

MINUTES
PRINCETON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
September 8, 2014
Conference Room A
Witherspoon Municipal Building

Present: Robert Altman, Kristin Appelget (Princeton University liaison), Nat Bottigheimer, Sam Bunting, Jenny Crumiller (Council liaison), Amner Deleon, Pamela Hersh, Robert Kiser (Engineer liaison), Sgt. Tom Murray (police department liaison), Marvin Reed (Planning Board liaison), Surinder Sharma, Deanna Stockton (engineering staff), Jack West (engineering staff liaison), and Ralph Widner. **Absent:** **Guests:** Anne Zale, Edgehill Road resident.

The meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

1. Introduction of New Members

Chairman Altman introduced Nat Bottigheimer and Amner Deleon, new members of the committee appointed recently by the mayor. He also introduced Council member Jenny Crumiller, the new liaison from Council.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Chairman Altman pointed out that the committee had no vice chair since he stepped up to replace Anton Lahnston. Surinder Sharma nominated Pamela Hersh and Ralph Widner seconded the nominated. Pamela Hersh was elected unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting on June 18, 2014

The chair submitted minutes from a special meeting called on June 18, 2014 to endorse to endorse the "safe Routes to School" proposal for state funding prepared by Deanna Stockton. Ralph Widner moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Committee Goals for 2014

The chair submitted a draft table of 2014 committee goals for consideration. There was considerable discussion about the intent and phrasing of the proposed goal to establish "specific targets for speeding." After extended debate, Chairman Altman decided to withdraw the draft from further consideration and return with a revised version at the October meeting.

5. Alternatives for the Hamilton Avenue Project.

Chairman Altman presented a table of the advantages and disadvantages of various alternatives for the Hamilton Avenue "Complete Streets" project, which is attached to and made a part of these minutes, and then asked the committee to consider two separate votes: (1) to endorse the list of alternatives prepared by the Traffic and Transportation Subcommittee as an

appropriate framework for Council to use in making a decision about the project; and (2) to decide whether to recommend a specific alternative.

During the discussion, it was necessary to clarify that only the segment of Hamilton affected at this time is between Harrison and Snowden. This is because this segment is scheduled for milling and re-paving and the opportunity to make it consistent with the newly adopted "Complete Streets" policy presented itself. Kristen Appelget suggested that a footnote be added that explains that the "project" is part of the town's effort to implement "Complete Streets."

Ralph Widner moved that the framework of alternatives be forwarded to Council as a suitable framework for decision-making regarding the project. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Discussion then turned to the question of whether to recommend a specific alternative. Amner Deleon moved that the committee recommend alternative #1, which is to create two bike lanes and eliminate parking on Hamilton between Harrison and Snowden. Sam Bunting said that this was the only one of three current "Complete Streets" projects for which the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee recommended elimination of on-street parking. He said that he had carefully analyzed the situation along that segment of Snowden. Most homes had long driveways and ample parking is available on side streets nearby. At most, five cars are parked on this stretch of Hamilton at any one time.

Sgt. Murray pointed that some residences will undoubtedly be affected and that pushing parking to adjacent streets will not please residents there. Undoubtedly problems will come up when families entertain or a moving van must park near a residence. Nat Bottigheimer suggested that once the changes are made, people will adapt and behavior will change. Marvin Reed seconded Sam Bunting's conclusion that there are ample opportunities to park on side streets and that he had come around to Sam Bunting's view that there had to be some streets in the town that we adapted well to bicyclists or the "Complete Streets" policy would be meaningless.

The Chair moved the question on Amner Deleon's motion. Kristen Appelget pointed out that Council will consider all aspects of the issue in any event and the committee's responsibility is to look at the matter from a strictly "traffic and transportation point of view." She suggested that the language "Eliminates parking" as a disadvantage be replaced with to "Displaces parking to adjacent streets." With this change in language, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

6. Comments from Public and Process for Citizen Concerns

The chair informed Ms. Anne Zale, who attended the meeting as an observer from Edgehill Road, that concerns about speeding on Edgehill were referred to the Traffic and Transportation Sub-committee for a technical analysis by staff and that nothing would take place on the matter at tonight's meeting. We await recommendations from the staff.

The chairman then remarked that, as Sgt. Murray suggests, we need a process to handle complaints of this kind. He remarked that Montclair has a bureaucratic process in which residents are asked to fill out and sign a complaint form. This helps ensure that most people on a street in a neighborhood share the concern and that fewer incidents of neighbor vs. neighbor crop up.

7. Bus Shelters

Pam Hersh reported that the management of Palmer Square has agreed to consider placing a specially designed bus shelter near or attached to the kiosk at Palmer Square on Nassau. Bob Kiser reported that management at Princeton shopping Center has also agreed. Neither has offered to help fund the shelters, however. The trustees of the Mass Transit Fund have approved funding for the design competition.

Bob Kiser reported that New Jersey Transit will now proceed to provide standard bus shelters at Community Village, Valley Road near the Valley Road School, near the Community Park School, and on Harrison near Princeton Commons. Pat Hersh said that the plan to put one near the Arts Council has been ruled out because the Arts Council building itself is used as a bus shelter. Other shelters on Witherspoon will move forward as planned.

8. Traffic and Transportation Subcommittee Report

Chairman Altman pointed out that the subcommittee is really primarily a staff subcommittee chaired by Bob Kiser and that he (the Chair) sits in on the sessions, as does the Council liaison on occasion. He then asked Bob Kiser and the staff to report on several items—

- Deanna Stockton said that NJDOT is finalizing the design and set up for “all cross” pedestrian set up for the traffic lights on Nassau Street at Washington/ Vandeventer. Future efforts will focus on Nassau at Witherspoon and Nassau at University Place/Mercer/Stockton.
- Bob Kiser said that he is talking to the county and NJDOT about the timing of lights at the intersection of U.S. 206 (Stockton) and Elm, as well as about some infrastructure modifications
- Bob Kiser said that over the next two years, U.S. 206 will be repaved from the Nassau intersection in Princeton to the Lawrence Township line at Province Line Road.

- Deanna Stockton said that the traffic signaling installation at Mountain Avenue and Great Road (Elm) is now in design and that a new crosswalk will be established. Council will award a contract for this work.
- Bob Kiser reported that a preemptive traffic signaling system will be set up at Valley Road/U.S. 206 to serve emergency vehicles at the DPW Valley Road garage/PFARS site.

9. Police Reports for June, July, August 2014

Time did not permit an oral report from Sgt. Murray concerning accidents during the summer months. Those reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

There were 100 incidents in June 16 with injuries; no pedestrian accidents, but one with a bicycle accident with injuries, and two accidents with deer.

In July, there were 70 occurrences, four with injuries; one involved a pedestrian, another a bicyclist.

In August, there were 85 occurrences, 13 involving injuries; one with a pedestrian, one a bicyclist. Two deer accidents were reported with no injuries.

10. Action Register

Surinder Sharma circulated the Action Register and asked all members to review it and modify it wherever they wished to add or eliminate a project as "done."

11. Revised 1014-1015 Meeting Dates

The chair said that the traditional committee meeting date of the second Monday of each month conflicts with Council meetings, which poses special difficulties for the committee's council liaison and the staff. He presented a revised meeting schedule as follows:

- Monday, October 20, 2014**
- Monday, November 17, 2014**
- Monday, December 15, 2014**
- Monday, January 12, 2015**
- February 9, 2015**
- Monday, March 16, 2015**
- Monday, April 13, 2015**
- Monday, May 18, 2015**
- Monday, June 15, 2015**

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Ralph R. Widner, Secretary