

Meeting Agenda
State College Borough Transportation Commission
Regular Meeting
October 11, 2016
12:15 p.m. / Room 304

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Public Hour**
- V. Discussion Items**
 - A. Mid-block Pedestrian Crossing on Waupelani
- VI. Liaison Reports**
- VII. Items of Information**
- VIII. Adjournment**

Documents:

Transportation Commission Agenda Packet October 11, 2016.pdf

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I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Richard Garis
Greg Halpin
Paul Jovanis
Diana Malcom
Hugh Mose
Ray Najjar
Paul Rito

III. Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2016

IV. Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens

V. Discussion Items

A. Mid-block Pedestrian Crossing on Waupelani

Recently, staff was contacted by The Retreat staff regarding the lack of an accessible pedestrian crossing for a handicapped resident of The Retreat who uses the bus and must cross Waupelani Drive after being dropped off on the north side.

Staff and CATA personnel met on site and evaluated the following options:

1. Directing users to the intersection of Waupelani Drive and Oneida Street; however, there is no established crosswalk across Waupelani Drive.
2. Move the bus stop down to the entrance of The Retreat, in the vicinity of the sidewalk that was recently built to the shopping center; however, there is a severe grade issue from that sidewalk down to the roadway as well as steps on both access walks into The Retreat.
3. Create a mid-block pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the existing bus stops.

Staff is recommending Option #3 and plans are attached that depict the existing conditions and the location of the proposed crossing. CATA provided records that indicate 498 Retreat tenants and 96 Waupelani Loft tenants regularly use transit.

Amy Kerner, Borough Engineer, will provide additional information and the reasons for selecting option #3. She will also discuss a proposed construction schedule.

ACTION: Staff recommends the Commission endorse the installation of a pedestrian mid-block crossing on Waupelani Drive in the vicinity of the existing bus stops for The Retreat and Waupelani Loft apartments.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. <u>MPO/CRPA/COG Transportation</u>	Tom Zilla/Trish Meek
B. <u>Centre Area Transportation Authority</u>	Louwana Oliva
C. <u>Penn State Transportation</u>	Robert DeMayo
D. <u>PENNDOT</u>	Ryan Collins
E. <u>Borough Planning Commission</u>	Ed LeClear
F. <u>Borough Engineer</u>	Amy Kerner
G. <u>Environmental Coordinator</u>	Alan Sam
H. <u>Parking Office</u>	Patrick Ward
I. <u>State College Police</u>	Lt. Barrett Smith/Cpt. Matt Wilson

VII. Items of Information

A. Future Meetings

1. The next meeting of the Commission will be on December 13, 2016 at 12:15 PM.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Transportation Commission
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2016
12:15 p.m. / Room 304

The State College Borough Transportation Commission (TC) met on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in Room 304 of the Borough Municipal Building. Vice-Chairman Jovanis called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Members Present: Diana Malcolm, Richard Garis, Greg Halpin, Paul Jovanis, Ray Najjar

Others Present: Charles Jones, Interim Public Works Director; Amy Kerner, Borough Engineer; Alan Sam, Environmental Coordinator/Arborist; Anne Messner, Zoning Officer/Planner; Robert DeMayo, Penn State University (PSU) Transportation Director; Jackie Sheader, CATA Public Relations Manager; Officer Smith, State College Police; Autumn Busbee, AmeriCorps volunteer; Josh Turner, AmeriCorps volunteer; Sandra Lieb, Staff Assistant and other interested parties.

Approval of Minutes

The May 10, 2016 minutes were approved with revisions by Vice-Chairman Jovanis.

Public Hour

Susan Venegoni, 323 W. Fairmount Avenue, President of the Highlands Civic Association. Ms. Venegoni asked about the traffic study for the intersection of Garner Street and Prospect Avenue and she wanted to get an update on any additional information concerning this issue.

Mr. Jones stated that the consultant did do a study and some improvements were implemented.

Ms. Kerner stated that the report recommended additional speed limit signs for southbound Garner Street which were installed. Ms. Kerner added that they verified that there was a speed limit sign on northbound Garner Street and additional signage was added to the stop signs, at both ends of Prospect Avenue, stating that cross traffic does not stop. Ms. Kerner stated that a letter was sent to the property owner at the northeast corner of Prospect Avenue to ask him to remove the shrubbery that was in the sight distance triangle. Ms. Kerner reported that it has not been done and there is a follow-up letter to him to encourage him to take care of the shrubbery. Ms. Kerner stated that the Borough does have the right to remove it and bill the property owner for the effort. Ms. Kerner stated that they are researching the cost of putting overhead mast arm signs for the speed limit and side mounted radar display units. Ms. Kerner

added that other than the overhead mast arm signs everything else has been implemented.

Mr. Halpin asked if there was any mention of a stop sign anywhere between Beaver Avenue and Easterly Parkway.

Ms. Kerner stated that she would look at the study to see if that was mentioned.

David Stone, 539 E. Foster Avenue, asked about the agenda item The Rise. Mr. Stone stated that parking in the neighborhood is a concern during the construction of The Rise. Mr. Stone suggested the use of a bike lane on Foster Avenue to prohibit people from The Rise from parking on Foster Avenue.

Discussion Items

Easterly Parkway Reconstruction

Ms. Kerner reviewed the options for the Easterly Parkway Reconstruction which included potential overhead flashing signs for the Easterly Parkway School area, the link for the 10 foot shared use path, and the proposed raingarden on Pugh Street. Ms. Kerner stated that the raingarden has been completed as part of the resurfacing project.

Ms. Kerner stated that to the East, a school drop-off was proposed and was met with mixed comments. Ms. Kerner stated that we need to start estimating the cost of the project. A very preliminary design has been started on the bio swale. Ms. Kerner reminded the TC that we wanted to remove the left turn lane and convert it to a bio-swale because this project is over an acre in disturbance which means a permit from DEP is required. Ms. Kerner added that we will have to account for the increased impervious area added with the shared use path. Ms. Kerner added that we do not want to impede the entrance to the school so the actual ending location of the bio-swale may move some.

Ms. Kerner stated that the bio swale will continue towards William Street and the ending point of the bio-swale will be determined by the final design of the imperious surface. Ms. Kerner added that the properties along the bio-swale will have a right turn in and right turn out of their driveways and this was brought before Council to find out if this is something that they would be alright with having done. Ms. Kerner stated that if this is not done, the Borough will have to find a way to manage the stormwater.

Mr. Najjar asked what the other options would be.

Ms. Kerner stated that one of the other options would be some kind of a detention facility in the grassplot area, between the roadway and the bike path. Ms. Kerner added that an underground detention with storage pipes was not desirable but it could be done. Ms. Kerner stated that we would have to show that we have enough volume to detain the water for the design storm for the additional area for the entire length of the project.

Ms. Kerner stated that the Borough owns a parcel between Smithfield Street, Easterly Parkway and Garner Street and it could be developed into a raingarden.

Ms. Malcolm asked if the bio-swale was beneficial to slow traffic.

Ms. Kerner stated that the bio-swale does have a traffic calming effect.

Ms. Kerner noted that the shared use path will be included in the project and it would be proposed as an asphalt path.

Ms. Kerner reported that there are two properties that have driveways off of Easterly Parkway near Old Boalsburg Road, and they do not have any private parking on their property. Ms. Kerner stated that the shared use path would take away their parking and the suggestion would be to move the path closer to the road which would allow the people to park.

Mr. Halpin commented that the sidewalk is lightly traveled and asked if the goal was to increase pedestrian traffic. He asked if this was requested.

Ms. Kerner stated that there was not a request, but the bike plan in the Borough does recognize Easterly Parkway as an east/west corridor. Ms. Kerner added that Garner Street is a north/south corridor with bike lanes and this is an opportunity to connect the two paths. Ms. Kerner stated that this would encourage biking to school.

Ms. Malcolm stated there is always people out on the sidewalk when she is walking, and she feels this is a well-used sidewalk.

Vice-Chairman Jovanis asked about the roundabout on Garner Street and questioned whether that was still an option.

Ms. Kerner stated that it was not because it would impede onto the private properties, and they did not think that it was right to take the right-of-way for that purpose.

Atherton Street Reconstruction

Mr. Jones gave an update on PennDOT's plan for North Atherton Street which is reconstruction and storm drainage work. Mr. Jones stated that the project for North Atherton Street will be bid next year with most of the construction being done in 2018. Mr. Jones stated that PennDOT has requested to work at night and added that PennDOT has said that the project can be completed more quickly by being able to work at night. Mr. Jones added that PennDOT has already met with Borough Council and the College Heights neighborhood association.

Vice-Chairman Jovanis asked if they knew how much time they could save by doing the work at night.

Ms. Kerner answered that originally the work within the Borough limits would be about eight weeks. Ms. Kerner added that if they are permitted to work at night, they feel that they could complete the work in three weeks and they would be working around the clock.

Mr. Garis asked if the neighborhood association was receptive to the work being done at night.

Ms. Kerner stated that PennDOT has not officially gone to a neighborhood association meeting but they will attend the meeting in October. Ms. Kerner stated that when they went to the neighborhood association there were many people that were alright with the nighttime work including some of people that live along Atherton Street.

Ms. Kerner stated that this project includes some physical improvements at the intersection of Park Avenue and North Atherton Street, but it mostly has to do with the slip lane that goes onto Park Avenue from North Atherton Street. Ms. Kerner added that they are going to put in a "pork chop" island and noted some of the other things that have come out of the study which have been implemented, such as looking at the pedestrian timing signal, adding the tracer lines and adding some signage.

The Rise

Ms. Kerner provided an update on the construction at The Rise. Ms. Kerner stated that the Traffic Impact Study has been done, reviewed and approved. Ms. Kerner added that a traffic signal was not warranted for College Avenue and High Street. Ms. Kerner stated that they did look at pedestrian movement and did provide wider sidewalks in their designs. She also added that demolition had begun. Ms. Kerner reminded the TC that High Street and College Avenue are PennDOT right-of-ways and Calder Way is the Borough right-of-way.

Vice-Chairman Jovanis stated that he was surprised that a traffic light was not warranted. Ms. Kerner stated that when there is a Traffic Impact Study there is an ordinance that the designer and the reviewer have to follow. Ms. Kerner added that they did study what they were required to which was determined from the scoping meeting.

Mr. Stone stated that they interpreted the study and believed the current traffic was overestimated, so it did not show much of a change between the current traffic and the future traffic. Mr. Stone added that if there will be a commercial market in there that the traffic will be closer to the higher estimate on the future traffic. Mr. Stone stated that the way the traffic is handled during construction could have a big impact on the neighborhood. Mr. Stone said that this could be an opportunity to redesign the interchange or find another way out to University Drive through the 600 block. Mr. Stone added that the 600 block has not been rezoned and there may be some incentives for a developer to work with us.

Vice-Chairman Jovanis asked if there would be any re-review at Council for the study or has the decision been made to accept the study.

Ms. Kerner answered that the study has been accepted. Ms. Kerner stated that the protocol was for the developer's engineer to develop the Traffic Impact Study which was submitted to PennDOT for approval. Stahl Sheaffer reviewed it on behalf of the Borough. Ms. Kerner added that to her knowledge a Traffic Impact Study has never been brought to TC, not that this cannot be changed, but all approvals are at staff level.

Ms. Messner stated that the Land Development process does not have a requirement to be reviewed by the TC or Council.

Mr. Stone stated that he did not think that Council has approved the final plan.

Ms. Messner stated that it does not go back to Council.

Mr. Stone asked if a final plan was in place.

Ms. Messner answered that there was not a final plan yet because there were a few items still outstanding.

Mr. Stone stated that maybe if someone had some concerns that they may be able to raise it to Council. Mr. Stone reminded the TC of the Toll Brother's litigation and some headway was made later in the process of the final plan. He added that he thought there was something in the Planning Commission record that the methods used in a Traffic Impact Study is a bit of a proforma. Mr. Stone noted that maybe future traffic studies should be designed to get the increased flow and not to just meet some requirement.

Ms. Malcom asked if The Rise included parking.

Ms. Messner answered that it does include parking and it is underground. Ms. Messner added that the parking requirements are essentially a menu of options that the developer can select and when you go through the process that The Rise went through it includes some options that you get reduced parking. Ms. Messner stated that in all of the zoning districts downtown, commercial and CID, they exempt the first 30,000 square feet of commercial space for parking.

MS4 Program

Ms. Kerner stated that she is required each year to educate anyone that volunteers at the Borough, is a contractor at the Borough and is employed by the Borough of the MS4 permit and the requirements. Ms. Kerner explained the basics of the MS4 program. She stated that the stormwater system is separate from the sanitary sewer system, and the Borough is entirely covered by this program since it is completely urbanized.

Ms. Kerner stated that our permit requires the Borough to do the following:

- Implement a Stormwater Management Program
 - MCM (minimum control methods #1 thru MCM #6)
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Track progress toward goals
 - Report on our progress
- Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan (CBPRP)
- Impaired Waters – our job is to clean this up and help to get them not impaired

Ms. Kerner stated that she is focused on the Illicit Discharge because keeping it clean is as important as what can and cannot go down the drain. She noted that basically anything that is not rainwater with a few exceptions cannot go down the storm sewer. Ms. Kerner added that hydrant flushing cannot go down the drain unless it is dechlorinated, pool water cannot go down the drain unless it is dechlorinated to a certain level and washing cars in the driveways where the water runs into the street and onto the storm sewer will not be permitted.

Mr. Najjar asked about washing cars in the driveways and if people need to go to a car wash. Mr. Najjar inquired whether the car wash places are disposing of the water properly.

Ms. Kerner stated that car wash businesses either have a system that recycles the water or the drains are tied to the sanitary sewer. Ms. Kerner added that the goal is to keep the wash water from going into the Borough's storm sewer system.

Ms. Kerner stated that a binder with information on the MS4 program is available for viewing at the Public Works office on the second floor.

Allen Road Multimodal Safety Improvement Study

Mr. Jones stated that Allen Road runs from Park Avenue to Curtin Road on Penn State campus. Mr. Jones added that this road is very short but there are a lot of things going on along this road. Mr. Jones stated that there is vehicular traffic, a lot of pedestrian traffic and a childcare center with a lot of drop offs. Mr. Jones said Penn State hired McCormick Taylor to do this study who came back with several alternatives. Mr. Jones stated that they defined the travel lanes, emphasized the pedestrian pathways and improved the circulation for the childcare center. Mr. Jones added that they did not want to do major construction which would have disturbed the grounds of Hort Woods. Mr. Jones stated that alternative #6 is recommended which would give a better definition of the lanes and improvements in pedestrian flow and drop off at the childcare center. Mr. Jones added that none of this is on Borough streets and the only impact is on Park Avenue but nothing is being done on Park Avenue.

Vice-Chairman Jovanis asked where the main drop off occurs for the childcare center.

Mr. Jones answered that it occurs at the intersection of Allen Road and Fisher Road. Mr. Jones stated that this is for information only, but if there are any comments, they can be taken to them.

Liaison Reports

Centre Area Transportation Authority—Jackie Sheader, Public Relations Manager for CATA, stated that CATA is providing game day shuttles this year for all Penn State home football games for \$1.75 each. Ms. Sheader added that they are actively promoting their Senior Ride program which is paid for by the Pennsylvania Lottery and it is a PennDOT program in which seniors 65 years and over can ride free on any transit system in the state. Ms. Sheader stated that they are working to enhance the knowledge of this program in our area.

Penn State Transportation—Mr. DeMayo reported that Penn State submitted their Bike Friendly University application and the goal is to upgrade to silver designation. Mr. DeMayo stated that in the East Parking Deck, a new covered bike area has been added which will accommodate 40 bikes and has a bike repair station. Mr. DeMayo added that the University has partnered with Zimride to do an online ride share program to serve the students that are trying to get to Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Mr. DeMayo added that they have also partnered with Enterprise and they have six spaces with vehicles on campus with the hope to expand later. Mr. DeMayo stated that tomorrow the new gates in their parking garages go live.

Borough Planning Commission—Ms. Wargo stated that staff met today to discuss the complete streets policy. Ms. Wargo added that they have initiated that, and they anticipate the TC will be reviewing the policy document.

Borough Engineer—Ms. Kerner reported that Smithfield Street is the reconstruction street this year, and we are very close to putting the paving structure back. Ms. Kerner stated that the project went very well with very little issue. Ms. Kerner added that Easterly Parkway is slated for 2017, but we recognize that we will get a lot of public input on this. Ms. Kerner stated that we may be looking at 2018, since we try to get our projects done when the students are gone.

Environmental Coordinator--Mr. Sam introduced the new AmeriCorps person, Autumn Busbee. Mr. Sam reported that the bike repair stations have been installed at four locations and they are being very well used. Mr. Sam stated that a pedestrian trail in High Point Park was completed and we will be working on the drainage issue on that trail. Mr. Sam stated that they are working on an official sustainability plan for the Borough and part of that is to engage the public. Mr. Sam added that the greenhouse gas inventory that was done in 2006 was the basis for Resolution 944 and another greenhouse gas inventory was recently completed and should be available soon on the Borough's website.

State College Police—Lt. Smith, State College Police, had nothing to report. Lt. Smith noted that pedestrian laws are open to interpretation and it is very difficult to present an exact interpretation of the law. Lt. Smith gave an example of what is determined to be a hazard, such as, when a pedestrian steps out and a driver is forced to slam on the brakes this would be a hazard to the driver. Lt. Smith stated that every situation has to be evaluated independently. Lt. Smith added that if the TC would like clarification, he could attempt to provide some to the TC.

Vice-Chairman Jovanis stated that he would like a planned short presentation to give some clarification to the pedestrian law.

Items of Information

A. Future Meetings

1. The next meeting of the Commission will be on December 13, 2016 at 12:15 PM.

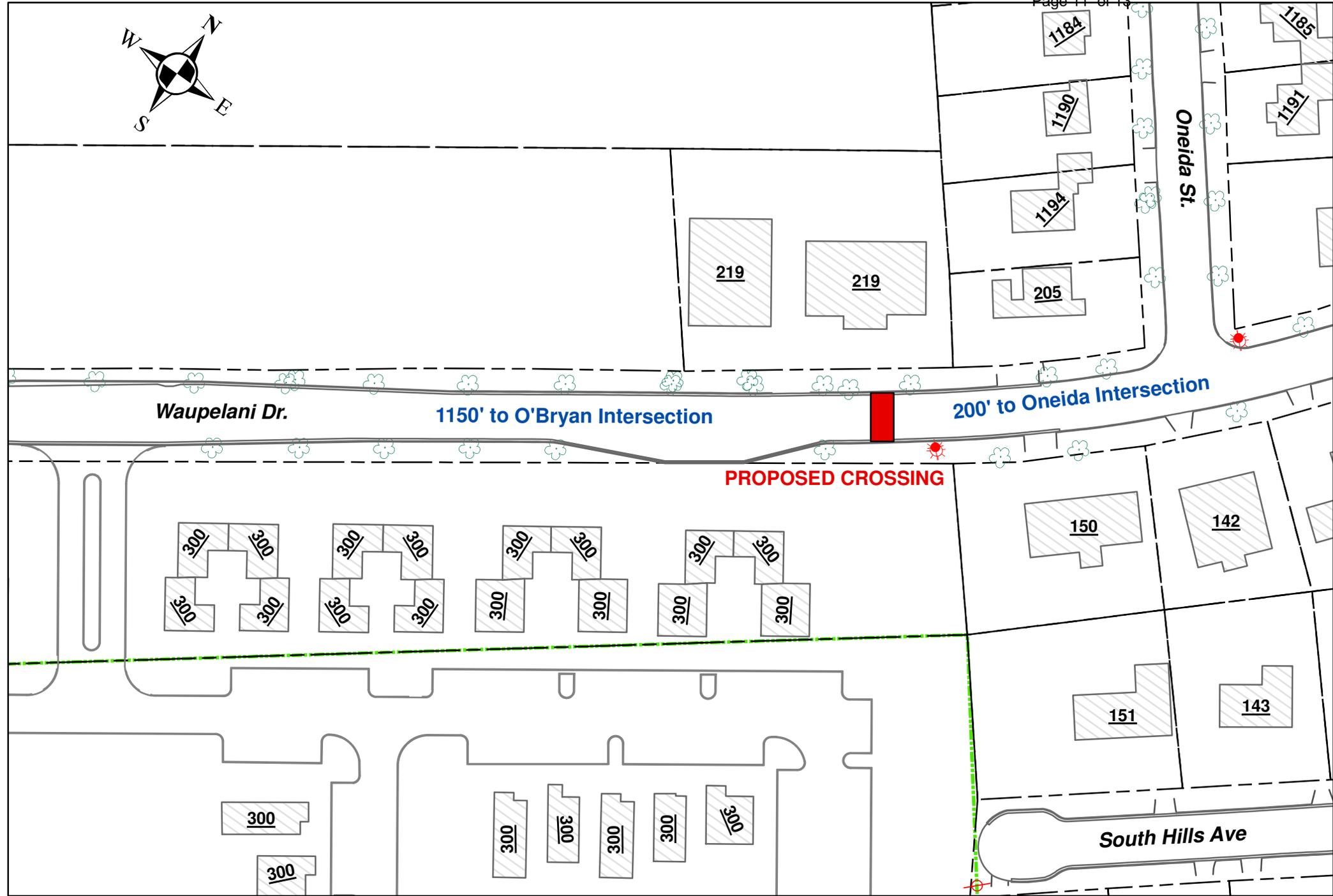
Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Jovanis.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Lieb
Staff Assistant

PROPOSED MID-BLOCK PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

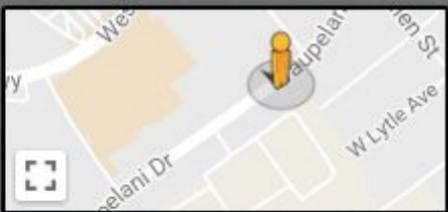


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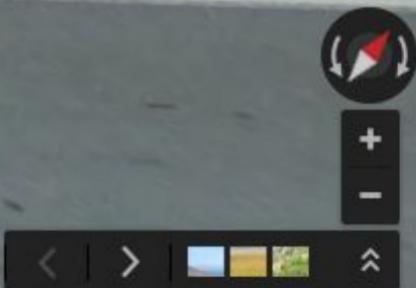
176 Waupelani Dr
State College, Pennsylvania



Street View - Jan 2016

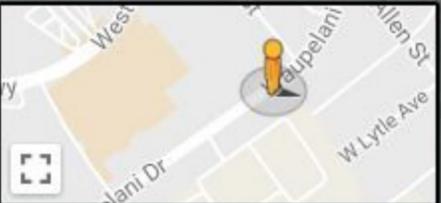


Google



176 Waupelani Dr
State College, Pennsylvania

Street View - Jan 2016



Google

Navigation controls including a compass, zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons, and a street view pegman icon.