

## Meeting 8

Newtown Township building  
September 21, 2018  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Vision:** Improved transportation opportunities, operations, and safety along West Chester Pike.

**Mission:** Increased coordination among stakeholders (municipalities, agencies, businesses, etc.) to implement strategies that will achieve the shared vision for West Chester Pike.

**Meeting Objectives:** Introduce new county staff, learn about a recently completed multimodal traffic and circulation study on the corridor, and discuss future direction of Coalition objectives.

## **Attendance**

### **Voting Members Present**

- West Chester Borough: Michael Perrone (Borough Manager)
- West Goshen Township: Casey LaLonde (Township Manager)
- East Goshen Township: Janet Emanuel (Supervisor), Rick Smith (Township Manager)
- Westtown Township: Mila Robinson (Planner)
- Edgmont Township: Susan Sharp (Building Department Manager)
- Newtown Township: Stephen Nease (Township Manager)
- Haverford Township: Joe Hagan (Haverford PD Deputy Chief), Shant Bedrossian (Haverford PD Sergeant)
- Upper Darby Township: Tamara Crump (Administration)
- Chester County Planning Commission: Brian Styche (Transportation Services Director), Brian Donovan (Transportation Planner)
- Delaware County Planning Department: Tom Shaffer (Transportation Planning Manager), Thomas Hastings (Senior Transportation Planner) Corey Brown (Transportation Planner), Justin Dula (Community and Regional Planning Manager)
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission: Karen Whitaker (Transportation Planner)

### **Non-Voting Members Present**

- SEPTA: Mark Cassel (Director, Suburban Service Planning)
- West Chester University: Bradley Flamm (Director of Sustainability)

- Newtown Square Business Association: Paul Seligson (President)
- Dunwoody Village: Sherry Smyth (President/CEO)

## **Minutes**

1. Introductions
2. Vote to Adopt April Meeting's Minutes
  - J. Hagan (Haverford Police Department) asked that the draft meeting minutes from the April meeting be amended.
    - i. J. Hagan said that the speaker Patricia DiNatale, in response to a question, could not say whether or not signal optimization would improve conditions on West Chester Pike.
    - ii. J. Hagan also said that the speaker Patricia DiNatale, in response to a question, could not say whether or not TSP hurts cross-traffic.
    - iii. These amendments were voted on and approved and are reflected in the updated minutes of the 4/11/18 meeting.
3. Municipal Reports and General Information Sharing
  - R. Smith (West Goshen) shared that East Goshen, West Goshen, and Westtown have collaborated on an adaptive signal project, to be completed by the end of the year.
  - J. Hagan (Haverford Police Department) shared that a signal project for West Chester Pike is out for bid.
    - i. He also informed the group that Haverford is working with PennDOT on the NB 476 ramp (from WCP), to ease congestion at this juncture.
  - M. Cassel (SEPTA) shared that SEPTA is working with West Chester University on a new pedestrian plaza, where the 104 bus ends.
    - i. He further said that SEPTA would like to talk to Newtown Township, regarding the widening of WCP at Ellis Preserve, to ensure that the bus stops in this area are adequately provided for.
  - S. Nease (Newtown Township) said that the WCP widening project will involve moving utility poles, with 3-4 months to finish the project.
    - i. He also said that sheltered bus stops should be coming, with near SAP making the most sense.
    - ii. He also said that the Township has also received a commitment from a 1500-person firm to move to a location close to West Chester Pike, necessitating the importance of transportation improvements along the corridor.
  - B. Styche (Chester County Planning Department) shared that Heather Martin has left the County Planning Department and Brian Donovan will assume the lead position for County, in regards to the WCP Coalition meetings.
  - T. Schaffer (Delaware County Planning Department) shared that Dan Whaland has left the County Planning Department and Thomas Hastings will assume the lead position for County, in regards to the WCP Coalition meetings.

- i. He further said that the County Planning Department has moved to a new location, at 1055 East Baltimore Pike in Middletown Township, inside the Baltimore Pike / Rt. 1 (bypass) interchange “loop”.
- 4. Presentation from Karen Whitaker of DVRPC on *West Chester Pike at Paoli Pike Multimodal Traffic and Circulation Study*
  - B. Styche brought up the issue of the left turn from Westtown Road to E. Gay Street, and if this potentially dangerous movement (due to the short decision time afforded drivers) can be alleviated.
    - i. K. Whitaker said that this was outside the scope of this project but deserves further examination.
  - J. Emanuel (East Goshen) said that she found some of these recommendations un-realistic, particularly the ones related to restricting delivery hours to the am. Deliveries happen at all hours.
    - i. She also said that the left onto Westtown Road, coming into West Chester, will be more difficult if there are only 2 travel lanes, rather than 4.
  - M. Perrone (West Chester) said that restricting delivery hours will require buy-in from the business community.
  - M. Cassel wondered what police/fire will think of this plan.
    - i. He also said that SEPTA would like to be involved in any redesign of the area in question, to ensure bus stops do not conflict with bike lanes.
  - J. Dula (Delaware County Planning) said that Upper Darby was able to use a re-surfacing project to re-stripe on Garrett Road.
  - T. Crump (Upper Darby Township) said that the next phase of that project is to add planters to the median along Garrett Road, to direct pedestrians away from conflict zones.
  - B. Flamm (West Chester University) said that the University supports the DVRPC study and its recommendations.
    - i. B. Flamm said that WCU hears from students and staff regularly that increased transportation options is desirable but the perception of a lack of safety hinders this.
  - S. Bedrossian (Haverford Police Dept.) said that he supports biking but bikes must adhere to the rules and regulations.
  - C. LaLonde (West Goshen): We would like to improve transportation options from West Chester to West Goshen shopping center.
- 5. Next Meeting
  - T. Crump said that she would like something on the collection of bus stop trash, and also something on bike safety.
  - M. Cassel said that not next meeting, but soon, the DVRPC bus stop design guide will be ready
    - i. SEPTA would like to discuss the difference between bus stop and bus route changes.
    - ii. Soon the RFP for the overall bus network re-design will be released.
    - iii. SEPTA could present something, at a later date, on the Roosevelt Blvd. enhanced bus service, though there are significant differences (as well as some similarities) between WCP and Roosevelt Blvd.

- S. Smyth (Dunwoody Village) asked if bus size be a part of the bus study.
  - i. M. Cassel: This was tried in Montgomery County, but there were issues with peak vs. off-peak capacity, and the need for larger buses during peak hours.
- B. Styche suggested a presentation on the restoration of Regional Rail service to West Chester study.
  - i. He also said that Chester County is doing an inventory / review of municipal active transportation ordinances in the county, to analyze connections to transit, and agreement with the Chester County Transportation Plan.

## 6. Adjourn

The West Chester Pike Coalition website (see the link below) hosts Coalition resources, including future meeting dates and presentations from previous meetings.

Coalition Website: <http://www.chescoplanning.org/transportation/WestChesterPike.cfm>