

Comprehensive Plan Update: Bike/Pedestrian Focus Group Summary

East Bradford Township- Chester County, PA

July 30, 2015

Summary

East Bradford Township conducted a Focus Group concentrating on bicycle and pedestrian issues on July 28, 2015. The following were in attendance: Brian Styche (Chester County Planning Commission), Brian Blacker (Chester County Planning Commission), Andy Schaum (EBT Trails Committee), John Spangler (EBT Comp Plan Task Force/EBT Trails Committee), Viktor Ohnjec (Chester County Cycling Club), Vince Pompo (President, EBT Board of Supervisors), Fred Rothman (EBT Trails Committee/WCCC), and Randy Waltermeyer (Chester County Planning Commission). Also in attendance was Mandie Cantlin, Assistant Township Manager. Jennifer Reitz of Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc., Town Planners and Landscape Architects, and Natasha Manbeck, McMahon Associates, Transportation Planners and Engineers, the Township's Planning Consultants for the Comprehensive Plan Update facilitated the meeting.

The objective of the Focus Group was to:

- develop a set of overarching strategies related to improving bike/pedestrian connectivity in the Township,
- discuss strategies set forth in existing plans (Brandywine Creek Greenway, the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Plan, Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, etc.); and
- recommend 3 to 5 priority projects for each strategy to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

Draft Overarching Strategies

The framework for these strategies was gleaned from the wealth of previous planning processes and documents completed for and/or by East Bradford Township, Chester County, and others. These documents include, but are not limited to:

1. 2009 Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan
2. Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (2014)
3. Landscapes 2, Chester County Comprehensive Plan
4. Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan
5. Brandywine Creek Greenway Strategic Action Plan (2014)
6. 2001 Comprehensive Plan for East Bradford Township
7. East Bradford Township Official Map

While the strategies progress from the regional "big picture" to more local needs and issues, there are many areas of overlap between them. Thus projects that rose to the top as priority projects were those that help to achieve multiple strategies.

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The recommended strategies include:

- 1. Support Regional Connections/extensions beyond the Township's borders**
 - a. Access to SEPTA Regional Rail
 - b. Access to Chester Valley Trail
 - c. *Recommended Priorities:*
 - i. Long Term: support the Brandywine Trail Extension north to Downingtown Train Station.
 - ii. Short Term: support and enhance existing connections, such as along Skelp Level Road and Valley Creek Road, which provide access to the Chester Valley Trail.

- 2. Complete the Brandywine Greenway Corridor.**
 - a. Complete the Brandywine Trail
 - b. Provide connections to/from existing parks/preserves/open space and residential neighborhoods
 - c. *Recommended Priorities:*
 - i. *County Seat Corridor Trail/Plum Run Corridor*
 - ii. *M. John Johnson to Ingrams Mill to Stroud Connector*

- 3. Complete (off road) trail connections between existing parks/preserves/open space**
 - a. Criteria for the priorities:
 - i. Connections that contribute to overarching goals and regional connections, Projects in progress, Use, Degree of improvement needed
 - ii. Feasibility
 - b. Connections suggested by other plans
 - c. *Recommended Priorities:*
 - i. West Chester Borough to Timber Top Farm to Stroud Preserve;
 - ii. Route 842 to Shaws Bridge;
 - iii. Birmingham Road/Tigue Road to WCU (Plum Run Corridor)
 - d. Additional strategy suggested to identify safe on-road routes that could be used now by any age or level to get to particular destinations

- 4. Provide On-road Bicycle Facilities: Signage and other design treatments**
 - a. *Recommended Priority:* Valley Creek to Creek Road to 842 to the Borough

- 5. Promote use and educate users about existing and future trails**
 - a. Expand parking
 - b. Educate users on trail etiquette
 - c. *Recommended Priorities:*
 - i. Education
 - ii. Focus on Quality Signage/Maps
 - iii. Maintenance: sweeping shoulders, improving pavement, reducing "tar and chip" paving work or emphasizing clean up afterwards; work with PennDot for inkind services;

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Draft Focus Area Considerations

6. Focus Areas Bike/Ped Recommended Priorities

- a. Route 322
 - i. Pedestrian crossing in area along Taylor Run;
 - ii. Connect neighborhoods to the retail;
 - iii. Bike lane along Route 322

- b. Bradford Avenue
 - i. Sidewalk/trail- concentrate on one side, but alternate sides
 - ii. Key intersection improvements: Strasburg Road, Downingtown Pike, Miner Street

- c. Lenape Road
 - i. Plum Run Trail connection to WCU