National Federation of the Blind of Delaware

 Resolution 2024-02

Regarding Rational Principles Governing the Deployment of Accessible Pedestrian Signals in Delaware

WHEREAS, Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) are devices designed to communicate information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections in nonvisual ways that are useful to pedestrians who are blind; and

WHEREAS, APS technology has been around for more than three decades, progressing from devices which used the sounds of chirping birds, cuckoo clocks, or slow/rapid clicks to convey information about the state of the WALK signal to the preferred, more modern accessible pedestrian signals operating in various municipalities today which utilize verbal prompts and vibrating buttons; and

WHEREAS, the placement of these APS's is governed in Delaware by DELDOT with consultation from The Delaware Division of the Visually Impaired; and

WHEREAS, APS's have been placed using this process, but others have been denied without clear explanation of the denial; and

WHEREAS, the rates of pedestrian accidents are concerning to DELDOT and the public; and

WHEREAS, the best people to engage in the decision-making process, to ensure reasoning that makes sense to the community that will be using the product, are blind constituents; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware in Convention assembled this 26th day of October 2024 in the city of Middletown, that this organization calls upon all governmental jurisdictions in the state of Delaware to work actively with members of Delaware's blind community, such as members of the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware and other organizations, to develop a clear decision-making process for the deployment of APS's; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization urges DELDOT's adoption of the following principles as a sensible approach to deciding where to place APS's:

Not all street crossings present an insurmountable barrier to the average blind person

 The placement of an APS will be based on the complexity of the street crossing, as determined through the lived experience of blind residents.

 The decisions concerning the placement of APS's should be done with the consultation of representative members of Delaware's blind community, such as members of the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware.