

PRINCETON'S COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

A Start-Up Brief



April 18, 2016

1.

WHY TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES RE-ORGANIZED

Three years after municipal consolidation, members serving on several of Princeton's traffic and transportation committees met in late 2015 and concluded that some organizational re-arrangement was necessary in order to achieve the town's traffic and transportation goals—

Complete Streets

- Council member Jenny Crumiller, liaison to several of the committees, pointed out that we lacked an appropriate set up to implement "Complete Streets" policies adopted by the Council and Planning Board.

Transit

- Anton Lahnston, interim Chair of the Public Transit Advisory Committee and the Transit Coordinating Committee, found that the organizational set up for transit planning should be re-structured.

Bicycles & Pedestrians

- Laurie Harmon, a member of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, agreed that committee members were focused on bicyclists' interests and gave little or no attention to pedestrian safety.

Circulation

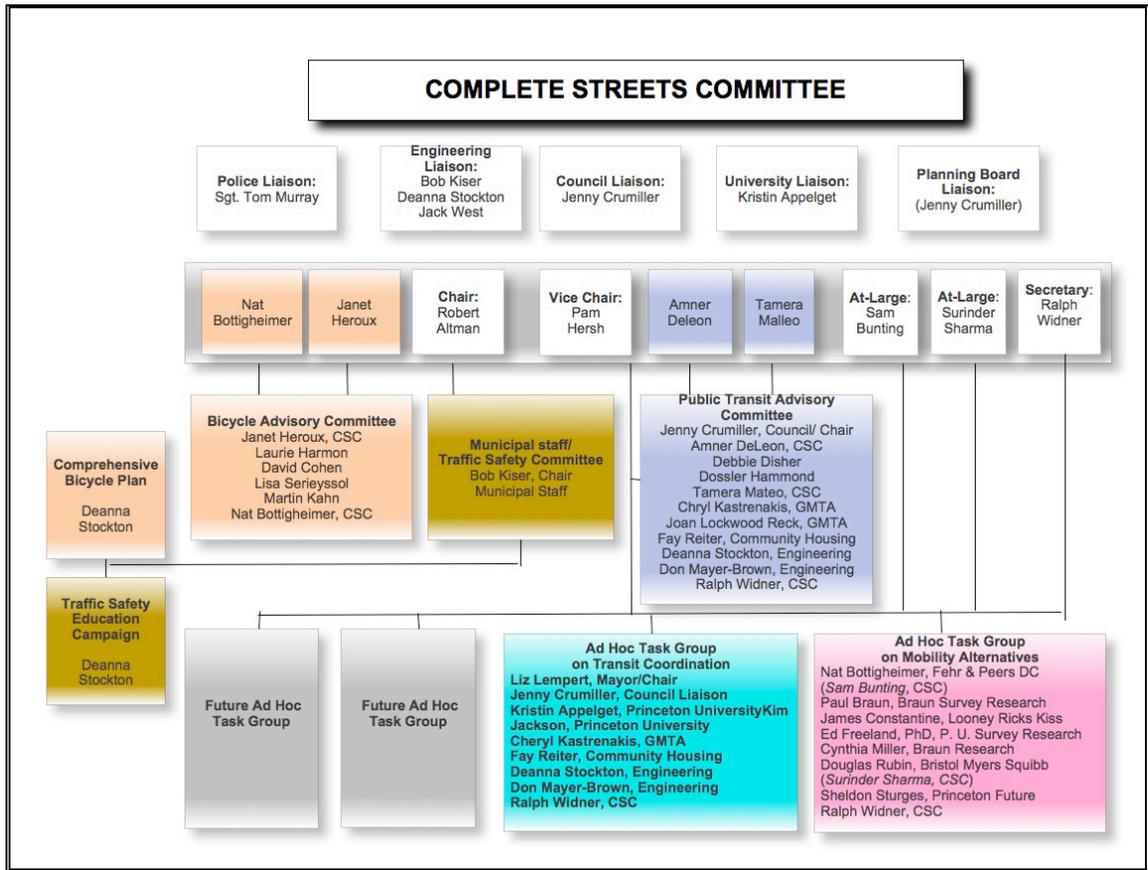
- Marvin Reed, Chair of the Planning Board's Master Plan Committee, and Ralph Widner, from the Traffic and Transportation Committee, stressed the need for a municipal body that could help Council and the Planning Board develop and implement strategies to achieve the circulation goals in the town's Master Plan.

THE NEW COMPLETE STREETS ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

In response, Council adopted the appended resolution and ordinance that define the mission, structure, and functions of the re-organized committees.

Figure 1 summarizes the new structure and membership graphically. The color of each committee in the chart is keyed to the Complete Streets and Circulation goals in the Master Plan (pp. 5-7) and the status of current work (pp. 8-9).

Figure 1.



Two additional organizations are keys to achieve some of our transportation goals:

- The **Mass Transit Trust Fund (MTTF)** established by the municipality and Princeton University to fund local transit initiatives.
- The **Central Jersey Forum** of mayors and planning officials in the U.S. 1 corridor. Staffed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (the Federally-designated regional transportation planning agency for our area), the forum is a primary vehicle through which to accomplish a U.S. 1 transit corridor and regional traffic improvements called for in our Master Plan..

2. COMMITTEES AND AD HOC TASK GROUPS

Most work will continue to be carried out by the re-organized existing committees or through “ad hoc” task groups assembled for specific purposes.

- The **Complete Streets Committee** will meet at least four times per year, but may be convened on call of the Chair whenever necessary to address issues raised by Council, the Planning Board, CSC members, or by one of the transportation committees or ad hoc task groups.
- The **Municipal Staff/Traffic Safety Committee** is responsible for day-to-day traffic and transportation management, street and sidewalk management, project planning, and traffic safety (including pedestrian safety, no longer a responsibility of the bicycle committee). Though the CSC chair and Council liaison sit in on its meetings, this is a municipal staff committee chaired by the town’s chief engineer.
- The **Bicycle Advisory Committee** provides advice to the municipal staff and Council on plans for safe bicycle routes, bicycle-related programs, bicycle information and education programs, and bicycle safety.
- The **Public Transit Advisory Committee’s** responsibilities focus primarily upon operations of the municipal *Commuter FreeB* and *Neighborhood FreeB*, including transit information and education.

Ad Hoc Task Groups

Upon requests from Council, the Planning Board, or committee members, the CSC chair and vice chair may assemble “ad hoc” task groups to carry out initiatives related to the municipality’s transportation-related objectives that do not normally fall within the functional responsibilities of the established committees. Two ad hoc task groups are recommended at start up—

- The **Transit Coordination Committee** was established in 2015 as a joint committee of the municipality and Princeton University to coordinate operations of the *FreeB* and *Tiger Transit*. Members of this committee have already adopted a motion to operate as the **Ad Hoc Task Group on Transit Coordination** within the CSC framework.
- A year ago, the community/university **Mass Transit Trust Fund (MTTF)**, chaired by the mayor, funded an analysis of drivers who might switch to other mobility alternatives by a team of residents expert in transportation planning and survey research. Since the work will help accomplish several CSC objectives, it is suggested—and the mayor concurs—that the team function as an **Ad Hoc Task Group on Mobility Alternatives**.

3.
POTENTIAL CSC SCOPE OF WORK
Goals and Policies in Master Plan and US1 Growth Strategy

Master Plan Circulation Element	Master Plan Complete Streets	Route 1 Growth Strategy
General Goals	General Goals	General Goals
<p>Reduce number of single-occupancy vehicles by providing viable alternatives for people to get to work, shop, or recreate.</p> <p>In conjunction with employers, develop an overall pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation and parking plan.</p>	<p>Reduce traffic congestion by providing mobility alternatives.</p> <p>Create a comprehensive, integrated multi-modal network that links major centers of employment, education, retail, and recreation and public facilities.</p>	<p>Create a more walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly community with expanded mobility choices and reduced demand for auto travel.</p>
Transit Advisory & Ad Hoc	Transit Advisory & Ad Hoc	Transit Advisory & Ad Hoc
(1) Expand local public and private mass transit.	Provide transit for users of all ages and abilities.	
(2) Expand the municipal <i>FreeB</i> , especially for car-less residents.		
(3) Integrate the shuttle systems of the municipality, Princeton University, IAS, PTS and Westminster		
(4) Encourage transportation options for the elderly, disabled, and low-income residents.	Provide new or retrofit transit for users of all ages and abilities.	
(5) Develop a transit information campaign using print and electronic media.		
Future Ad Hoc Transit	Future Ad Hoc Transit	Future Ad Hoc Transit
<p>(6) Press for improved Dinky service and coordinate schedules with local transit.</p> <p>(7) Provide leadership to promote regional traffic coordination.</p> <p>(8) Support regional transit initiatives, such as the proposed US 1 Bus Rapid Transit Corridor.</p>		<p>Create inter-area transit corridor across U.S. 1.</p> <p>Coordinate with region and state to develop efficient and effective transportation, enhanced environmental quality, and competitive economic development.</p> <p>Identify and build regional consensus for specific projects.</p>

Bicycle Advisory	Bicycle Advisory	Bicycle Advisory
(9) Develop Bicycle Route Plan.	Connect all major trip generators with bike routes	
(10) Ensure safe bicycle crossings.	Check curbs, crosswalks, lighting, traffic signals, bike lanes and shoulders for safety.	
(11) Integrate neighboring communities and employers into the bicycle/pedestrian network.		
(12) Bicycle safety education campaign.		
Traffic Safety/ Municipal Staff	Traffic Safety/ Municipal Staff	Traffic Safety/ Municipal Staff
	(13) Evaluate re-surfacing projects for Complete Streets inclusion.	
	(14) Establish "Safe Routes to Schools."	
(15) Develop a Bicycle Route Plan and a Sidewalk Plan.		
(16) Implement a network of bicycle routes.		
(17) Establish a complete sidewalk network		
(18) Provide for safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings at roadway intersections.		
(19) Promote education & enforcement of pedestrian, bicycle and motor vehicle safety.	Improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, children, seniors, non-drivers, and the mobility-challenged.	
(20) Limit curb cuts on heavily traveled streets.		
(21) Review the impact of traffic lights on existing neighborhoods.		
Planning Board	Planning Board	Planning Board
(22) Plan for in-town & fringe parking served by transit.		
(23) Review zoning ordinances to ensure that they support existing or planned transportation.		Consider changes to zoning that will facilitate mixed-use development. Provide a diversity of housing near jobs
(24) Consider developer-initiated or supported mobility options.		
(25) Incorporate sidewalks, bike lanes, safe crossings, and transit into initial design.		

Ad Hoc Mobility Task Group	Ad Hoc Mobility Task Group	Ad Hoc Mobility Task Group
(26) Collect & analyze data on employment and commuting patterns.	Establish performance measures to gauge success.	
(27) Encourage carpools.		
(28) Encourage employers to develop Traffic Demand Management (TDM).		
Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group
(29) Develop strategies to address through truck and other vehicular traffic.		
(30) Incorporate “traffic calming” on roadways (in particular, U.S. 206) to discourage large trucks and speeding motorists.		
(31) Impose a 4-ton gross weight limit on all local streets.		
(32) Work with NJDOT on a strategy to address truck traffic on U.S. 206.		
Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group
(33) Encourage clean transportation technologies, including low emission vehicles.	Reduce traffic congestion and reliance on carbon fuels.	
Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group
(34) Provide access to hospitals, or for alternate treatment centers during major emergencies.		
Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group	Future Ad Hoc Task Group
(35) Implement a way finding Signage System.		

**4.
CURRENT STATUS OF WORK
Related to Master Plan Goals**

Plan Objectives by Committee/ Ad hoc Task Group	<u>Underway</u>	<u>Expected Completion</u>	<u>Under Consideration</u>	<u>Future Consideration</u>
Bicycle Adv. Committee				
(9) Bicycle Plan	Yes	Fall 2016		
(10) Safe Crossings	Yes	Fall 2016		
(11) Integrate system with neighbor communities.				Yes
(12) Bicycle Safety Campaign	Part of 4/15/16 proposal.			Possible ad hoc marketing task group?
Municipal Staff/ Traffic Safety Committee				
(13) Evaluate re-surfacing projects for Complete Streets inclusion.	Yes	Ongoing		
(21) Review traffic light impact on neighborhoods.	Yes	Ongoing		
(20) Limit curb cuts on heavily used streets.	Yes	Ongoing		
(14) Establish "Safe Routes to Schools."	Yes	Summer 2017		
(19) Promote traffic safety education.	Grant proposal 4/15/16			Possible ad hoc marketing task group? Yes
(17) Establish a complete sidewalk network.				
(15) Develop a Bicycle Route Plan.	Yes	Fall 2016		
Transit Adv. Committee				
(1) Expand transit.			Yes	
(2) Expand <i>FreeB</i> for car-less passengers.	Yes	Spring 2016		
(4) Provide transport options for elderly, disabled, and low-income residents.	Yes			
			Yes	Possible ad hoc Marketing Task Group?

Plan Objectives by Committee/ Ad hoc Task Group	<u>Underway</u>	<u>Expected Completion</u>	<u>Under Consideration</u>	<u>Future Consideration</u>
Ad hoc Transit Coordination Task Group (3) Integrate <i>FreeB, Tiger Transit, PTS, and IAS shuttles into local transit system.</i>			Yes.	
Ad hoc Mobility Task Group (26) Collect & analyze data on employment and commutes. (27) Encourage carpools. (28) Encourage employers to develop Traffic Demand Management (TDM).	Yes	6/15/16	Yes Yes	
Possible ad hoc Task Group (29) Develop strategies to address through truck traffic. (30) Incorporate “traffic calming” on roadways (U.S. 206) to discourage through trucks and speeding motorists. (31) Impose 4-ton gross weight limit on all local streets.				Possible Possible Possible
Possible ad Hoc Task Group (6) Press for improved Dinky service and coordinate schedules with local transit. (7) Provide leadership to promote regional traffic coordination. (8) Support regional transit initiatives such as U.S. 1 Transit Corridor.				Yes Yes Yes
Possible ad hoc Task Group (33) Encourage clean transportation technologies.				?
Possible ad hoc Task Group (34) Design hospital and treatment center access during major emergencies.			Included in Emergency management	
Possible ad hoc Task Group (35) Implement a way finding signage system.				