

July 20, 2011

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Secretary
Delaware Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

Dear Secretary Bhatt:

Welcome from the League of Women Voters of Delaware. We have just concluded a two-year study of the interface between land use and transportation with Delaware's energy future. The influence of land use over transportation philosophy and practice is very much on our minds. We would be greatly interested in your views on this subject and what you would suggest should be Delaware's transport priorities as we go forward. You may not have a short answer to present your views but if you have any position papers, articles or other resources that reflect your priorities as you address the need to move people and goods effectively please do refer us.

There are five areas of study on which the Delaware League of Women has now developed a consensus position. I'm listing these below, with a web site of background material which was presented to the members for discussion and consensus.

- Direct development towards growth zones, except for environmentally sensitive areas within those growth zones; assure availability of infrastructure, services and walkability before developing.
- Build compact, or dense, development within established development areas in which pedestrians can safely and conveniently access services.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Modify Delaware's paratransit fee schedule to establish separate classifications for ADA and non ADA service. Reform the system to establish fairer pricing for non-ADA paratransit use. Tighten eligibility requirements for all paratransit use in situations where the state has discretion.
- Establish a dedicated funding stream for public transit; explore a variety of funding sources.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important topic in further detail and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially,

Carol Jones, President
League of Women Voters of Delaware