



**Township of Northampton
55 Township Road
Richboro, PA 18954**

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present

Dr. Arthur Friedman
Edward Ingle
Andrew Gannon
Evan Stone
Patrick McGuigan

Excused

Michelle Druding
Steve Saddlemire

Others Present

Joe DeSantis, PE, Township Traffic Engineer
Craig Bryson, RLA, Township Planner
Mike Solomon, Director of Planning and Zoning

Dr. Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was also a moment of silence for those in our armed forces.

Minutes

A motion (Stone/Ingle) was made to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting.

Approved - 5-0 (Druding and Saddlemire absent)

Presentation by Township Traffic Engineer, Joe DeSantis, PE from McMahon Associates on Township Road Improvement Projects

Joe DeSantis, PE, Township Traffic Engineer from McMahon Associates was present to give an overview of Township Road Improvement Projects.

Mr. DeSantis began his presentation by looking at the traffic components of the Richboro Master Plan, including the proposed connector road system. There was also discussion on the Almshouse Road widening and the proposed plan to eliminate traffic congestions.

At this point, Mr. DeSantis gave a presentation on the proposed roundabout as presented in the Richboro Master Plan. He explained that a modern roundabout has traffic with a counter clockwise flow, entering traffic yields to traffic in the circle, approaches are channelized, and they are designed to slow vehicle speeds. He advised that modern roundabouts are not traditional circles that people perceive.

Mr. Stone stated and it was confirmed that roundabouts are one lane. In response to Mr. Bryson, it was also noted that vehicles must yield to pedestrians. There was also discussion about the differences between signalized intersections and roundabouts.

Mr. Ingle inquired about the negatives. Mr. DeSantis stated that cost is always an issue. From a safety standpoint, pedestrians are only crossing one lane of traffic and operating speeds are reduced.

Mr. Gannon inquired about the new, fourth leg interconnection that is being proposed and the reasons for it. Mr. DeSantis stated that it disperses traffic and more efficiently moves vehicles throughout Richboro. Mr. Gannon stated that he doesn't see the potential benefit.

In response to Mr. Weinstein, Mr. DeSantis stated that the project primarily impacts one house. Regarding grant possibilities, Mr. DeSantis added that roundabouts are viewed favorably by PennDOT.

Mr. Gannon inquired about a roundabout at Township Road and Newtown-Richboro Roads. Mr. DeSantis stated that there is significant volume at this location. In response to Mr. Friedman, he added that the roundabout can be constructed without the new connector road. Mr. Ingle inquired about truck traffic and this issue was discussed along with snow removal.

There was also discussion about the interconnection through the new Addisville Commons development. Mr. DeSantis noted a traffic signal is not warranted based on existing conditions, but the issue will be monitored.

Mr. DeSantis touched on modern roundabouts in the United States, public perception, safety, including decreased conflict points, and aesthetics. He noted that engineering is currently ongoing.

At this point, Mr. DeSantis discussed the Second Street Pike Road Diet, which includes one lane in each direction with a center turn lane and shoulder. In response to Mr. Weinstein, traffic signal timing was also discussed. An overview of the Richboro sidewalk project was discussed next, which provides connections in Richboro in accordance with the Master Plan.

In addition to new sidewalks, ADA compliant ramps are also proposed as part of a multimodal transportation grant. Funding levels were discussed along with crosswalks. Of particular discussion, was the Iron Works Creek sidewalk and the project challenges. Mr. Weinstein noted that all these projects cannot be completed without grant funding.

At this point, the Commission received Public Comment. Frank Bauman from 52 Bonnie Road stated that a truck traffic simulation should be presented related to the roundabout.

Rick Hauser from 104 Pine Avenue raised concerns about dispersing existing traffic, property acquisition, roundabouts, and loss of parking. Mr. DeSantis stated that details can be worked out during the course of engineering.

Mr. DeSantis described the Buck Road Bridge Replacement. There was discussion about the project scope, approvals, and the impact on potential businesses. Mr. DeSantis stated that it is the objective of PennDOT to keep one lane open during construction.

Mr. Weinstein stated that Rep. Petri and Sen. Tomlinson were instrumental in acquiring funding for this project.

The Jacksonville and Almshouse Road improvement project was discussed next. Mr. DeSantis noted that the project involves widening for a dedicated westbound turn lane on Almshouse Road. In addition, widening for separate turn lanes on Jacksonville Road are also proposed.

Intersection improvements to East Holland and Holland Road were discussed. Specifically, the project includes minor widening to provide a separate left turn lane along Holland Road at East Holland Road and East Robin Road.

Mr. DeSantis also discussed the Green Light Go Grant, which involves the installation of video detection and removal of in pavement loops. Restriping on Jacksonville Road was also discussed, which will begin in the fall.

Mr. DeSantis concluded his presentation with a list of funding opportunities available and their sources.

Public Comment was again opened up and Diane Campbell Thomas from 905 Second Street Pike raised concern about the proposed roundabout and the potential impact on her funeral home.

The Commission thanked Mr. DeSantis for the presentation.

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael T. Solomon
Director of Planning and Zoning