

**MINUTES**  
**PRINCETON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**November 17, 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), Deanna Stockton (engineering staff), Jack West (engineering staff), and Ralph Widner. **Absent:** Surinder Sharma. **Guests:** Dan Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes from meeting on October 20, 2014**

Nat Bottigheimer moved approval of the minutes for the committee's previous meeting on October 20, 2014. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**2. Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Traffic Safety**

Bob Kiser presented the plans for the proposed "complete streets" modifications to Prospect Avenue. Deanna Stockton pointed out that no parking will be allowed where there are "bump outs." Pam Hersh asked whether the possibility of placing 4-way stops at Cedar Lane and Prospect was considered. Deanna Stockton replied that this was discussed with residents, but not included because, as Marvin Reed commented, NJ DOT is opposed to 4-way stops. Deanna Stockton said that, while residents were disappointed about this, they were satisfied about the plan overall.

Sgt. Tom Murray said that he had checked out the plan against all the required safety criteria and was satisfied that they had been met.

Chairman Altman said that all the details are not in place yet, so the plan is not quite ready to forward to Council, but asked for a motion to forward it to Council as soon as they were completed.

Ralph Widner moved that the plan be forwarded to Council once all work was finished. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**3. Resolution to Support an Increase in the NJ Gas Tax**

Chairman Altman submitted the draft of Resolution 2014-R already before Council to support an increase in the state's gas tax to restore the depleted Transportation Trust Fund. The draft resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Ralph Widner moved that the committee indicate its endorsement of the resolution to Council. Pam Hersh seconded the motion.

Sam Bunting said that he was reluctant to give blanket approval for a move to provide additional funds to a state agency that had been profligate in its expenditures of public funds in the past. He said he wanted to know exactly how the money would be used before he was comfortable with giving support. Nat Bottigheimer said he shared similar concerns.

Pam Hersh responded that if no money is raised to revive the Trust Fund, several major projects of key interest to Princeton would go by the boards, in particular, improvements to U.S. 1.

Ralph Widner reported that the mayors and other municipal representatives from the Central Jersey-U.S. 1 corridor met on November 12. Mayor Lempert, Marvin Reed, Bob Kiser, and Planning Board Executive Director Lee Solow were all there. Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman of the Transportation and Special Authorities Committee, laid out the details of efforts to move legislation forward to revive the Trust Fund. The Commissioner of Transportation is in full support. The municipal representatives at the meeting voted to send a joint letter from the Central Jersey Forum in support the initiative.

Marvin Reed said that a list of the specific projects to be funded from the new revenue was circulated at the meeting and that several projects of critical importance to Princeton are on the list. Ralph Widner said he would circulate the list to all committee members and that it would be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Chairman Altman then called the question. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **4. “Kiss and Ride” Parking at new Princeton Station**

Jenny Crumiller raised a question of whether adequate provisions had been made to accommodate “Kiss and Ride” commuters at the new Princeton Station since she had seen signs indicating “No Standing” where such commuters would normally wait for passengers. She submitted a map of the new station area that conveyed that impression. It is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Jack West showed the plan, on which the Planning Board signed off, that provides for ample “kiss and Ride” drop-offs and waits at two locations in the station area. Marvin Reed said that the Planning Board was satisfied that the need for such spaces had been met. Kristen Appelget described the 6-7 locations in detail.

Jenny Crumiller said that she was glad to hear this, but that some earlier map information generated her confusion about whether, in fact, adequate provision had been made.

## 5. Arts and Transit Update

Kristen Appelget reported that the new Princeton Station opened on November 17 and that the new WAWA would open this coming weekend. She said that bike racks will be covered and that new payment technologies might encourage a bicycle exchange program.

Jenny Crumiller said that she was surprised to learn that taxis had raised their fares by \$4 for drop-offs and pick-ups at the temporary Princeton Station and that they said they might revise this decision now that the new station is open. Marvin Reed remarked that taxis cannot raise their fares without approval from Council. Jenny Crumiller said that is why she was surprised to learn this had happened.

## 6. Subcommittee on Traffic Safety Reports

- **Hamilton Avenue “Complete Streets” Plan:** Chairman Altman said that the “complete Streets” proposal for Hamilton Avenue would be submitted to Council early in 2015, since an ordinance must have two readings in one calendar year before it can be adopted and time remaining in 2014 is insufficient to fulfill that requirement.
- **Edgehill Street:** Similarly recommendations regarding parking and speed limits on Edgehill Street will be sent to Council in early 2015.
- **Resolution supporting Mercer County Improvements at D & R Towpath Crossing on Washington Road:** Bob Kiser reported that although the Freeholders adopted a resolution regarding this crossing, the crosswalk will not be installed in the near future because the county has no money to do so.
- **Nassau Street Signals at Washington/Vandeventer:** Bob Kiser reported that NJ DOT has suggested that a three-cycle traffic signal be installed at the Washington/Nassau/ Vandeventer intersection rather than an all-pedestrian crossing signal. However, it can be re-adjusted for all-pedestrian crossing should that prove to be the better alternative based upon experience.
- **Audible warning at U.S. 206/Library Place:** Council has approved installation of this additional pedestrian warning.
- **U.S. 206/Elm Road Traffic Signal:** Deanna Stockton said that the County is now interacting with NJ DOT regarding this matter.
- **Mountain Avenue/Great Road Traffic Signal:** Deanna Stockton said that the grant application has been sent and is under consideration.
- **Lytle Street:** In response to citizen complaints about traffic on Lytle Street, Bob Kiser reported that a meeting with the Witherspoon-Jackson Street neighborhood has been set up for 7 p.m. on Nov. 25.

**7. Harmonizing Overnight Parking Regulations**

Jack West said that proposals to harmonize former borough and township parking regulations will not be sent to Council until early 2015. The task force will meet again on December 12. Basically, Deanna Stockton added, the aim is to alter the accustomed rules and arrangements as little as possible.

**8. Bus Shelters**

Bob Kiser reported that the pads for the five new bus shelters provided by NJ Transit will be constructed in the spring.

**9. October Police Report**

Sgt. Tom Murray reported 107 accidents, ten involving injuries, in October 2014, up considerably from the number during the same month last year. His report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Two pedestrian accidents both involved injuries. There were no reported accidents with bicycles. Nine accidents with deer reported. One involved injuries.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.