



TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

Office of the Township Manager

MEETING NOTES

February 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

TO: Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2022

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEETING

REFERENCE: SURVEY INFO, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION, GOALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

ATTENDEES: COMMISSIONER MIKE THOMPSON, MIKE NARCOWICH, COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSISTANT
MANAGER OF MCPC, DOUG CALLANTINE, LUCY STRACKHOUSE, TRISH GALLOWAY, CHRIS STRANGE

SUMMARY: AS FOLLOWS

General Discussion:

Recommendations for Survey:

Add photos of two and three-story buildings; ask about the form and height of development at Abington's mall and shopping centers; comment on how the form of development that locates buildings far from the roads results in pedestrian safety hazards for those forced to walk through long parking lots; add smaller-scale development images. Zoning Incentives: Add EV charging stations; explain what sustainable sites are possibly with web links such as ("building that doesn't rely on carbon fuels"); see LEED for Cities and affordable housing standards (are 60% paying 45% or less for housing); breakdown what "walkability" is. Check minimum lot size currently required for limiting number of chickens (Editor's Note: it is 10,000 square feet for up to four hens); change #8 to "Do residents feel that they can have a positive impact on their community?" Add box for general comments at the end of survey.

Existing Conditions:

Existing conditions were discussed including classification of roads along with a map noting that Greenwood Avenue is a minor arterial road, and so is Cedar and the northern section of Washington Lane and that will be updated. Fox Chase Road and Tyson Avenue are collector roads with most of the roads owned by the Township and private roads were listed. Available vehicles were added to the chapter, and it was suggested to modify to indicate residents may rely on transit, but transit has its own constraints, and for those who not have a vehicle it is difficult getting around the Township.

Traffic & Transportation:

Regarding COVID shutdown, traffic did not decline as much as anticipated, although in the beginning it did, but by September, it returned to normal, and data shows numbers just as high as previous years; buses and trolleys have returned to a much higher percentage. Traffic volume from 2009 and 2017 on Huntingdon Pike between Meetinghouse Road and Moredon Road increased by 22% and there was a large increase on Susquehanna Road at 37%. Bus volume was reviewed with the major bus stops at Willow Grove, Abington Hospital, Abington Town Center, The Fairway and Noble Station, Glenside Station, and the Pavilion.

Abington is home to seven regional rail stations and Roslyn has the highest ridership followed by Noble and the lowest at Crestmont. There are other stations located outside Abington's boundaries but are walkable from homes, which will be included in the analysis. Data was presented of pedestrians who are dropped off and not parking at the rail stations as well as how many people get off the bus within a quarter mile of the station.

Goals:

Goals are to work on reducing congestion; improve traffic flow; increase safety for all road users; obtain funding to help pay for transit amenities and work with SEPTA on that; extend pedestrian network making it safer; implement and adopt transportation plans; promote TOD and further strengthen TOD zoning in appropriate locations; endorse and complete a Streets Policy making them safe and convenient for all users; facilitate improvements to roads making them consistent; encourage active transportation such as walking, biking, wheeling (for those in a wheelchair), and transit; enact new funding mechanisms and implementation tools to help the Township more rapidly and effectively obtain transportation goals; and promote electric vehicles through education, zoning, and sustainability planning.

Recommendations:

Recommendations are to create an official map as recommended by the Walk, Park, Train Plan as it would allow the Township to identify and preserve areas for acquisition and subsequent transportation improvements, which is authorized by the MPC, and it would implement a waiting period; for example, if someone was trying to sell land, the Township may want to widen an intersection or construct a trail, and the Township would have a year to try to accomplish that. If negotiations fail, the Township may use condemnation. Also, suggested was incorporating the Walk To School Pedestrian Safety Program as a priority.

Traffic calming on various streets in the Township was discussed such as enhanced crosswalks and bump outs and there was a recommendation for the connection between Old York Road and Crestmont Station possibly turning it into a pedestrian and transit-only road or making it a one-way only. Other top priorities are to implement a Master Bicycle Plan; implement priority walkability recommendations; add projects to the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program); implement the Rt. 611, Old York Road and Susquehanna Road intersection improvements; promote TOD; add traffic calming measures and recommended improvements to transit service; adopt Complete Streets Policy for Township's roads working with Montco to implement the County's Complete Streets Policy on Easton Road; plan for construction and maintenance for bus stop shelters including seeking funding for the shelters and identify land owners who are willing to host and maintain them because SEPTA will not build or maintain new shelters; work to upgrade technology that improves traffic flow; evaluate westward relocation of the Roslyn train stop and the Ardsley train stop at Jenkintown Road; develop improvement plans for regional rail stations in general; evaluate realignment of The Fairway and Rydal Road as recommended by the Walk, Park, Train Plan; evaluate whether implementation of an Act 209 Transportation Impact Fee would be appropriate; realign and signalize Roy Avenue as recommended by the Old York Road Plan; create an official map; make Walk To School Pedestrian Safety Program a priority; use bollard light fixtures or street trees to separate and protect pedestrians from traffic at Noble; create an active Transportation Plan that would develop a strategy for maximizing opportunities for walking and biking that enhances public health and air quality as well as reduce traffic strengthening the community.

Action Items and Responsibility:

Send out survey; work on goals and recommendations as listed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary