

MINUTES
PRINCETON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
May 12, 2014
Conference Room A
Witherspoon Municipal Building

Present: Robert Altman, Kristin Appelget (Princeton University liaison), Sam Bunting, Pamela Hersh, Anton Lahnston (Chair), Robert Kiser (staff liaison), Sgt. Tom Murray (police department liaison), Surinder Sharma, Jack West (staff liaison), Deanna Stockton (engineering staff), and Ralph Widner. **Absent:** Jo Butler (Council liaison), **Guests:** Gordon Griffin, Matt Malath, Dan Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

Chairman Anton Lahnston announced that he had informed Mayor Lempert that, as of the end of this meeting, he was stepping down as a committee member after more than seven years of combined service, first as chair of the Borough Committee through 2012, and then as chair of the consolidated Committee since January 2013.

1. Approval of Minutes for April 21, 2014 meeting.

Robert Altman moved approval of the minutes for the April 21, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Police Reports for March and April, 2014

Sgt. Tom Murray submitted the police reports for March and April 2014. They are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Of 65 accidents in March, five involved injuries. No reports were filed for two. One accident was with a bicycle, two with deer. The bicyclist was at fault for entering on a crosswalk while mounted and not stopping to watch for oncoming traffic. There were no pedestrian accidents.

Of 70 accidents in April, three involved injuries. One accident was with a pedestrian, four with deer. There were no bicycle accidents. No reports were filed for nine accidents.

3. Comments from Public

Gordon Griffin, a resident on Markham Road and a member of the Market Square Association, said that parking along Markham between Nassau and Sergeant Streets poses serious safety problems because of very restricted visibility and the narrowness of the roadway. He said that employees in the nearby businesses park bumper-to-bumper in this block essentially creating a blind entrance to Markham off Nassau and that there is a lot of traffic in and out during the day. Sometimes drivers use it as a shortcut to avoid the traffic light at Harrison. Many children live in the neighborhood, raising the safety threat still higher. He asked that parking be eliminated between Nassau and Sergeant Street.

Anton Lahnston responded that the request will be referred to the T & T Subcommittee, which will review analysis and recommendations from the police and engineering departments, and that the process could take a month. The Subcommittee's recommendation will then come to the full committee and, if appropriate, to Council for action.

Sgt. Murray pointed out that whenever parking restrictions of this kind take place, the problem is pushed onto another street or into another neighborhood, and that these consequences must be taken into account.

4. Status of Bus Shelters

Pam Hersh said that she had met with David Newton, of Palmer Square Management about placing one of the proposed "boutique" bus shelters at the Palmer Square bus stop, but that he was non-committal until he has more details and sees a design. She said she will have another meeting with him. She and Bob Kiser agreed that if Palmer Square does not allow the shelter, an option would be to place it at the corner of Witherspoon and Robeson adjacent to the Art Center.

Bob Kiser said that the management of Princeton Shopping Center is open to the possibility of placing the other "boutique" bus shelter there. He added that New Jersey Transit is willing to provide five of its standard bus shelters to the town at no cost in the next 60 to 90 days.

5. Arts and Transit District

Kristen Appelget and Jack West reported that the goal is to get most of the on-street work on Alexander done in time for graduation, but that from June 4 through July 9 extensive work will start on University Place to re-build sidewalks and the crosswalk in front of Berlind Theater. Traffic will be diverted to Alexander during this reconstruction. The temporary traffic light currently at University Place and College Road will move to the Alexander and College intersection during the period of construction.

Kristen Appelget then reported that on July 9, work is scheduled to begin on the grade crossing for the Dinky Line on Faculty Road.

6. Traffic and Transportation Subcommittee Report

- *NJDOT Actions in Princeton*

Bob Kiser reported that Commissioner Simpson has taken an interest in several long-standing problems in Princeton. Rich Shaw, his Chief of Staff has been extremely helpful, cutting through red tape to get the NJDOT staff moving on several projects that have been stalled for several years. The town and NJDOT will now work together to address serious drainage problems on U.S. 206 (Stockton) in front of Monument Hall and Morven. In addition, Shaw has helped on three long-delayed traffic signal projects at

Washington/Nassau/ Vandeventer (to be completed this September), Elm/U.S. 206, and Robeson/U.S. 206.

- *Mt. Lucas, Hamilton, and Prospect Avenue Projects*
Deana Stockton reported that the Mt. Lucas, Prospect, and Hamilton projects proposed under the “Complete Streets” policy adopted by Council last year are ready to go into the design phase. After many staff and community meetings, the Mt. Lucas and Prospect projects are moving forward. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has some concerns about the Hamilton Avenue project, but she and Sam Bunting felt that they are unlikely to delay the project significantly.
- *Safe Routes to School Grant Application*
Deanna Stockton said that she is working with the school district and the charter school on this grant application due by June 30, 2014. No local funding match is required.
- *Mountain Avenue/Great Road/Elm Traffic Signal Study*
Bob Kiser said that the traffic counts at this intersection are completed and that the staff and contractor will complete the analysis in a week or two.
- *Parking Ordinances*
Jack West reported that the staff is still reviewing options to reconcile borough and township parking ordinances, particularly with respect to overnight parking.
- *U.S. 206 Centerline Markings*
Bob Kiser said that recommendations are before Council for action tonight.
- *Traffic Signal Timing at Elm/Stockton (U.S. 206)*
Bob Kiser reported that the county will do the traffic counts on Elm relevant to this question directly related to NJDOT’s new willingness to study the issue with respect to U.S. 206.
- *Chambers Street Crosswalk and Parking Meters*
Bob Kiser and Sgt. Murray said that the committee’s recommendations regarding the crosswalks and relocation of the parking meter adjacent to the Chambers Street garage entrance are before Council for action tonight.

- *Clickfix*
Deanna Stockton reported that the “Clickfix” application for smartphones, by means of which citizens will be able to report problems to the town government, is being finalized. Rollout is scheduled for this summer.
- *Walk Signal Timing at University Place/Nassau*
Kristen Appelet said that the timing for the “walk” signal for pedestrians coming up University Place to Nassau triggers at the same time as the green light for drivers and it is difficult for pedestrians to get into the crosswalk before drivers proceed through the light. Since Nassau (Rt. 27) is a state highway, Bob Kiser said he will contact NJDOT to get the problem corrected.

7. Bike Route Mapping

Sam Bunting said that a subcommittee of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee is mapping the bike routes using a Minnesota contractor. It is also drafting language for incorporation into the Master Plan that looks out 10-20 years to address improved bicycle mobility and alternatives.

8. Committee goals

Anton Lahnston suggested that the committee identify 6-8 goals for the coming year, such as—

- a. Implementation of the Circulation Plan and Complete Streets
- b. Traffic and transportation issues in specific neighborhoods, such as Witherspoon/Jackson.
- c. Improved traffic safety through speed reduction and improved pedestrian safety.
- d. Moving stalled projects to completion
- e. Work with the Transit Advisory Committee to shift more trips to public transit in order to reduce traffic.

He said specific targets should be set to accomplish each goal. Bob Altman will circulate the list and ask for feedback before the committee’s June meeting.

9. Action Register

Surinder Sharma asked committee members to review the Action Register by Friday and make sure it reflects the status of initiatives correctly. It will then be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Ralph R. Widner, Secretary