

Borough of Hightstown
Complete Streets Committee

2/23/2022 – Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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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	
Brian Clissold	X	
Tim Troxler	X	

Guest: Dimitri Musing

Members of the public: Barbara Klapsogearge, Michelle Demak Epstein, Jeff Epstein

- Approval of Agenda **Approved as amended**
- Approval of Minutes **Approved**
- Ongoing Project Review **The Committee reviewed the project list and determined next steps as needed. There was a general discussion around the need to have a more comprehensive approach to developing a Borough-wide implementation plan for our mobility plan efforts that broadens the approach and provides a blue print for addressing traffic and truck problems comprehensively.**

DISCUSSION:

- Mercer County Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force Update **Bev reviewed updates from the last Task Force meeting, including the upcoming county-wide trails summit planned for June 8, the County Public Information Center on the Great Western Bikeway and project updates from other municipalities.**
- Vision Zero - Dimitri shared a memo from Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director, Greater Mercer TMA, in which she described the value of Vision Zero planning strategies to help prevent pedestrian and bicycle fatalities. She also provided a resolution approved by the Mercer County Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force endorsing a Vision Zero policy and calling on all municipalities and the County to adopt this policy as well as a driving force behind planning and infrastructure activities. Brian will reach out to Cheryl to see if she could do a presentation to Council on Vision Zero.
- Joe announced he will be attending the Central Jersey Transportation Forum meeting next week.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes or submit via email)

Jeff Epstein suggested an appropriate mural in the intersection of Wyckoff Mills Road and Cranbury Station Road would be a Camden and Amboy Railroad scene. Traffic: The volume of trucks has increased dramatically. Agrees that we need a consultant to take a bigger view. We need common sense ordinances. We should prohibit trucks from midnight to 6:00 am. We need more traffic calming. Need state elected officials to make a commitment. This is essential to the health of the town.

ADJOURNMENT

2022 Meeting Schedule:

Jan 26, 2022 6:30 PM	Feb 23, 2022 6:30 PM	Mar 23, 2022 6:30 PM	Apr 27, 2022 6:30 PM
May 25, 2022 6:30 PM	Jun 22, 2022 6:30 PM	Jul 27, 2022 6:30 PM	Aug 24, 2022 6:30 PM
Sep 28, 2022 6:30 PM	Oct 26, 2022 6:30 PM	Nov 16, 2022 6:30 PM	Dec 21, 2022 6:30 PM

Complete Streets Committee Project List
Working List 2/23/22

Responsible	Description	Status
Hightstown Council, Borough Attorney, Police	<p>Enforcement of bike lanes on N. Main. Develop and pass an ordinance saying you cannot overtake and pass on shoulder or bike lane.</p> <p>Project lead – Dimitri, Complete Streets sent recommendation letter. Carmela agrees with this approach.</p>	<p>With Council for action.</p> <p>Joe to follow-up with Police Chief.</p>
Hightstown Complete Streets, Administrator	<p>Traffic calming on Wyckoff Mills Road. 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 tables (require planning/water interactions), rumble strips, etc.</p> <p>Carmela expressed concern about rumble strips and speed bumps since they can interrupt drainage and cause pooling of water. She suggests we move with caution and additional research.</p>	<p>Developing AARP grant proposal to include RRFB signals, Borough commitment would include stripping.</p>
Hightstown Council, Borough Attorney, Police	<p>Traffic calming on Wyckoff Mill Road. Add 4 way stop at Cranbury Station Road and Wyckoff Mills Road.</p> <p>Needs ordinance, purchase signs, install.</p> <p>Carmela provided input on NJDOT rules since this is a road that crosses municipal boundaries. A traffic study will be needed and it must show a minimum amount of traffic to qualify for the 4-way stop.</p> <p>Discussed adding a painted mural to the intersection with Cranbury Station Road.</p>	<p>See Signage Plan.</p>
Hightstown (Dimitri) & County (Brian Gibson)	<p>Traffic calming on Wyckoff Mill Road. 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.</p>	<p>County approved 2 signs (ordered, 6 weeks to deliver, field meeting w/o Dec 27 or Jan 3)</p>
Hightstown Council, Borough Attorney, Police	<p>Traffic calming. Will support 25 mph limit within Hightstown, including on county roads (Etra).</p> <p>Need ordinance – recommendation letter sent to Council.</p> <p>Carmela provided input on NJDOT rules that would impact this proposal. It should work in all cases except Wyckoff Mills Road, where a traffic speed study will</p>	<p>With Council for action</p> <p>Police comment requested by Council. Joe to</p>

	be required. There is risk that this might determine a benchmark that a 40 or 45 mph limit is appropriate. More investigation is needed.	follow-up with Chief.
County, Sunny, Dimitri	Traffic calming and pedestrian safety. Correct crosswalk paint on Stockton at Park Way and Rogers (should be high visibility continental stripe)	Dimitri to follow-up with County
County Sunny, Dimitri	Traffic calming and pedestrian safety. Investigate stalled efforts to complete crosswalks on South Main Street, including painting the pavement at Etra crosswalks installed previously	Dimitri to follow-up with County
County Sunny, Dimitri	Traffic calming and bicycle safety. Review adding bike lanes and/or shoulder line on South Main to further calm traffic	Follow-up needed
County Sunny, Dimitri	Traffic calming and bike/pedestrian safety. Investigate the creation of pinch points at the gateways to Hightstown (pavement narrowing or curb extensions with bike access) as an additional calming measure	County will investigate further; ongoing discussion
State – Jamie Oplinger 3/4/20	Traffic calming and pedestrian safety. Install RRFB crosswalk signals on Franklin @ Broad Council adopted a resolution 3/2/20	Dimitri to follow-up with Dan Benson
Hightstown Complete Streets lead, Public Works, Police, Administrator	<p>Signage Plan. Create a signage plan so that new signs can be purchased at once for all locations in the Borough where we want enhancements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New stops: Wyckoff Mills @ Cranbury Station (4 way), Summit @ Prospect (3 way), Summit and 2nd (4 way) • Engine Breaking/Noise: Franklin at Borough line • Potential sign at Borough entrance on Wyckoff Mills Road. Research. • Truck Route sign – make more prominent (old sign removed at historic district work on sidewalks). Better location – research. <p>Carmela provided input and recommends that we also review existing signs and remove some where we can. Generally the Borough has too many signs, which makes them distracting and ineffective.</p>	
Hightstown Police, Administrator, Public Works	Speed Monitoring and Enforcement. 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.	Capital budget – recommend purchasing monitor/sign with multiple brackets so they can be moved. In proposal

<p>Hightstown Public Works</p>	<p>Maintenance Plan. Crosswalk repainting plan with Public Works. Tree trimming to improve visibility of signage. Do they have an existing schedule? The Committee will develop a list of recommendations for high priority action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough roads @ state and county routes: Rogers, Manlove, Cole, Clinton, Broad, South Street, Ward at Mercer, Summit at Mercer • Leshin at PAL? Just paint or ramp and paint? <p>Public Works: Trying to do every 1 to 2 years painted. Envir. Comm putting together a tree trimming plan. Sidewalk repairs is also an issue that should be addressed with a maintenance plan. Need clarification on homeowner versus Borough responsibilities. Borough Attorney says homeowners not responsible. Is Borough ordinance enforceable? Freehold has a cost sharing program. Maybe we need a process to address these issues.</p>	<p>Joe to schedule meeting with Public Works</p> <p>Prepare a definitive list for Public Works by spring.</p>
<p>Hightstown Borough Attorney, Administrator</p>	<p>Revise truck ordinance. Dimitri reaching out to other municipalities about truck ordinances (including Allentown). Need new ordinance Carmela provided input on this proposal. The existing Allentown ordinance was not authorized by DOT. The new ordinance added a truck ban on local roads, which keeps them on the County Road. It required a traffic study, an engineering study showing turning radius, a County resolution of support and the Borough resolution must be sent to NJDOT for approval. It also adds a speed enforcement zone with mandatory court appearance. An addition to existing speed limit signs is required to say “strictly enforced.”</p>	<p>Steve & Dimitri to discuss with Fred R and revisit with Carmela</p>
<p>Hightstown Engineer, Public Works</p>	<p>Mini Roundabout at Ward and Maxwell. Pilot painted roundabout. Public Works can easily lay down the paint, but they will need a layout guide from the Borough Engineer, which has been estimated at \$3,500 and recommended we purchase some signage as part of the pilot (we need funding/budget for signs).</p> <p>County proposal to do the full infrastructure build design for \$12,283 and Borough would reimburse. Includes survey work. \$12K for “construction” (painted pilot)</p>	<p>Steve and Dimitri to find out from Carmela and Ken Lewis what we need to purchase for budget recommendation</p>

	Painted pilot 2022. After Bridge construction completed in 2023, seek funding for full construction if pilot works.	
COMPLETED		
County	Enforcement of bike lanes on N. Main. Will install signs on North Main compliant with MUTCD standards to not pass on shoulder.	DONE
County, Engineer	Traffic calming. County is committed to 11 foot travel lanes in Hightstown going forward on all county roads as a traffic calming measure.	No further action.
County	Replace faded no parking signs on Monmouth Street	Done (incorrect signs removed)

Mobility Plan Engineering Recommendations, Priority Locations (page 70)

NJ Route 33 / Mercer Street / Franklin Street	Dependency – State DOT, create formal “Problem Statement”	Timing dependent on lead water line replacement schedule.
Summit Street	Issue – septic system creates infrastructure challenge (expensive)	Some additional sidewalk gaps from Stockton to Morrison.
East and West Ward Street	Dependency – Mercer County uses West Ward and planning bridge replacement	Bridge design in development.
Bank Street	In redevelopment area	Pending final approvals to begin work in redevelopment area.
NJ Route 33 / Mercer Street / West Ward Street and South Academy Street	Dependency – State DOT, create formal “Problem Statement”	Outreach initiated Timing dependent on lead water line replacement schedule.
NJ Route 33 / Franklin Street / Maxwell Avenue	Dependency – State DOT, create formal “Problem Statement”	Outreach initiated Timing dependent on lead water line replacement schedule.
Maxwell Avenue and East Ward Street	Dependency – Mercer County planning bridge replacement	Bridge design in development.
Stockton Street / Oak Lane / Dutch Neck Road / Harron Avenue	Dependency – Mercer County Provided letter of support and resolution for grant application	Safe Routes to School Grant Application pending with NJDOT

Major Infrastructure Project Updates 1/26/22

Philosophy: Leverage municipal aid funding for projects that create a connected network of street improvements, including paving, curbs and sidewalks. Coordinate with water main, storm sewer and other infrastructure work funded by Borough. If needed and whenever possible, supplement with additional Borough funds to complete the network for the project area. Incorporate street trees whenever possible.

Any street work completed over the last 30 years has included removing any lead water service lines and goose neck connectors. No lead remains in the street, but may remain from curb to house.

Active projects 2022:

- **Contract awarded, work to begin in Spring:** Railroad Avenue, Dey Street, Center Street – awarded Municipal Aid for 100% of request in 2019. Project will reconstruct Railroad Avenue and create a rear exit from the new Borough Hall. Sidewalks will be added on Dey and Center, where possible. New ADA ramp and crosswalk across Mercer at Academy to correct wheelchair/stroller hazard at storm sewer grate, which should be reviewed during design phase to align with Mobility Plan recommendation for that intersection. The objective is to create a super block of continuous sidewalk around the new Borough facility. Some delays have resulted on the new Borough Hall project due to the need to do a historic survey of the building as a requirement of the Federal grant, but this does not impact the lots included in Municipal Aid grant. Note: one section Summit is still an impediment to completing the full sidewalk loop because of an old septic system on the private property.
- **In design, applying for loan:** Prospect, Bennett, Houser: repeated water main breaks need to be addressed with new line, adding copper lines. Area currently has no sidewalks and narrow streets with a significant amount of on-street parking. This is a secluded neighborhood near two elementary schools without through traffic. Municipal Aid grant received November 2020. Dependency on infrastructure bank turn around on loan. May need DOT extension.
- **Grant received from DOT:** Orchard, Clover and Meadow and a portion of South Main. Orchard has not been paved for a very long time. Clover and Meadow were last repaved 15 years ago. No existing sidewalks. Roads are wide. This is a secluded neighborhood near Peddie and Hightstown High School, but carries some through traffic trying to avoid the intersection of South Main and Etra. South Main sidewalk network will be completed for continuous sidewalk to Borough line. Orchard between Etra and School needs bigger main. **Entire neighborhood should be considered for replacement.**
- New statute from DEP on lead water services – letter to residents required for known and unknown presence of lead. Lead water inventory must be placed on website. Borough must create a 10 year plan to replace all (at the rate of 10% a year). New funding available, but no process in place to access yet. Currently developing inventory.

- **Planning stage:** More sidewalks and curb replacements to be added Stockton to Borough line from Oak/Harron
- **Applied for Grant:** Safe Routes to School Grant application submitted Fall 2021 for roundabout at 5 point intersection on Stockton at Oak, Dutch Neck and Harron. Awaiting decision.
- **No action, hold:** Dutch Neck Road – County will repave if Hightstown buys the asphalt since this is a road of regional importance. This might take place summer 2021 when they repave Stockton through the County paving program. Note: Joint Hightstown and East Windsor application for Safe Routes to School funding for roadway redesign and sidewalks on Dutch Neck Road, Herron and Morrison was rejected. East Windsor moved forward with sidewalk and driveway apron replacement on Morrison to the Borough line.
- Plans for funding repairs to three municipal water storage tanks through the state infrastructure bank's low interest loan fund are in consideration as part of the 2021 budget. This would allow construction in 2021. Verbal authorization to advertise from infrastructure bank, Council will authorize next meeting.

Future potential projects:

- **High Priority (among hardest, longest lead time)** Franklin Street (Route 33): no concrete road under the asphalt. Four inch diameter cast iron water mains all along road with lead goose neck connectors to houses. From Maxwell to Borough line to the east there are no sidewalks and the roadway is very wide with a need for traffic calming measures. Intersection with traffic light at Maxwell needs to be redesigned with the state. Sidewalks and roadway/intersection redesign needs to be coordinated with water line work. Given debt funding anticipated for new municipal water tanks, this is likely a project for 2022 or 2023. Need to work with DOT on who does road repair if we are faced with lead service work. Joint project? Bev to reach out to DOT (Kimberley Nance)
- Maxwell, Broad, Manlove, Monmouth, Cole and Clinton: Maxwell, Broad and Manlove have sidewalk gaps and have deteriorated roadways. Manlove has one block that has never been paved south of Franklin. Cole and Clinton had a new water line installed and some roadway work, but some sidewalk gaps exist. Unlike Maxwell, Broad and Manlove, these are isolated roads with no through traffic. Monmouth (county route) has sidewalk gaps and many sidewalks and curbs in need of repair.
- Reed, Chamberlain, Mechanic, Purdy: Streets were redone, but only piece meal work on curbs and sidewalks. Funding from municipal aid at the time was not enough to complete the network and Council voted not to supplement funding at the time.
- **Improvements to Summit Street from Mercer Street to Stockton Street:** Carmela's letter to Council spring 2021: 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. 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.

Completed Projects

- **Completed:** Church Street sidewalks on both sides of street, Foreman sidewalk on one side of street, Water main work
- **Completed:** Maple sidewalks on one side (funded by Municipal Aid), Sunset sidewalks on full length north side (funded by Borough to complete network)
- **Completed:** First Avenue – new water main, roadway, curbs and sidewalks where possible in rightaway.
- **Completed:** Lincoln sidewalks and curbs and diseased tree removal and replacement, Hagemount sidewalks and stormwater management with under drains, pumps and ground water recharge, Rocky Brook Court no sidewalks due to large tree, steep grades impacting driveways and lack of through traffic. Funded by Municipal Aid. About one month of work remains.
- **Completed:** Springcrest, Glenn, Taylor, Spruce Court, Schuyler – Funded by Municipal Aid and Borough. Included sidewalks on one side of Springcrest to complete sidewalk network to Hightstown High School from South Main where new County crosswalk and ramp has been installed and new JCP&L street light was installed. Removed sanitation pump and installed gravity main. Sharrows added to Springcrest.
- **Completed:** Stockton at Joseph – new cross walk and ADA ramps installed to facilitate school crossing (moved to the east to avoid the wide five point intersection at Haddon, Oak and Dutch Neck Road). Sidewalks on Joseph installed.
- **Complete:** Stockton from historic district to the Borough line – water line improvements, including in-street lines, house service lines and fire hydrants. Water line contract completed. County installed new crosswalk and ADA ramps at Oak Lane on west side of intersection and repaved. The County helped rationalize the large number of signs on this road segment and add shared road bicycle signs and pavement markings.
Handicapped ramp at Stockton and Oak – too low, holds water, shut down for safety. Working with contractor/engineer and inspector to develop plan and repair in spring 2022.