

MINUTES
PRINCETON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 16, 2015
Conference Room A
Witherspoon Municipal Building

Present: Robert Altman, Sam Bunting; Jenny Crumiller (Council liaison), Pam Hersh (taking notes), Surinder Sharma (late arrival); Jack West (Princeton Engineering); Deanna Stockton (Princeton Engineering), Sgt Tom Murray (Police Department liaison). **Absent:** Kristin Appelget (Princeton University liaison); Nat Bottigheimer; Amner Deleon; Robert Kiser (Engineering liaison); Ralph Widner
Guests: Dan Rappaport; Steve Kruse (Princeton Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee); Philip Abram (Hamilton Avenue resident).

The meeting convened at 5:20 p.m. Because of the lack of a quorum, the meeting was limited to discussion, with no formal action, until Surinder Sharma's arrival at approximately 6:00 p.m.

1. Police Report

Sgt. Murray submitted the police reports for January, 2015 and February, 2015, which are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Sgt. Murray said that not only were accidents down from the prior year, but summonses were up for both moving violations and parking; he attributed this, at least in part, to an increase in crossing guards, which permitted officers to stay on patrol. He also announced that a third parking enforcement officer would soon be starting work.

2. Report of the Traffic and Transportation Subcommittee

- a. **Princeton Shopping Center Planning Board application:** Jack West reported that the Traffic Safety Subcommittee recommended the following improvements to the Harrison Street Princeton Shopping Center to accommodate the new sit-down restaurant (Nomad Pizza) in the former gas station site and to encourage better vehicular and pedestrian circulation: no more dead-end parking aisles; new islands; pedestrian path from the park to the shopping center walkway; covered bike racks; restriping and upgrading the light at the main shopping center entrance – making it ADA compliant. Potholes are a major safety issue, orange cones covering the dangerously large potholes, but repairs have to wait until contractor is available to fix the parking lot and until the cold weather retreats for good.
- b. **Route 206/Stanworth flashing beacon:** Discussions continue with NRG about providing appropriate recognition for their donation of equipment to improve the pedestrian crossing.
- c. **Route 206 and Library Place audible warning:** A Council approved resolution, which indicated that Princeton would cover 25 percent of the cost of the improvement as required by NJDOT, has been submitted to the State.

- d. **Mountain Avenue / Great Road traffic signal:** Deanna Stockton reported that staff is preparing a grant application for \$150,000 from NJDOT as part of the NJ Safe Routes to School initiative is in the works. Grant submission must await the finalization of Princeton's capital budget.
 - e. **Request for changes in signal and intersection design at Valley Road and Route 206:** A traffic signal justification report was submitted to NJDOT for this intersection; Engineering will attend a meeting with NJDOT to discuss the need for a signal.
 - f. **Washington and Nassau all-cross signal:** Discussions continue with DOT about having an "all-cross cycle" when the new signal is installed.
 - g. **Update on Scheduling for road construction:** Municipal staff is holding neighborhood meetings regarding all construction. The construction will be staggered to minimize impacts in different neighborhoods; the first project will be Monday, March 30 on Mt. Lucas Road, weather permitting.
3. **NJ Safe Routes to School award:** Deanna Stockton reported that the \$300,000 grant proposal endorsed by T & T to install two new traffic signals on Harrison Street has been funded.
 4. **Proposed Overnight Regulations:** Jenny Crumiller reported that the Task Force working on overnight parking has met several times and will present its recommendations for changes to the parking ordinances, which include a town-wide prohibition on overnight parking, for discussion by Council during a work session in May. The committee is planning to meet with an expert on parking prior to finalizing its recommendations. Robert Altman suggested that our recent experience with a recommendation to remove parking on Hamilton Avenue argues for all Princeton residents receiving individual notice of the proposed changes before an ordinance is introduced.
 5. **Approval of Minutes:** With a quorum present, Sam Bunting moved approval of the minutes for the January 12, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Surinder Sharma, and unanimously approved.
 6. **Consideration of a resolution requesting funding from the Transit Trust Fund:** Jim Constantine of Looney Ricks & Kiss (LRK) outlined a professional services agreement, which is attached to and made part of these minutes, for LRK to assist with the selection of the design for upgraded bus shelters. The upgraded bus shelter is part of an on-going T & T project to provide new and, if possible, improved shelters throughout Princeton. It will be an enhanced version of the "Trenton Bus Shelter", which DOT will be installing at a half dozen locations throughout Princeton. These enhancements could include photovoltaic lighting, provision for trash recycling, information bulletin boards, protection for bicycles, public art installations, and enhanced seating materials. The next step is for the T & T Committee's Bus Shelter Subcommittee (Pam Hersh and Bob Kiser) to join Jim Constantine in formally requesting funding from the Transit Trust Fund.

The Chair asked for a motion for Committee support of the request for funding. The motion was moved by Sam Bunting, seconded by Surinder Sharma, and passed unanimously.

- 7. Consideration of a resolution concerning the NJ Large Truck Access Network:** The Chair asked for a resolution requesting that DOT exclude Mercer Road/Mercer Street/Princeton Pike from the NJ Large Truck Access Network. Deanna Stockton explained that the road had inaccurately been shown on maps as a county road, thus eligible for inclusion in the Network. Princeton – the T & T Committee and the Council – Lawrence Township, and Mercer County were each asking that DOT remove that designation and take it off the Network. The motion was moved by Surinder Sharma, seconded by Sam Bunting, and unanimously approved.
- 8. Consideration of a resolution in support of municipal funding for creating new sidewalks.** The Chair stated his understanding that the Council was considering the possibility of including, under certain circumstances, funds for construction of new sidewalks in Princeton. Accordingly, the Chair asked for a resolution to support municipal funding for new sidewalks that were included in the existing Master Plan, those for which a need had arisen since the adoption of the Master Plan, and any others believed necessary by Council. While all Committee members were supportive of that idea, Jenny Crumiller suggested that municipal funding should be extended to repair and replacement of existing sidewalks as well. Committee members discussed and agreed for two reasons. First, given Princeton’s (and the T & T Committee’s) adoption of a Complete Streets policy, it no longer made sense for Princeton to expend funds to maintain roads (for cars and bicycles), while not expending funds to maintain sidewalks (for pedestrians). Second, given the increased risk to pedestrians when walking on sidewalks in need of repair and replacement, Princeton should increase safety and reduce those risks by keeping the sidewalks in good repair. Based on that discussion, the Traffic and Transportation Committee unanimously approved a resolution, introduced by Pam Hersh and seconded by Sam Bunting, supporting municipal funding for new sidewalks that were included in the existing Master Plan, those for which a need had arisen since the adoption of the Master Plan, and any others believed necessary by Council – and also supporting municipal for the repair and replacement of existing sidewalks in Princeton.
- 9. Consideration of a resolution in support of a grant application for assistance in creating a Bike Master Plan:** As part of the community effort to create a Bike Master Plan, the Engineering Department will be submitting a grant application for “Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance” for a Bicycle Master Plan. While Committee members have had an opportunity to make specific suggestions to the Engineering Department regarding the content of the application, the Chair asked the Committee to express its support for the intent of the application. The motion was moved by Sam Bunting, seconded by Surinder Sharma, and unanimously endorsed.
- 10. Consideration of a resolution in support of a grant application to expand the Princeton Community Bike Rental/Share program:** Surinder Sharma moved, and Sam Bunting seconded, a resolution supporting Princeton’s grant application to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to expand the Bike Rental/Share program. The resolution was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Altman, Chair