

The STAP Committee, Township Staff, and the consultants of the Sidewalk Project held a public meeting on Thursday, June 7 at T/E Middle School to address questions or concerns residents may have related to the Sidewalk Project. The following is a list of Questions & Answers from the public meeting:

Q - In general, how far off the roadway will there be disturbance?

A - The goal is to stay within the existing legal right-of-way limits, but also noted that the project is still in the preliminary stage.

Q - Old Lancaster Road was widened when the middle school installed its sidewalks. Will any roadways be widened as a result of this project?

A - The goal is to restrict the traffic into 10' lanes. The project is still in a preliminary phase, but no roadway widening is expected.

Q - Is there a schedule for the completion of the project?

A - The Township would like Phase I design to be completed by early Fall, and construction to begin in the Summer of 2008.

Q - Can stop signs be installed on Conestoga Rd at its intersection with Irish Rd to alleviate the safety concerns along the curve on Conestoga Rd west of the intersection? Could a guide rail be installed around this bend to protect properties and pedestrians?

A - One of the goals of the project is to calm the traffic in the area. However, Conestoga Rd is owned and operated by PennDOT. Approval from PennDOT would be necessary to install stop signs or guide rail along Conestoga Rd. With the limited existing sight distance at the intersection, it is unlikely a stop sign would be approved. The issue of additional regulatory signs will be discussed with PennDOT.

Q - Why was the sidewalk shifted from the east side of Conestoga Rd to the west side approaching the Old Lancaster Rd intersection? Were past accidents considered?

A - There are currently two options for sidewalk on Conestoga Rd in this area. One option proposes sidewalk on the east side of the road, and the other proposes sidewalk on the west side of the road. Both options are still being considered and will be presented to PennDOT. The reason that the sidewalk was shifted to the west side of Conestoga Rd was to improve pedestrian safety. Near the Irish Road crossing, the sight distance looking west along Conestoga Rd is limited by the curve, and PennDOT may not allow for a crosswalk across Conestoga Rd at the intersection with Irish Rd due to safety concerns. The consultant team will examine any crash data provided by PennDOT or the Township. In order to accommodate the sidewalk on the west side, Martins Ln would be realigned. This proposed realignment and the revisions to the curb location in this area will provide a more defined vehicular path along the roadway curve. Additional striping and signing will also be proposed to give drivers a clear, visual signal of the approaching curve. The additional benefit of locating the sidewalk on the west side is that it will provide a link to residents on Martins Ln.

Q - A resident from the east side of Conestoga Rd opposite Martins Ln stated that many students currently pass through their front lawn on their way to and from school, and suggested that they

are not likely to change their walking habits if a sidewalk was installed on the west side of Conestoga Rd. Could there be sidewalks on both sides of Conestoga Rd between Irish Rd and Old Lancaster Rd?

A - As of now, sidewalk on either side of Conestoga Rd is still an option. The project team will make changes based on the comments and concerns from this meeting, and will present options to PennDOT for feedback.

Q - In the area where sidewalk is proposed along the north side of Conestoga Rd, will there be a painted crosswalk to allow pedestrians to cross safely to the south side of Conestoga Rd on their way to the Berwyn train station?

A - The Township stated that the possibility would be investigated.

Q - How will homeowners be notified of the progress of the project?

A - The most current layout of the sidewalks will also be available on the website. There will also be an additional public meeting in the future.

Q - Have any traffic studies or crash analyses been done in the area?

A - Detailed traffic counts were performed by EK at all major intersections in the project area, which included pedestrian volumes. A formal traffic study report will be completed. EK will analyze any crash data provided by PennDOT or the Township.

Q - A resident mentioned problems with stormwater management at the corner of Conestoga Rd and Cassatt Ave (Little Cassatt). He stated that existing inlets at the corner had been recently paved over, causing flooding at the intersection during rainfall events. Will anything be done about the flooding problems?

A - The Township stated that the area has good infiltration, as is evident during rainfall occurrences. This project will involve stormwater management related to the additional impervious surface created by this project, the details of which have not been finalized. Most likely, the additional stormwater runoff generated by the project will be managed through use of underground trenches that promote infiltration, and efforts will be made to address, case by case, the existing stormwater related problems. The township also asked the resident to let them know of any specific locations where they are certain that inlets have been paved

Q - A resident cited problems along the length of Howellville Rd in front of T/E Middle School. Students coming to and from the school in this area have no sidewalk to use along Howellville Rd. Was sidewalk considered in this area?

A - The Township stated that Howellville Rd will not be addressed in Phase I of the Township Sidewalk Construction Project. This section was intentionally left out of Phase I due to the proximity of the house on the northwest corner of the intersection of Howellville Rd and Old Lancaster Rd. If a sidewalk were to be installed in this area, it would most likely require the realignment of Howellville Rd.

Q - Stormwater is also a concern along Old Lancaster Rd east of Howellville Rd. Runoff from the apartment complex currently floods the area where sidewalk is proposed. Will this be addressed?

A - One of the project goals is not only to account for all new runoff produced by the addition of sidewalks, but also to mitigate some of the existing stormwater problems in the area that pose a threat to pedestrian safety. The consultant team will examine key areas where stormwater management is a concern.

Q - Has there been any coordination with PennDOT?

A - The Township stated that the project team met once with PennDOT to introduce the project, and another meeting is scheduled to review the preliminary alignment.

Q - Can the Township place crossing guards at the intersections?

A - The Township does have crossing guards to help the students in the morning and afternoon. They will look into possibly relocating some of the guards to intersections that are determined to be more of a safety concern.

Q - Can the speed limits and stop signs in the project area be more heavily enforced by police officers during peak hours?

A - There is currently a regular enforcement presence in the area. A resident commented that the speed display board already being used has had a positive impact in slowing traffic. The police department stated that they are currently trying to have all of the speeds in the area reduced to 25mph. They have recently been successful in lowering the speed limit to 25mph on Old Lancaster Rd.

Q - Are there sidewalks planned for any additional areas?

A - This is only Phase I of the overall Township Sidewalk Construction Project. There are currently multiple phases planned for the overall project. The Township has already begun investigating funding options for Phase II.

Q - Is email a good way to keep in contact with the Township?

A - Yes.

Q - Can the Township email everyone on the sign-in sheet when there is an update to the layout?

A - Yes.