

Meeting 15

Newtown Township Building

March 30, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 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.

Attendance

Voting Members Present

- See attached attendance list

Non-Voting Members Present

- See attached attendance list

Notes

I. West Chester Pike (WCP) Coalition Business

I.1. Introductions/Municipal Updates/Meeting Ideas

- I.1.1. The meeting started with a question as to whether the formal nature of the West Chester Pike Coalition (WCPC) was necessary. The group decided that keeping the current structure was ideal. By having a formal group structure, it would be easier to get official letters.
- I.1.2. The committee realized that many of the people on the old organization lists need to be updated, with new contact information. CCPC will arrange this before the next meeting.
- I.1.3. In review of the WCPC Action Plan, Amy Bernknopf stated that for Objective #2 that DVRPC would be updating their sidewalks inventory citing that things have changed since the original study was completed and that there needs to be a current evaluation of the existing conditions for sidewalks and shelters.
- I.1.4. Randy Waltermeyer suggested that a 'Safety Report Card' be developed for the existing stop locations within the corridor.
- I.1.5. It was suggested that the new PennDOT Traffic Management Center may be a step in the direction of PennDOT taking over ownership and operation of traffic signals as recommended in Action Plan Objective #3. Traffic signal prioritization has the potential to greatly affect the speed in which buses may traverse the corridor.
- I.1.6. The interchange with the Blue Route and PA 3 was a topic of discussion, due to the frequent delays encountered by both buses and vehicular traffic. The group identified this interchange as a major cause of congestion due to existing traffic weaving. Everyone agreed it would be beneficial for a presentation to be given on the proposed improvements for this interchange at a future meeting.
- I.1.7. Tracy B./DCTMA suggested that perhaps the PA Department of Community and Economic Development DCED could give a presentation at a future meeting, using their experience from doing similar work on Chester Pike to help guide WCPC with their efforts to improve West Chester Pike.

1.1.8. A presentation suggested for the next WCPC meeting would be from TMACC, covering their multifamily housing effort and how these locations need safety improvements for better access to the bus route and its stop locations.

2. Presentations

2.1. DVRPC

2.1.1. Amy Bernknopf and Andrew Svekla (DVRPC) presented the Enhanced Bus Study for West Chester Pike. The study showed that the corridor has 90,000 residents within a ½ mile walk. An enhanced bus service would have faster travel times, be more comfortable for riders, and carry special branding to differentiate it from standard bus routes. They showed examples of the current Direct Bus service on Roosevelt Blvd in Philadelphia. The presentation also covered the Regional Sidewalk Development Program. Additionally, ridership along the route was fairly resilient during the pandemic.

2.2. SEPTA

2.2.1. Dan Nemiroff from SEPTA gave a presentation about SEPTA's ongoing Bus Revolution project. He stated that bus ridership was dropping systemwide before pandemic (20% drop from 2013-2019). The pandemic caused an overnight drop in ridership, but bus ridership has recovered best among all modes post-pandemic. He said that SEPTA would be sharing the upcoming draft network soon. Some specific routes updated included that Route 112 (69th Street to DCCC) will be a 15MAX route and Route 104 (69th Street to WCU) will be a 30MAX route. The next webinar would be on May 8th.

3. Adjourn

3.1. Meeting was adjourned

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>