

Borough of Hightstown
Complete Streets Committee

7/28/2021 – Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82882380222?pwd=eGR5ajA4M29XaU9FTDFGb1VZcjJnQT09>

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 828 8238 0222

Passcode: Adar1V

By Phone:

(646)876-9923

Meeting ID: 828 8238 0222

Passcode: 424410

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was provided to the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald* and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office.

- Roll Call

Member	Attended	Absent
Council Member Joe Cicalese, Chair	X	
Council Member Steve Misiura, Vice-Chair	X	
Beverly Asselstine, Secretary, Planning Board representative	X	
Dave Zaiser, Environmental Commission representative	X	
Brian Clissold	X late	
Tim Troxler	X	

Guest: Dimitri Musing

- Approval of Agenda **Approved**
- Approval of Minutes **Approved**

PROJECT TEAM MEETING: Redevelopment Area Circulation Plan

Guests: Mike Danmiller (NV5), Nick Perrotto (Feinberg Design), George Chin
Mike provided a summary of his discussion with the Fire Department officials about the intersection of Franklin and Main. Key points:

- **Make any island mountable with no signs so the fire trucks can easily maneuver.**
- **Right turn lane should be short (past the driveway to the parking lot of the strip mall.**
- **Install a “panic button” at the fire house to top the signal when trucks are leaving in an emergency.**
- **Request a variable message sign outside the fire house (the Committee noted this is not in conformance with our Borough sign ordinance, which prohibits electronic variable message signs).**
- **Positive feedback was received on the Mobility Plan recommendations for Franklin and Maxwell. The right turn island with the rolling merge lane off of North Maxwell to Franklin has been a problem for them in the past.**

The Project Team discussed potential designs for collapsible signs that could be placed on an island. NV5 said they do exist and can be purchased for about \$100. These would allow for increased pedestrian safety without impeding the movement of fire trucks in an emergency.

NV5 will provide information to George for a conversation with the property owner on the northeast corner: width and length of right turn lane.

Next steps:

- 1. NV5 will prepare a draft Concept Plan and presentation for our August 25 meeting.**
- 2. NV5 will provide revisions based on the conversation and this will be used for a presentation to the Planning Board on Sept 13 with the intent of asking that the plan be adopted as an amendment to the Master Plan.**
- 3. Any feedback from Planning Board will be incorporated and a presentation will be made at the next possible opportunity to Council to ask for their concurrence.**
- 4. A final Planning Board vote to adopt will then be scheduled.**

Nick reported that the redevelopment project continues to make progress, including ongoing work with DEP and filing of all appropriate documents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several residents joined for the discussion about traffic: Barbara Klapsogorge, Jeff Epstein, Michelle Demak Epstein, Howard Levine

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Traffic discussion**

Items discussed:

- **Traffic generated outside the Borough**
- **State and County roads are a particular problem**
- **Crosswalk marking are missing or in the wrong place on North Main Street**
- **Lack of signs and pavement markings for bike lanes; drivers pass stopped cars in the bike lanes and there have been near misses of pedestrians crossing in front of the stopped vehicles**
- **Wyckoff Mills Road has too many trucks on it; need truck route markings, weight limit signs. Our truck ordinance is old and generic**
- **Engine breaking is a particular problem on Franklin Street; the only noise ordinance sign is posted near the library while the problem is between Davison and Manlove where the speed limit changes**
- **Other communities have been dealing with the increased truck traffic problem: Monroe has resorted to lawsuits, Hamilton has been successful in getting trucks off County roads.**

Action steps:

- **Dimitri will reach out to other municipalities about truck ordinances (including Allentown).**
- **Bev will contact GMTMA to see if they have any model truck ordinances that we could leverage.**
- **Bev will send the Police Chief the Speed Study and research grants for pedestrian safety sting operations.**
- **Bev will contact the County Planning Department about unfinished projects (pavement paint for bike lanes and cross-walks, pedestrian activated crosswalk sign on South Main at Springcrest); will review buffered lanes versus just one white line bike lane marking.**
- **Steve will discuss doing a new speed study on North Main with the Police Chief.**

The residents asked to be kept in the loop on short term and long-term plans. Further discussion will take place at the August meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **NJDOT outreach on Mobility Plan and Hightstown Traffic Discussed timing of the state outreach. We are required under the terms of the grant to provide a one-year report on progress implementing the Mobility Plan (by December). We want to include some activity around NJDOT outreach in the report. We want to complete the Redevelopment Area Circulation Plan in order to include it in the discussion with the state (September). We want to connect the Safe Routes to School Grant proposal on Stockton Street to implementation of the Mobility Plan, since both grants are administered by the same NJDOT department (SRTS due in October). The Committee determined that these**

factors should inform the timing. Further discussions will take place at our August meeting.

- **Mobility Plan Implementation Strategies feedback update No additional feedback from Boards and Commissions.**
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Month Speed Study Report, next steps The Committee reviewed the final report. Bev will send to the Police Chief for review before scheduling a presentation to Council.**
- **Railroad Avenue/Municipal Offices Driveway Discussed plan to work out final designs through a Committee created by Council to include: Planning Board, Environmental Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission. Steve will represent Council. Bev will represent Planning Board.**

ADJOURNMENT