



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NAME	Warren County Transportation Plan
PROJECT NUMBER	30900091.001
DATE	11 August 2020
TIME	04:00 PM (Eastern Time)
VENUE	GotoMeeting
SUBJECT	Municipal Meeting #1
CLIENT	Warren County

Municipal Meeting #1

This online meeting of municipal representatives began with a presentation by the study team introducing the project's scale and scope, the public outreach process, and work that has already been completed or begun as part of the effort. The study team then facilitated a discussion surrounding the location and types of existing and anticipated transportation issues.

The following municipal representatives were in attendance:

- Paul Sterbenz: Maser Consulting, Engineer for Allamuchy Twp, Frelinghuysen Twp, White Twp, Belvidere Twp, and Lopatcong Twp
- Dena Hrebenak: Mansfield Twp, Municipal Clerk
- Joe Farino: Mansfield Twp
- Joan Schreibner: White Township, Planning Board Member
- Jim Kern: Warren County Freeholder

Others present included:

- Blythe Eaman: North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Project Manager
- Dave Dech: Warren County
- Brian Appezzato: Warren County Planning
- Jessica Ortiz: FHI
- Debbie Hartman: WSP, Project Manager

After attendees introduced themselves, Ms. Hartman led a brief presentation introducing the project. The presentation began with an overview of the work plan, building off of the 2018 Warren County Transportation Technical Study, and the schedule, culminating in a final report in June 2021.

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Ms. Hartman provided an overview of the public outreach process which includes three completed focus groups, three Study Advisory Committee meetings, an interactive Wikimap, and several pop-up events. A brief summary of the topics discussed in each of the three focus groups was provided, separated into strengths, challenges, and opportunities.

Work from previous and ongoing County studies was presented, including the progression of goals and vision statements between various Warren County plans, an overview of an ongoing Light Industrial Site Assessment, and the results of a 2018 municipal survey. The survey results indicate a desire to improve roadways and bridges, promote traffic safety, encourage economic development, and enhance bus and rail connections beyond the County. Ten goals were established based on previous County studies and collaboration with the Study Advisory Committee. These goals are intended to be meaningful, measurable and obtainable.

The formal presentation portion of the meeting concluded with establishing the project's current status and next steps, namely conducting pop-up events in the fall, and completing the data assessment.

The discussion portion of the meeting began with attendees identifying specific problem corridors and intersections. The following roadways were identified:

- CR 519 from Greenwich to Hope
- CR 519/NJ 57 in Lopatcong
- CR 519/US 22 in Greenwich
- CR 519/CR 620 in White Township
- CR 519/US 46 in White Township
- US 46/NJ 182 in Hackettstown
- CR 517 near Cat Swamp Road and Ridge Road in Allamuchy
- Exit 19 on Interstate 80 in Allamuchy
- CR 519/Ramsey Rd in Frelinghuysen
- NJ 57/Watters Rd in Port Murray

Issues on these roadways include high traffic volumes, congestion, high truck volumes, speeding, dangerous intersection designs, and a lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Several of these corridors are also expected to cater to increased traffic volumes once proposed and potential industrial development occurs. Trucks are especially problematic in Belvidere and Hope, due to either narrow streets to height restrictions.

Stemming from discussion surrounding the high truck volumes throughout the County, attendees discussed the shortage of truck parking in the area, forcing trucks to illegally park on local streets overnight (particularly near the M&M/Mars headquarters in Hackettstown).

The conversation then turned to public transit. The County lacks New Jersey Transit bus service. One attendee stated there is minimal demand for NJT service in the County due to low population density, and that retail centers are located near medium-density residential developments. The need for more sidewalks and trails was also discussed, particularly in newly developed residential neighborhoods lacking historic links with commercial areas. Walking in areas such as CR 519 and CR

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517 was viewed as dangerous with no safe areas for transit pick up/drop off, citing high vehicle speeds, inattentive and texting drivers, quarry traffic, and inadequate shoulders.

Although there are no wide-scale plans for sidewalk construction, there are pockets that would benefit from new sidewalk, such as connections to downtown area of Hackettstown, and a large residential neighborhood at Willow Grove Street off CR 604. Old railway in Allamuchy has been purchased and offers an opportunity for a rail trail from Rt 46 area in Independence to Sussex County. Panther Valley planned community (2,000 residences) lacks sidewalks from that community to commercial area on CR 517.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the need to better foster collaboration between counties and municipalities, particularly referencing the lack of such communication with the County's 2004 Master Plan update. One attendee proposed distributing a questionnaire to representatives of each municipality within the County to elicit more targeted feedback.