

Borough of Hightstown
Complete Streets Committee

11/17/2021 – Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88517398269?pwd=Sk4vWXp1K0RDUEpzeXVBK3R1Wkl1dz09>

Meeting ID: 885 1739 8269

Passcode: eu118A

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 885 1739 8269

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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 (late)	
Brian Clissold	X (late)	
Tim Troxler	X	

- Approval of Agenda **Approved as amended**
- Approval of Minutes **Approved**
- NV5 report for Redevelopment Area Circulation Plan **Plan shared with Council on November 1. Next step is to return to the Planning Board for Public Hearing on adding it to the Master Plan in December.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Scheduling annual infrastructure project list review with Engineer **The Committee will invite the Borough Engineer to attend the December meeting.**
- Compiling master list of shorter-term projects & priorities to share w/Council for approval **Bev shared a draft of a compiled list of projects based on recent discussions with the County and various projects discussed at our meetings throughout the year, as documented in our minutes. Comments from the Committee will be incorporated and we will use this to track progress going forward.**
- NJDOT Outreach **Bev has been researching appropriate contacts for initial discussions.**
- Ward/Maxwell Roundabout **Steve provided an update via email just prior to the meeting on discussions with the County on this project: The Borough Engineer prepared a proposal to design a stripped intersection for a fee of \$3,500 with the understanding that Public Works will do the work. The County through their consulting engineer has also prepared a proposal which includes design *and estimated cost of construction* of \$12,283. Work would be done by the county but paid for by the Borough. These proposals are under review with the Borough Engineer to better understand the scope included in each.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ward Street Bridge **The Committee discussed the Public Information Center conducted by the County on the proposed bridge replacement.**
- Update on County Projects **The pedestrian activated flashing crosswalk signs have been installed at South Main and Springcrest.**
- AARP Grant opportunity **The sub-committee was formed to develop ideas for this grant. A draft will be provided at the December meeting for discussion.**
- Update on Public Works discussion on existing maintenance routines for crosswalks – no updates to report.
- Central Jersey Transportation Forum – Joe will represent the Borough.

- **Brian reported that the Arts Council is discussing the possibility of decorative painted crosswalks in town.**

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes or submit via email)

Guests: Barbara Klapsogorge, Jeff Epstein, Michelle Demak Epstein, Matt Morgan. Comments:

- **Why didn't the Mobility Plan include North Main Street? Response: The plan included many general guidelines and design standards that apply to the entire Borough. There was funding to do more detailed concept plans for 8 locations. At the time the County had defined the treatment of North Main Street from the Borough line to Monmouth and was installing the bike lanes and new crosswalks, so we selected other locations based on the Community Advisory Board input, community survey and NJDOT crash data.**
- **Very little has changed on North Main Street despite efforts by Borough.**
- **Michael's Transportation was stopping on Wyckoff Mills Road and at the request of residents has moved to a different location.**
- **Curbing on Schuyler is too high where street work is being done. Cars scarp the road when going into driveways. When will paving be done? Response: The work is in progress. Specific concerns can be brought to the attention of the work crew on site.**
- **Parents are dropping off at the Day Care Center while parked in the bike lane.**
- **Trucks are using the bike lane.**
- **Cement truck was using the bike lane.**
- **25 mph electronic sign should be put back up.**
- **Police should sit on Wilson and Main Corner to see illegal passing.**
- **Weight limit should be put on Wyckoff Mills road for now.**
- **Will the move of the police to Robbinsville impact patrols? Response: No impact to amount of time Hightstown Police patrols spend in Hightstown.**
- **Ward Street Bridge Public Information Center comment about trucks on bridge – why would trucks be driving on Ward? The estimate of \$4 million to convert to a pedestrian only bridge was too high. County is spending too much on the bridge project. They should get a second opinion.**
- **Like the idea of a truck weight limit on local roads.**
- **Central NJ is the warehouse capital of America**

ADJOURNMENT

Complete Streets Committee Project List
 Draft discussed at 11/17/21 meeting

Hightstown	Develop and pass an ordinance saying you cannot overtake and pass on shoulder.	
County	Will install signs on North Main compliant with MUTCD standards to not pass on shoulder.	DONE
Hightstown	Work with Borough Engineer to mark Wyckoff Mills shoulder at 11 feet and to install RRFB crosswalk signals at The Enchantment as traffic calming and safety measures. Consider and implement any other measures, for example, speed bumps, rumble strips, etc.	
Hightstown	Add 4 way stop at Cranbury Station Road and Wyckoff Mills Road.	
Hightstown & County	Hightstown to request in writing that the County install an additional RRFB crosswalk signal on North Main at Wyckoff Mills Road. County would like to see the Borough commitment through the fulfillment of other safety measures on Wyckoff Mills Road.	
County	Committed to 11 foot travel lanes in Hightstown going forward on all county roads as a traffic calming measure. Will support 25 mph limit within Hightstown, including on county roads (Etra).	
County	Correct crosswalk paint on Stockton at Park Way and Rogers (should be high visibility continental stripe)	
County	Replace faded no parking signs on Monmouth Street	Done (are signs incorrect?)
County	Investigate stalled efforts to complete crosswalks on South Main Street, including painting the pavement at two crosswalks installed previously and adding the RRFB signal at Springcrest near Hightstown High School.	RRFB & paint at Springcrest done, sign at Etra but no paint
County	Review adding bike lanes and/or shoulder line on South Main to further calm traffic	
County	Investigate the creation of pinch points at the gateways to Hightstown (pavement narrowing or curb extensions with bike access) as an additional calming measure	

State	Install RRFB crosswalk signals on Franklin @ Broad	
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Additional projects collected from 2021 meeting minutes:

Create a signage plan so that new signs can be purchased at once for all locations in the Borough where we want enhancements.

- New stops: Wyckoff Mills @ Cranbury Station (4 way), Summit @ Prospect (3 way), Summit and 2nd (4 way)
- Engine Breaking/Noise: Franklin at Borough line

Request that the Police continue to collect additional speed data and do it a way that is methodical with consistent reporting so that we can monitor over time.

Crosswalk repainting plan with Public Works. Do they have an existing schedule? The Committee will develop a list of recommendations for high priority action.

- Borough roads @ state and county routes: Rogers, Manlove, Cole, Clinton, Broad, South Street

Dimitri to reach out to other municipalities about truck ordinances (including Allentown).

Pilot painted roundabout at Ward and Mercer as a pilot. Public Works can easily lay down the paint, but they will need a layout guide from the Borough Engineer and recommended we purchase some signage as part of the pilot.

Major Infrastructure Project Options from Borough Engineer Communications to Council

Improvements to Maxwell Avenue (Monmouth Street to Ward Street)

Carmela's letter to Council: This contract would include new curbs and curb ramps as needed, new sidewalks where none exist, storm sewer improvements, and milling and paving of the roadway. The new sidewalks will tie into existing sidewalks and will create a continuous, unobstructed pedestrian access route for the entire length of Maxwell Avenue. We recommend this project not include significant changes to the intersection with Franklin Street. The intersection with Franklin Street should be improved by the NJDOT.

Should Council choose this option, existing galvanized water services should be replaced as well as the existing fire hydrants within the project area. In consultation with the Borough Water Department, it does not appear that the water main needs replacement. Water improvements would not be eligible for funding through the NJDOT grant program but could be funded through the Infrastructure Bank.

Committee Questions and Comments (**Carmela answers**): This is an important segment of our network and needs to be implemented in coordination with the State. Our questions are:

1. Why wasn't the roundabout included at Ward, as described in the Mobility Plan? That intersection is the Borough's responsibility and if we should move forward with this project now or in the future, it should be included in this project as well.
See #2, below.
2. We have also talked about the roundabout and Ward Street traffic calming as part of the Peddie Lake Bridge replacement. What's the current thinking on timing for that project? We need to think about being shovel ready with funding when the County does that project.
I will be recommending the roundabout for next year's application. The County is far from complete with the design of the bridge. They are still investigating utilities and have not resolved what will be done, and environmental permits are also taking time. I think our timing will be more in line with the bridge construction if we wait one more year.
3. In our last infrastructure project discussion we reviewed the Maxwell / Franklin intersection and discussed the connection to water main work on Franklin, as well as work to add a concrete layer under the asphalt. In that discussion we talked about the added infrastructure work and were leaning towards a 2022 or 2023 time frame. If we separate that work from Maxwell, how do we coordinate? Which comes first and how do we transition through phases when both streets can be completed? What does a reasonable timeline look like to achieve all that we want to accomplish in this area?
We can improve Maxwell without overlapping with the Franklin Street area. We would not extend the Maxwell work all the way to Franklin so that we do not have to remove improvements once the Franklin Street work is begun. We would simply leave a gap at Franklin. Now is the time to reach out to NJDOT for a combined project on Franklin, and now is the time to start planning the infrastructure work. If we take this year ahead to

begin the planning with NJDOT, then an application next year for the intersection and the infrastructure might work well for timing.

4. We intend to start outreach with the state later this year to share the Mobility Plan and discuss ways to approach implementation. What are your recommendations on an integrated view for how we want to partner to address this area?

NJDOT has a community outreach office and they have become strict on using this connection to meet with municipalities. Kimberly Nance is the liaison. She should be the first point of contact. We can provide Kimberly with a generalized scope of what is being requested. She will then coordinate internally at NJDOT so that we can meet and review with representatives from the appropriate NJDOT Divisions/Departments. She has been quite helpful in the past with other municipalities (as well as Hightstown).

Improvements to Summit Street from Mercer Street to Stockton Street:

Carmela's letter to Council: This contract would include replacement of curbs, sidewalks, and curb ramps as necessary, stormwater improvements, and milling and paving the entire length of roadway. In addition, this would include new sidewalks where none exists between the Greenway entrance and Mercer Street.

Should Council choose this option, we recommend that Council also consider replacement of the existing water mains in the project area with a new 8-inch water main. The existing water distribution system includes two water mains; one 4-inch main and one 6-inch main, and both have experienced breaks. Water improvements would not be eligible for funding through the NJDOT grant program but could be funded through the Infrastructure Bank.

Committee Questions and Comments (**Carmela answers**): Can you provide more information on the extent of the work on Summit, other than completing the sidewalk network from the Greenway to Mercer? How does this project impact work that was already done in that area within the last decade? **Summit is missing sidewalks between First Avenue and Morrison on the east side. This is an area with high front yard slopes closest to First Avenue and large trees on the corner lot at Morrison. In addition, this would include the area of road between the greenway and Mercer Street where we can try to install sidewalk. This may have to be accomplished with sidewalk adjacent to the travel lane. Additionally, if Council agrees to replace water mains, Summit would also be paved.**

Summit Street Sidewalk Improvements between First Avenue and Morrison Avenue. This would complete the sidewalk network between the Greenway and Stockton Street and would require removal of large trees.

Carmela's SRTS Letter to Council

Sidewalk Improvements at Hausser Avenue, Bennett Place, and Prospect Drive.

Grant funding has been received from the NJDOT to improve this neighborhood. If Council chooses to move forward with this SRTS application, the current grant could be used for curb and pavement improvements and sidewalks can be added under a future contract.