthier lifestyle for users young and old. It also will retain the current rail line, providing a critical link for businesses to move products and keep the local economy strong.

Sussex County requests that the Council on Transportation and the Department evaluate proposals such as the Georgetown-to-Lewes Rail Trail when deciding how to allocate Delaware's annual share of federal matching funds, such as the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Program (STP) grants.

Those dollars, in conjunction with the \$35 million that has been already allocated by the State in recent years, could make alternative, multi-use paths a reality for bicyclists and pedestrians who want to connect with their communities and the natural beauty that makes Sussex County so special.





# North-South Hwy Improvements

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Improvements to Sussex County's major north-south corridors, specifically US 113, remain a significant transportation need to address local traffic requirements, seasonal demands and interstate travel. Public sentiment to preserve the highway with minimal impacts on properties remains high, and the State should continue to weigh those concerns as it moves forward with corridor plans, including bypasses around some of communities along the corridor.



US 113 is fed by SR 1 from the north, SR 404 from the west and the Maryland portion of US 113 from the south. Many travelers to the coastal areas of Sussex County already utilize US 113 to bypass the often congested SR 1 corridor. This is especially evident along the corridor at points including Georgetown and Millsboro during summer weekends, as traffic can back up for miles at times.

Users have distinct, and in some cases, conflicting operational requirements. Local users prefer access to properties with relatively simple and safe traffic patterns. Trucks, vacationers, and long-distance commuters, on the other hand, desire high-speed traffic patterns with minimal interruptions. Intersection upgrades, additional travel lanes, and other modifications could satisfy travelers' needs, and ease demand on other north-south arteries, such as US 13 and SR 1.

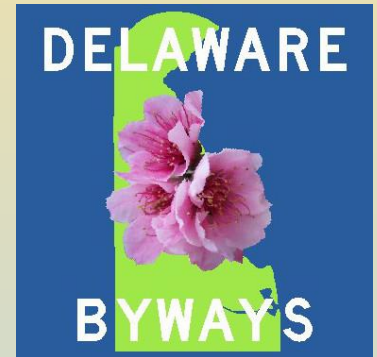
Because of the project's potential costs and effects, the County believes improvements should be phased in, based on public consensus, and given high priority to move the project from concept to reality.

# Scenic Byways

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

A journey through Sussex County quickly yields what continues to make Southern Delaware an attractive place to live, work and recreate: natural landscapes, charming neighborhoods, timeless history. Designated byways are the latest tool in exposing the traveling public to all that a community has to offer.

Sussex County supports ongoing efforts to designate and maintain scenic byways that pass through our diverse communities and educate travelers about the area's rich history, all while promoting mobility and commerce. Most notable among these efforts in recent years are the Nanticoke Heritage Byway in Western Sussex and the Lewes Scenic and Historic Byway on the eastern side of the county, both of which are part of the Delaware Byways and National Scenic Byways programs.



Both programs have been formalized through the completion of corridor management plans (CMP), which establish criteria and action items for the enhancement of intrinsic resources and preservation of the byway routes.

In the case of the Lewes Scenic and Historic Byway, the byway's committee has enumerated a number of actions and improvements that are considered critical to ensuring infrastructure meets travel demand and safety concerns. This is of particular interest along Kings Highway, a highly-traveled gateway for traffic utilizing the Cape May-Lewes Ferry and accessing local state parks. Sussex County respectfully requests the Council on Transportation consider funding for:

- Implementation of the Kings Highway/Gills Neck Road master plan, which calls for:
  - A roundabout at the intersection of Kings Highway and Dartmouth Road;
  - Creation of an appropriate boulevard, with adequate capacity, from Dartmouth Road to Gills Neck Road;
  - Gills Neck Road traffic calming measures;
  - Installation of a connecting path and barrier at the Junction & Breakwater trailhead ending at Freeman Highway/Gills Neck Road intersect;
- Master plan for New Road, as well as an overarching transportation management plan for the byway corridor

# Local Roads

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Routes such as SR 1, US 113 and US 13 serve as the major arteries of Sussex County's transportation network. Local roads, however, are the vessels that move traffic throughout all parts of the body.

The Sussex County Council submits the following list of local roads as those that should be targeted for upgrade and expansion. These roads are currently or soon will serve a growing population, which will result in added traffic. Many of these roads, either by State designation or through motorists' preference, are used as alternate routes for major thoroughfares.

Upgrades of these roadways includes paving of the surface, widening shoulders and/or installing turn lanes, as indicated. Upgrades also should include marking bicycle and pedestrian lanes, and illuminating key intersections.

The County recognizes it may be impractical to abandon the use of 'tar and chip' treatments on some roads. The County, however, encourages DelDOT to continue pursuit of its 10-year goal to pave all 'tar and chip' roads with an annual average daily traffic (ADT) count greater than 500 vehicles.



Double Bridges Rd.



'Tar & Chip' roadway west of Georgetown



# Local Roads

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

### **Bethany Beach**

- RD 360 – Fred Hudson Road  
(Flooding)
- RD 363 – Double Bridges Road  
(Shoulders/Bike path)

### **Blades**

- RD 490 – River Road  
(Shoulders)

### **Bridgeville**

- RD 40 – Redden Road  
(Shoulders)
- RD 525 – Coverdale Road  
(Shoulders)

### **Dagshoro/Frankford**

- RD 336 – Piney Neck Road  
(Shoulders)
- RD 402A – Fox Run Road  
(Pave)
- US 113 – DuPont Blvd. at Crickett Street  
(Median crossover for EMS)

### **Dewey Beach**

- DE 1 – Coastal Highway  
(Bicycle/pedestrian improvements)

### **Fenwick Island**

- DE 1 – Coastal Highway  
(Sidewalks)
- DE 54 – Lighthouse Road  
(Grade-separated  
bike/pedestrian path at viaduct)

### **Georgetown/Harberson**

- RD 48 – Zoar Road/Hollyville Road  
(Shoulders; Intersections at  
Avalon and Hurdle Ditch roads)
- RD 62 – East Trap Pond Road  
(Shoulders)
- RD 318 – Park Avenue (Truck Route 9)  
(Shoulders; Left-turn lane from  
US 9)
- RD 527 – Wilson Hill Road  
(Pave)



### **Georgetown/Harberson (cont.)**

- US 9/SR 5 – Lewes-Georgetown Highway  
(Intersection signal timing)
- US 9/RD 319 – Lewes-Georgetown  
Highway/Sand Hill Road  
(Intersection improvements)

### **Greenwood**

- DE 36 – Scotts Store Road  
(Shoulders)
- RD 594 – Webb Farm Road  
(Flooding at sharp turn)

### **Henlopen Acres**

- Ocean Drive  
(Widen shoulders/bike paths;  
Crosswalks)

### **Laurel**

- RD 468 – Discount Land Road  
(Sidewalks)
- RD 492 – Portsville Road/Sixth Street  
(Pave)

### **Lewes**

- RD 88 – Cave Neck Road  
(Lengthen left-turn lane from  
SR 1; Intersection improvements at  
Hudson and Sweet Briar roads)
- RD 266 – New Road  
(Shoulders; Bike path; Elevate bridge)

# Local Roads

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

### Lewes (cont.)

- RD 267 – Gills Neck Road  
(Turn lanes; Shoulders; Signage)
- RD 268 – Kings Highway  
(Dualize from Dartmouth Drive to Freeman Highway; sidewalk connectivity from Cape Henlopen HS to Lewes city limits)
- RD 268A – Dartmouth Drive  
(Service exit)
- RD 269 – Clay Road  
(Turn lane at Kings Highway)
- RD 270 – Wolfe Neck/Munchy Branch roads  
(Bike/pedestrian path)
- RD 277 – Angola Road  
(Shoulders; Turn lanes; Drainage)
- RD 285 – Beaver Dam Road  
(Shoulders; Turn lanes; Signal timing at Belltown Road; Intersection at Dairy Farm Road)

### Millsboro

- RD 328A – Godwin School Road  
(Pave)

### Millville/Ocean View

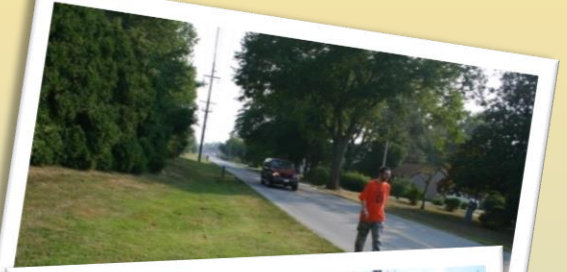
- RD 84 – Central Avenue  
(Shoulders)
- RD 349 – Old Mill Road  
(Shoulders)
- RD 350 – Railway Road  
(Widen shoulders)

### Milton

- RD 88 – Cave Neck Road  
(Widen shoulders)

### Rehoboth Beach

- RD 15A – Rehoboth Avenue Ext.  
(Shoulders/sidewalks/bike path)
- RD 15A – Rehoboth Avenue Ext.  
(Drawbridge plates for bicycles)
- RD 271 – Holland Glade Road  
(Shoulders/bike path)



### Rehoboth Beach (cont.)

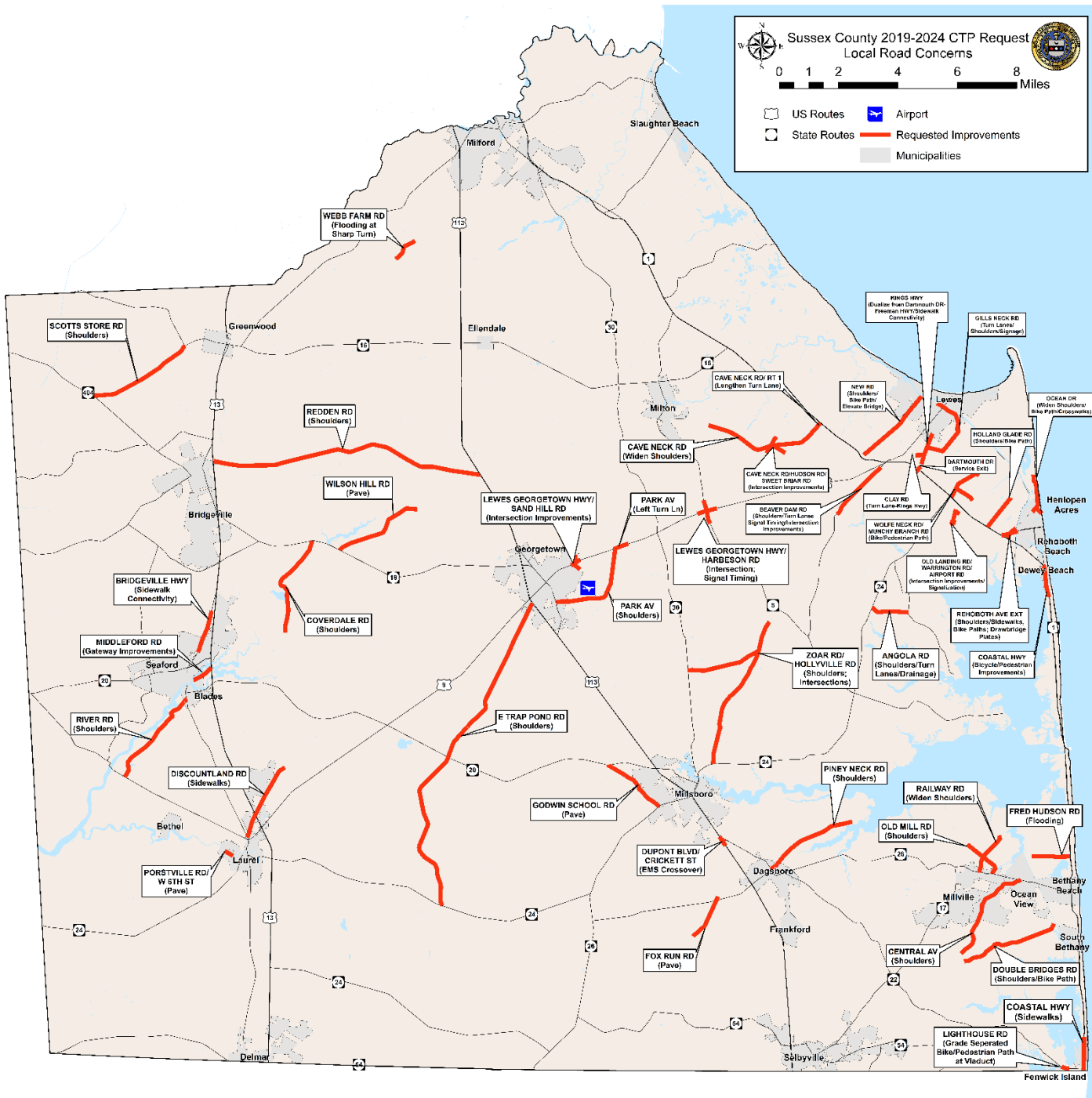
- RD 274 – Old Landing/Warrington/Airport roads  
(Intersection improvements; Signalization)

### Seaford

- RD 535 – Middleford Road  
(Gateway improvements)
- US 13A – Bridgeville Highway  
(Sidewalk connectivity)

# 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Items highlighted in **RED** correspond with road improvement requests listed on Pages 15 and 16 of the Sussex County 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program request.





# Intersections, Signage & Signalization

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Like links in a chain, a transportation network is only as strong as the intersections, signage and traffic signals that connect together the system of roads and highways. Routes that easily clog because of limited capacity, poorly timed signals and inadequate signage can impede the flow of traffic.



The County encourages the State to continue evaluating intersections along major routes, such as the US 9 corridor between Georgetown and Lewes, to determine the best means for improving traffic flow. The County supports the State's recent and continued efforts to improve US 9 intersections at Gravel Hill, Harbeson, Hudson and Sweetbriar roads. The County requests similar study and improvements be made at the intersection of US 9 and Sand Hill Road in Georgetown, where increased traffic demands, particularly to and from the CHEER Community Center, Sussex Academy, and Delaware Coastal Airport, often leads to backups and delays along the corridor. Improvements at these and other intersections includes the installation of dedicated turn lanes and better coordination of traffic signals.

The County also encourages the State to improve signage along and near roads, such as SR 30 and SR 5 from Milford to Long Neck, that could serve as local bypass routes, thereby alleviating congestion on major highway corridors, including SR 1 and US 113.

An additional suggestion to improving safety and mobility is to implement appropriately designed and timed left-turn signal phasing at signalized intersections to promote safe and efficient left-turn movements and to ease congestion on major routes, such as SR 1, US 9, US 13 and US 113.



# Transportation Alternatives

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

Delaware is at a crossroads: how does the state continue to drive commerce without stalling its transportation system? With visits and new residents on the rise, particularly in coastal communities, now is the time to expand transportation alternatives – particularly mass transit – to meet growing public demand, conserve resources and lessen the burden on highways. Stronger consideration toward various options could reduce traffic congestion on Sussex County's network of roads.

### ➤ **Bus Service**

#### ▪ *Fixed Route Service*

Extending DART First State service to other areas, such as Selbyville, Millsboro, Long Neck and other job centers; expanding year-round service to multiple Sussex County points from Dover/Wilmington

#### ▪ *Private Partnerships*

Encourage private mass transit providers to offer bus routes between urban centers and Sussex beaches

#### ▪ *Signage and Stops*

Current bus stops should be evaluated to ensure pick-up and drop-off locations are optimal and not placed at out-of-the-way sites; larger signs at those locations could better draw public attention and boost ridership

#### ▪ *Coordinated ParaTransit Services*

Helps the growing senior and disabled population with more efficient service

### ➤ **Passenger Rail Service**

The County supports the effort by Delaware and Maryland to study passenger rail service on the Delmarva Peninsula. Additionally, Sussex County encourages DART to explore direct bus routes between Lewes/Rehoboth and the Wilmington train station on weekends to encourage rail use

### ➤ **Expanded Park & Ride System**

Offer public additional park & ride locations to encourage carpooling, improve use of mass transit

### ➤ **Bicycle and Pedestrian**

Complement the popular Junction and Breakwater Trail with other rail trails (e.g. Georgetown to Lewes, as well as Ellendale to Milton); such interconnectivity of trails could allow cyclists to commute safely between coastal and inland portions of the county



# Closing Remarks

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

---

Sussex County Council thanks the Department of Transportation and the Council on Transportation for considering its request for the 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program.

As limited transportation funding is appropriated for various projects throughout the State of Delaware, particularly in difficult economic times, the County Council trusts that DelDOT and the Council on Transportation recognize how vital the County's recommendations are to accommodating an increasing population, expansive geography and rebounding local economy.

Sussex County encompasses the largest geographic area in Delaware, occupying more than 46 percent of the area in the state. Additionally, nearly 37 percent of all State-maintained roads are in Sussex.

The Delaware Population Consortium estimates Sussex County's population will grow approximately 30 percent between 2010 and 2025. An influx of new residents, uptick in housing construction, and a thriving tourism economy are positive signs for Sussex County's economy, but with that comes additional demands on our transportation system.

Residents of Sussex County continue to express concerns regarding the maintenance and improvements needed to the local road system. As the county grows, these concerns will only increase. Waiting to plan and make needed roadway improvements after the fact will only make these improvements more expensive and difficult to implement.

Sussex County requests the State of Delaware weigh these factors as it allocates transportation funds. The State should also consider the economic impact as it relates to the County's request.



# Closing Remarks

## 2019-2024 Capital Transportation Program Request

---

As noted in previous years, County Council encourages the State to consider adequate funding for needed improvements to the County's transportation system. Sussex County urges DelDOT to take the necessary steps now to make essential projects, particularly intersection and travel lane improvements to the network of east-west arteries, among its highest priorities.

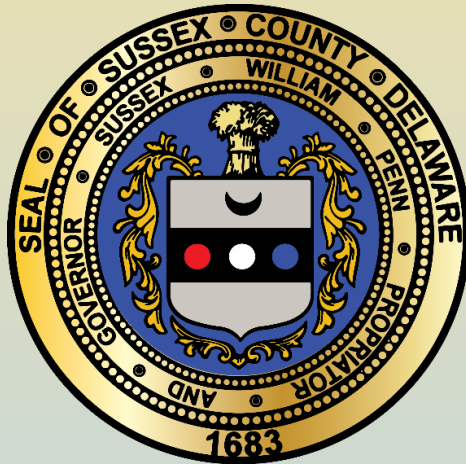
Pedestrian safety is of critical concern, especially with the volume of traffic along major corridors in the resort communities. Sussex County respectfully asks the State to evaluate pedestrian right-of-way laws, particularly in high-traffic corridors where speeds exceed 25 mph, to limit collisions and improve safety.

In addition to improving mobility and safety, enhancing economic development opportunities in Sussex County should be a factor in determining transportation priorities and funding.

Rerouting Park Avenue and extending the main runway at Delaware Coastal Airport will help to preserve existing jobs at the County's Industrial Park, and spawn new employment opportunities in the future. Meantime, providing a walking/bicycling trail between Georgetown and Lewes would increase tourism opportunities, especially in central Sussex County.

Overall improvements to the County's transportation system will ensure Sussex County and the State of Delaware can continue to serve our population, as well as attract and safely accommodate the millions of visitors who come to our state each year.

Again, Sussex County Council thanks the Department of Transportation and the Council on Transportation for allowing the County the opportunity to submit its yearly requests for the Capital Transportation Program. We expect this report will assist the Department in prioritizing which projects earn priority funding from DelDOT's limited resources.



**Sussex County Council**

**2 The Circle**

**PO Box 589**

**Georgetown, DE 19947**

**[www.sussexcountyde.gov](http://www.sussexcountyde.gov)**