

Downtown Advisory Task Force Meeting - Notes
Monday, April 16, 2018

Topic One: Potential Delivery Time Regulations

Discussion on potential negatives for business and residents:

- Deliveries would have to be made early in AM
 - Potential of disturbing & upsetting residence
 - Businesses needing to bring in staff just to unload trucks – additional staffing and hours required outside of normal hours of operation
 - ABC Laws do not allow alcohol deliveries before 9 AM
 - ABC Laws limit how much alcohol can be stored in warehouse and how long it must be “settled” before delivering, if trucks miss window of delivery time they can incur repercussions from State
 - All of Rehoboth Ave would be filled with trucks in early AM
- Businesses rely on the delivery of fresh food
 - Consideration of spoilage
 - Dairy/ seafood/ meats no longer fresh
 - Businesses may lose suppliers if they cannot deliver fresh product
- Out of State trucks would not be able to get into town before AM cut off time
 - Potential of losing business with distributors that cannot deliver within time constraints
 - Businesses work with multiple distributors from different states
- Loss of revenue for businesses
 - If trucks cannot deliver before designated time, businesses lose delivery therefore businesses lose revenue
 - Trucks could not come back into town to pick up outgoing deliveries
 - Repairmen/ Vehicles possibly affected by restrictions? Businesses cannot repair problems until next day
- Too many ordinances put constraints on businesses
 - Many delivery times are decided by corporate businesses, local business owners have no say on when trucks deliver
 - Businesses may reach their ‘tipping point’
 - Could relocate business outside of city limits
 - Less “hassle” outside of city limits

Overall consensus: an ordinance regulating or limiting delivery time of FedEx, UPS, Food, etc. trucks would overall be a negative and therefore create more problems for businesses and residence. Delivery trucks already want to get in and out of town as quickly as possible. “The day we don’t have a delivery problem is the day we actually do have a problem”.

Proposed solution/alternatives to ‘delivery’ problem:

- Look into overall lack of parking problem in the city/ alleviate congestion on roads
- Create more designated delivery spots for trucks
 - Possibly only used for delivery trucks during designated hours
 - Helpful for small delivery trucks
 - Consider making Baltimore Avenue a one-way street

- Encourage less cars on the road
 - Create bike safety and paths
 - Create more moped parking spaces
 - Designate space for employees of businesses to park
 - Encourage the use of public transportation
- Cars stopped on Avenue looking for parking places are more of a problem than trucks stopped
 - Ask Police officers to enforce moving cars that are stopped on the street
 - Create way for drivers to see where available parking spaces are in town (similar to a parking garage) possibly using Park Mobile
 - If delivery truck is in an unauthorized location or parked over extended amount of time, Police Officers could ask them to move

Businesses were encouraged to attend future City of Rehoboth Beach meeting discussing potential delivery time restrictions to voice their concerns to City of Rehoboth Beach Commissioners, especially if and when the issue comes up for vote.

Topic Two: Moving Dart Bus pickup and drop off location from the boardwalk to in front of Bandstand near restrooms

Two individuals discussed possible negatives:

- Safety concerns of having a bus stop in front of the bandstand
 - Large groups of people waiting for the bus in front of bandstand while traffic is entering the bandstand area
 - Less safe standing room than on the boardwalk
- Only a few times during the summer that bandstand area is closed to traffic for limited hours
- Limited alternative drop off locations because buses need turnaround areas

Proposed solution/alternatives to moving bus stop location:

- Educate riders of times bus stop location will change due to bandstand area being closed
- Use landmarks to advertise drop off/ pickup locations to riders
- Businesses could hang posters with bus information

Topic Three: Creating a drop off location for charter buses in City Hall parking lot

Discussions of possible positives:

- Less buses stopping around the bandstand
- More room for people on charter bus to unload belongings
- Safer for larger groups to be dropped off in parking lot than on street
- Visitors walk past businesses on the way to the beach

Discussion of possible negatives:

- People using charter buses will want to be dropped off at the beach/boardwalk
- People will not want to walk two blocks to the beach

No solution or alternatives were discussed, overall businesses agreed with proposed Charter Bus drop off location.