

# Camden County & DVRPC Route 670 and 673 Stakeholder Meeting

Dec. 14, 2022 | 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

## MEETING MINUTES

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### ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization
John Coscia, Jr	DVRPC
Jim Winckowski	Camden County
Lindsay Klesitz	JMT
Brian Derr	JMT
Kush Patel	JMT
David Long	JMT
Sophia Fox	Stokes
Nicole Pace-Addeo	Stokes
<a href="mailto:Gibbygirl318@yahoo.com">Gibbygirl318@yahoo.com</a>	Resident
Karl G.	Resident
Howard	Resident
George Reilley	Sherwood Real Estate
Leigh	Resident
Mark Wilson	Resident

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### OPENING REMARKS:

6:00 PM: Sophia Fox opened the meeting, greeted attendees, informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded and it will be posted on the county website following the meeting, and reviewed the housekeeping items.

6:02 PM: Brian Derr began the PowerPoint presentation, which included:

- Project Location and Existing Conditions
- Utilities
- Environmental Impacts
- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives
- Project Schedule

### DISCUSSION:

6:12 PM: Open Forum began – Ms. Fox and Mr. Derr invited participants to ask questions to the project team via the chat box or verbally.

- George Reilley, property owner of Atlantic Coin & Jewelry Exchange:
  - He is concerned with what is going to happen on the corner of alternative 2, where there is traffic light and sidewalk. Based on the presentation he is not sure how much of his property will be affected. He would like hard copies of the working drawings.
  - Mr. Reilley is also concerned about the discussion of easements, rather than acquiring land. His current parking lot is at the minimum size allowed. If part of the lot were to be taken, then it would affect the zoning designation for the rest of his property.

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Alternative 2 may affect the corner of his property and he emphasized that he cannot give up any of his parking lot.

- Mr. Reilley also discussed an easement that was recorded 50 years ago of the county taking property to create a sidewalk. It does not mention anything about the traffic light, which is currently on his property.
- Mr. Derr responded that the team is looking closely at the corner in alternative 2 that would affect his property and considering the easements. There are still more details that need be worked out, but the team will coordinate with Mr. Reilley along the way.
- John Coscia also added that once the conceptual plans are at a more detailed level, the team will share the hardcopy plans with Mr. Reilley.
- Karl G., resident:
  - Asked if the more favorable alternative is 2.
  - Mr. Derr responded that it is the least impactful alternative. From a safety perspective, roundabouts are the safest option since it makes cars slow down. However, geometrically, the roundabout doesn't work perfectly in alternative 2. But the safety improvements are ideal and the left turn lanes helps the intersection operate better by getting the left turns out of the through lanes.
  - The resident also asked if there has been an uptick in accidents following the upgrades to the Wawa.
  - Mr. Derr responded that we currently don't have the data available, but the team will look into getting that information. There is a possibility that there have been additional accidents.
  - In terms of choosing a preferred alternative, the resident asked if there could be a left turn lane included on Burnt Mill Road for alternative 2 to accommodate the increased volume of Wawa customers? He stated that sometimes he is unable to make a left turn onto White Horse Road because of the additional cars traveling through.
  - Mr. Derr responded that a traffic count has not occurred since the new Wawa opened. The team will look into conducting a new traffic count and researching the impacts of adding the left turn onto Burnt Mill.
- Resident:
  - A resident stated that issue of straight through traffic on Burnt Mill Road being stopped by motorists turning left on west White House Road has not been addressed.
  - Mr. Derr responded that the team will investigate this issue. When the project team preliminary calculated the traffic counts, this was looked into. Overall, the study found that alternative 2 would improve the traffic flow for the intersection, but the team will go back and specifically look into the left turn causing a backup.
  - The resident also asked if a 'trigger' could be installed on northbound Burnt Mill Rd so emergency vehicles get a green light.
  - Mr. Derr responded that the project team is aware that the fire department is on Burnt Mill Road, so that is something that can definitely be considered moving forward.

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- The resident stated that the car wash on White Horse Road creates congestion on high volume days by stopping traffic in the right lane. It would be beneficial if any solution could address this.
- Mr. Derr thanked the resident for their comment and stated the issue will be looked into.
- Mark Wilson, resident:
  - Asked if there will be a presentation for the public once the plan is finalized.
  - Mr. Coscia responded that following this meeting the team will evaluate all of the questions and comments received from the public. Once a preferred alternative is identified NJTPA subject matter experts will vet the alternative first. Then, there will be another round of local officials, stakeholder and public meetings to present the PPA towards the end of the concept development process.
- Resident:
  - Commented that traffic leaving Wawa backs up on northbound Burnt Mill, sometimes blocking the southbound side, and asked if there was any chance a third lane will be created on northbound Burnt Mill.
  - Mr. Derr responded that this issue may be caused by the signal timing, which the team can look into. And there may be an enforcement issue since motorists should not be blocking southbound vehicles, which will also be looked into.

### CLOSING REMARKS:

7:30 PM: Mr. Derr closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Emphasized that the project team really appreciates the comments and questions received from the public and they will all be considered moving forward with the project.

Minutes Prepared by Stokes Creative Group, Inc.

