

MINUTES
PRINCETON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
December 15, 2014
Conference Room A
Witherspoon Municipal Building

Present: Kristin Appelget (Princeton University liaison), Nat Bottigheimer, Sam Bunting, Jenny Crumiller (Council liaison), Amner Deleon, Pamela Hersh, Robert Kiser (Engineer liaison), Sgt. Tom Murray (Police Department liaison), Marvin Reed (Planning Board liaison), Surinder Sharma, Deanna Stockton (engineering staff), Jack West (engineering staff), and Ralph Widner. **Absent:** Robert Altman, Chair.

The meeting convened at 5:15 p.m. with Pamela Hersh, Vice Chair, presiding. Chairman Robert Altman was unable to attend.

1. Approval of Minutes for the meeting on November 17, 2014.

Amner Deleon moved approval of the minutes for the preceding meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Parking Ordinances for Littlebrook Road North and Magnolia Lane

Sgt. Tom Murray explained that some parents who drive their children to Littlebrook School park on the east and south side of Littlebrook Road North, or on the south side of the island on the south side of Magnolia, then walk their child to the school. (A map of the affected areas is attached to and made a part of these minutes.) This creates hazardous conditions along both roadways, forcing traffic to drive in the middle of the thoroughfares. In addition, through-sidewalks do not exist, so parents and children have no recourse but to walk in the roadway.

Sgt. Murray submitted a draft of a proposed ordinance to prohibit parking on specific portions of the two streets:

Division 3. Section 11-12. Parking Prohibited at Any Time

"No person shall park any vehicle on any of the following streets or parts of streets at any time:

"Magnolia Lane, east side. From the curb line between the entrance and exit for the Littlebrook School; from the exit driveway to a point twenty feet north therefrom and from a point 113 feet south of the southerly curb line of Abernathy Drive to Littlebrook Road North.

Littlebrook Road North, north side. From a point 769 feet west of the extended westerly curb line of Littlebrook Road to Magnolia Lane.

Ralph Widner moved approval, subject to minor adjustments to the draft by Sgt. Murray prior to forwarding it to Council. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

3. “Kiss and Ride” at New Princeton Station.

Jack West displayed the new “Kiss and Run” signs that will be posted at the two locations at Princeton Station where motorists will be allowed to drop off and pick up passengers. Kristen Appelget said that the purpose is to ensure that drivers do not use the spaces to park and wait more than ten minutes for passengers.

4. T & T Subcommittee Actions

- **Hamilton parking restrictions:** Deanna Stockton reported that Council will probably hear the proposals on January 12 to restrict parking on Hamilton between Harrison and Snowden. Bob Kiser said a full presentation will be made in context with the “Complete Streets” policies.
- **Edgehill parking restrictions:** Council may also hear the committee’s recommendations concerning parking on Edgehill on that date, though the Council’s calendar is getting quite crowded.
- **Prospect “Complete Streets” plan:** Deanna Stockton said that there have been no substantial changes in the plan to implement “Complete Streets” on Prospect, and that an ordinance may be prepared to implement it.
- **Resolution Supporting Increase in Gas Tax:** Bob Kiser reported that Council adopted the resolution recommended by the committee that supports an increase in New Jersey’s gas tax in order to fund the Road Trust Fund. Pam Hersh commented that a large segment of the public is still opposed because of widespread distrust that the state will administer it as wastefully as in the past.

Ralph Widner responded that legislative leaders are well aware of that distrust and that the real fight will be to specify how the money will be spent in the bill itself. Pam Hersh said that we should make sure that projects critical to our area are on that list.

- **Safe Routes to School Grant:** Deanna Stockton reported that she has been informed “we can expect to hear good news” in January about the grant. Ostensibly, it will be for \$300,000—but, she said, the actual amount awaits state fiscal decisions and availability of funds.

5. T & T Subcommittee Updates

- **Nassau signals at Washington/Vandeventer:** Bob Kiser said that he is trying to bring a consultant trusted and often relied upon by the state into discussions with NJDOT about whether an “all-pedestrian-cross” signal similar to that at Nassau/Stockton/Bayard can be

installed at the Nassau/Washington/Vandeventer intersection. He said NJDOT has resisted the idea, though the signal system they support could provide for this option later even if not implemented immediately.

- **Audible pedestrian crossing signal at Library Place and Stockton:** Bob Kiser said that, in response to citizen requests, he has forwarded an application to NJDOT for an audible crossing signal at Library Place and Stockton.
- **U.S. 206/Elm Road Traffic Signal:** Deanna Stockton reported that she is still trying to get the county and NJDOT together to agree on timing the lights at the Elm Road/US 206 intersection to alleviate substantial traffic backups at rush hour and when private schools let out.
- **Mountain Avenue/Great Road traffic signal:** Deanna Stockton said that she expects action on the application next month (January 2015), but that, once again, availability of funds may turn out to be a problem.
- **Rosedale Road speed limit:** Sgt. Tom Murray said the Council has approved lowering the speed limit from 45 to 40 mph at the intersection of Rosedale and General Johnson.
- **Changes in traffic signals At Valley Road and U.S. 206:** Bob Kiser reported that the staff is preparing to press the case for a light at Valley Road and U.S. 206 now that the public works facilities have been removed and the EMS requires ready access. Normally the state wants traffic signals to be separated by at least 1000 feet. In this case the proposed signal at Valley Road and US 206 would be only a few hundred feet from the signal at Cherry Hill and US 206. However, given the special circumstances because of EMS, he believes the state can be persuaded that a synchronized system using both lights makes sense.
- **Lytle Street parking:** A November 25 meeting of residents on Lytle Street and nearby produced no unanimity on the question of establishing a 2-hour parking limit on Lytle, the one street in the Witherspoon neighborhood on which such a limit has not been imposed in the past. Bob Kiser explained that, as a result of discussions at this meeting, a survey of parking regulations in the whole Witherspoon neighborhood will be undertaken, possibly in parallel with the on-going effort to harmonize former borough and township parking restrictions and permits for overnight parking.

6. Parking Ordinances Harmonization

Deanna Stockton reported that, Council calendar permitting, the task force on parking harmonization will go to Council with its recommendations in January. The task force currently is inclined to recommend that no overnight or long-term parking be permitted, except possibly in the case of households

with no driveways. In those instances, purchase of a permit may be proposed. Households with driveways would not be eligible.

Sam Bunting asked why changes in present practices were necessary. He said he was asking because neighbors and others will ask him. Deanna Stockton and others responded that there is no inherent entitlement to use a public thoroughfare or right-of-way as a private parking space. Long-abandoned or unused vehicles can take up spaces for days or weeks at a time. Sam Bunting said the police could deal with such instances. Sgt. Murray replied that police officers are not going to issue summons unless there is a specific regulation they can enforce and for which they are accountable.

7. Police Report for November 2014

Sgt. Tom Murray submitted the Police Report for November. There were 94 occurrences, 17 involving injuries. Two pedestrian accidents took place, both with injuries. He reported a total of 15 deer accidents, none of them involving human injuries.

Summons for speeding more than doubled compared to November 2013. He said this was because many officers were freed up from serving as crossing guards at school crossings. He praised the commitment of the civilian crossing guards who have taken up these responsibilities.

His report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

8. Arts and Transit Update

Kristen Appelget said that there is nothing new to report now that the street changes associated with construction of the Arts and Transit district are nearly completed.

Sam Bunting asked what considerations have been given to finding a private or public partner for the bike-sharing program so that users might have an in-town drop-off for a bike they lease at Princeton Station. Kristin Appelget replied that this is a real possibility, but that, for the time being, the university wanted to see how the existing service does. It was pointed out that winter might not be the best time for such a test. Nonetheless, it was agreed that if the service seems successful, an in-town “drop-off or pick-up” partner would certainly be welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph R. Widner, Secretary