

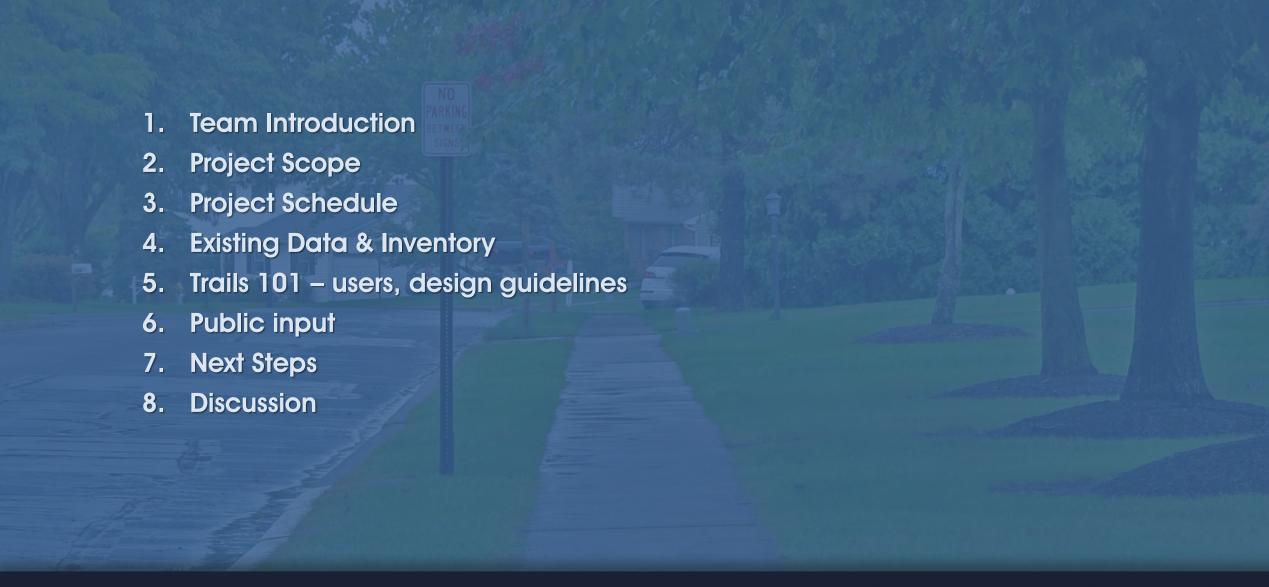
# SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY STUDY

Public Meeting #1 – November 10, 2022

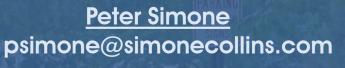
Please note this presentation is being recorded.

During the presentation feel free to type questions in the Q&A box. We will answer question during the Q&A session after the presentation.

# Agenda



# **Project Consultants**



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www.simonecollins.com

# **Project Committee**

### **Committee Members**

**Brett Mackay, Chairman** 

Patricia Younce, Vice Chair

**Douglas Leach** 

Joseph Vavra

**Matt Chartrand** 

**Dr. Edward Buonocore** 

**Nancy Becker** 

**Dennis McGeehan** 

**Richard Marino** 

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rmarino@towamencin.org

### Simone Collins Philosophy

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture is a planning and design firm committed to creating an ecologically enduring society.



<u>Conduct</u> careful research.



Respect
ecological
context and
limits of each
site.



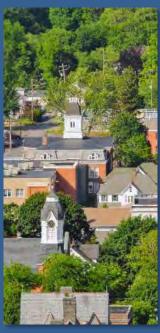
Build on sustainable practices of the past.



Employ new methods prudently.



<u>Conserve</u> materials and energy.



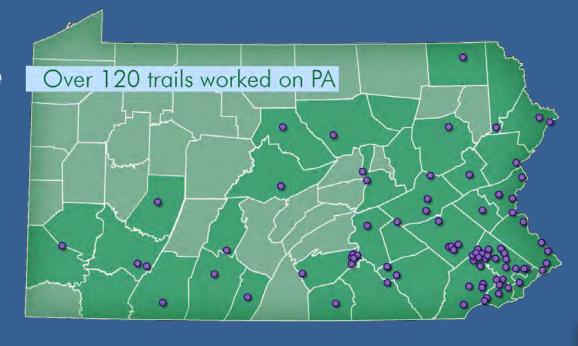
Support local economies.



<u>Design</u>
biologically &
culturally diverse
communities.

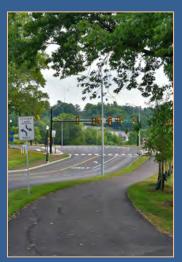
### Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

- South Bethlehem Greenway
- Alleghany Highlands Trail (Great Allegheny Passage)
- Schuylkill River Trail several portions
- Wissahickon Trails Master Plan
- Radnor Township TAP Trail (just constructed)

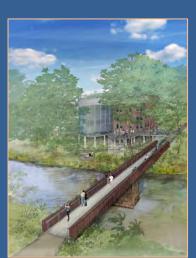


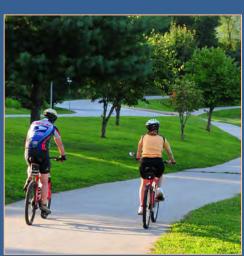








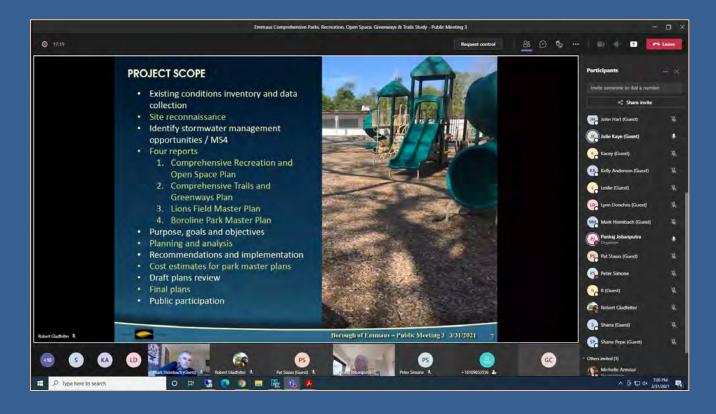




# **Hybrid Meeting Format**

### Meetings will be: In person & virtual using Microsoft Teams





# **Project Scope**

"The purpose of this Connectivity Study is to decide where new sidewalks and trails are most needed and which of those facilities are the highest priority. Once these decisions are made, the Township should consider embarking on a systematic implementation of this connectivity system with funding from a variety of state and federal sources. Implementation of this connectivity system will require years and this plan is the first step to a more connected Township."

- 1. Inventory, map and evaluate all existing sidewalks & trails
- 2. Field reconnaissance and data collection including conference with PennDOT for any matters involving State Roads.
- 3. Public Participation including public meetings, online survey and online mapping.
- 4. Prepare project mapping to illustrate locations of proposed connectivity facilities.
- 5. Prepare Costs, Prioritization and Funding Strategy.
- 6. Prepare Narrative and Report summarizing all information throughout process of study.

# **Project Schedule**

## **Towamencin Connectivity Study – Project Schedule**

Today

- 4 Public meetings
- 4 Committee meetings
- Selected Key Person Interviews
- Opinion Survey (6 mo.)
- Wikimapping
- Press Releases
- Township Staff meetings

Meeting	Purpose	Date	Time
Committee Meeting #1	Project overview, initial site analysis, prainstorming  Monday, October 10, 2022		7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Opinion Survey/ Wikimapping Period	Write and administer Public Opinion Survey/ Wikimapping	Monday, October 3, 2022 – Thursday, April 13, 2023	
Public Meeting #1	Project Overview / Public Brainstorming	Thursday, November 10, 2022	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Committee Meeting #2	Review Public Meeting/survey, analysis process, initial concepts	Monday, December 5, 2022	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #2	Analysis / Concepts	Thursday, February 9, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Committee Meeting #3	Concept refinement, draft plan overview	Monday, March 6, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #3	Draft Plan Presentation	Thursday, April 13, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Review Period	45-Day Draft Plan Review	Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Monday, May 29, 2023	
Board of Supervisors Meeting	Review Draft Plan	Wednesday, May 10, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Committee Meeting #4	Review comments and make revisions	Monday, June 5th, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #4	Present final plan	Thursday, June 22, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM



# **Data and Inventory**

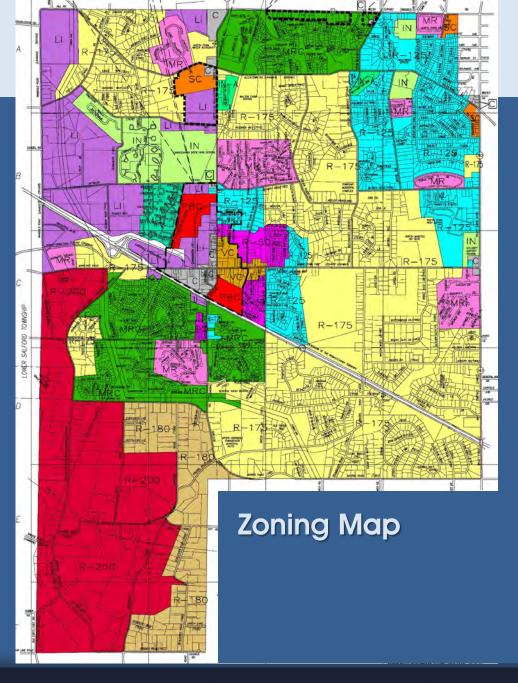




# **Existing Conditions**

Future residential growth is likely to occur in areas that are redeveloped with higher densities that include multi-family dwelling units. The Village Center is one likely growth area.





### **Future Conditions?**

County / Municipality	2010 Census	2015 Forecast	2020 Forecast	2025 Forecast	2030 Forecast	2035 Forecast	2040 Forecast	Absolute Change 2010- 2040	Percent Change 2010- 2040
Schwenksville Borough	1,385	1,392	1,411	1,458	1,504	1,523	1,530	145	10.5%
Skippack Township	13,715	14,199	14,871	15,776	16,680	17,203	17,587	3,872	28.2%
Souderton Borough	6,618	6,642	6,711	6,874	7,036	7,105	7,129	511	7.7%
Springfield Township	19,418	19,445	19,522	19,703	19,884	19,961	19,988	570	2.9%
Telford Borough (pt.)	2,665	2,680	2,723	2,825	2,927	2,970	2,985	320	12.0%
Towamencin Township	17,578	17,935	18,366	18,897	19,428	19,733	19,840	2,262	12.9%

DVRPC population projections show modest growth. 2021 census numbers show 18,000 residents, slightly lower that DVRPC projections.

Another factor might be the growing number of residents who may be able to work from home. How this affects local sidewalk and trail use is yet to be seen. If folks continue to value outdoors activities, there could be an increase in use.

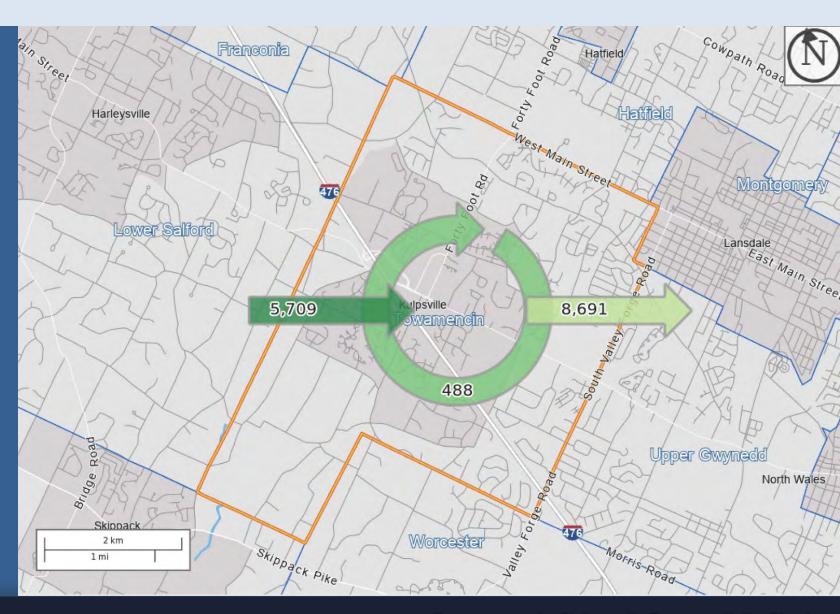
# Inflow/Outflow Commuting Report

US Census Bureau's "OnTheMap" website provides information about the number of people commuting for all jobs in and out of Towamencin Township.

### Map Legend

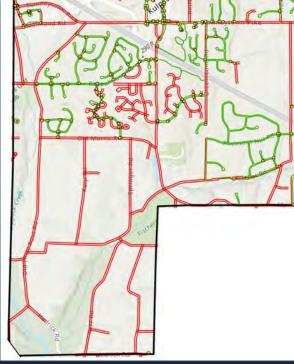
### Inflow/Outflow

- Employed and Live in Selection Area Employed in Selection Area, Live
- Outside
- Live in Selection Area, Employed
- Outside Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.

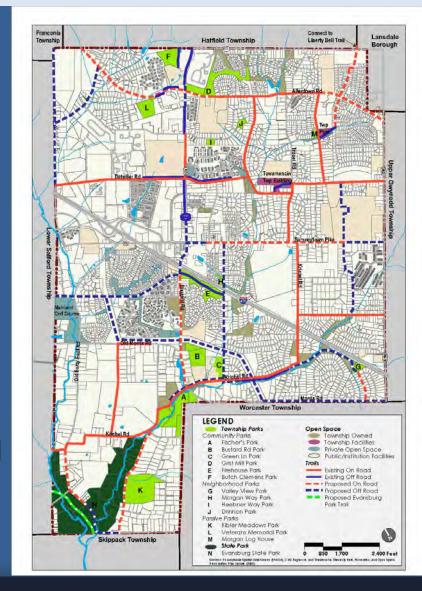


# **Prior Planning Documents**





SC: Parks and Trails System Evaluation 2019

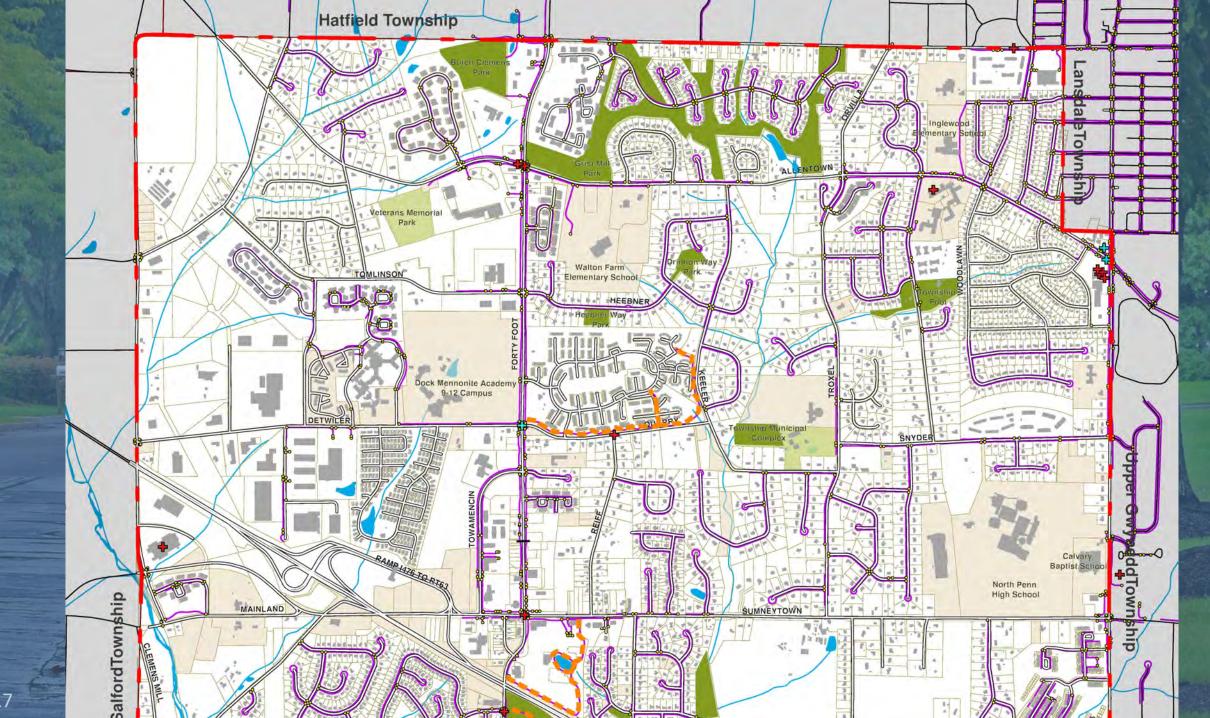


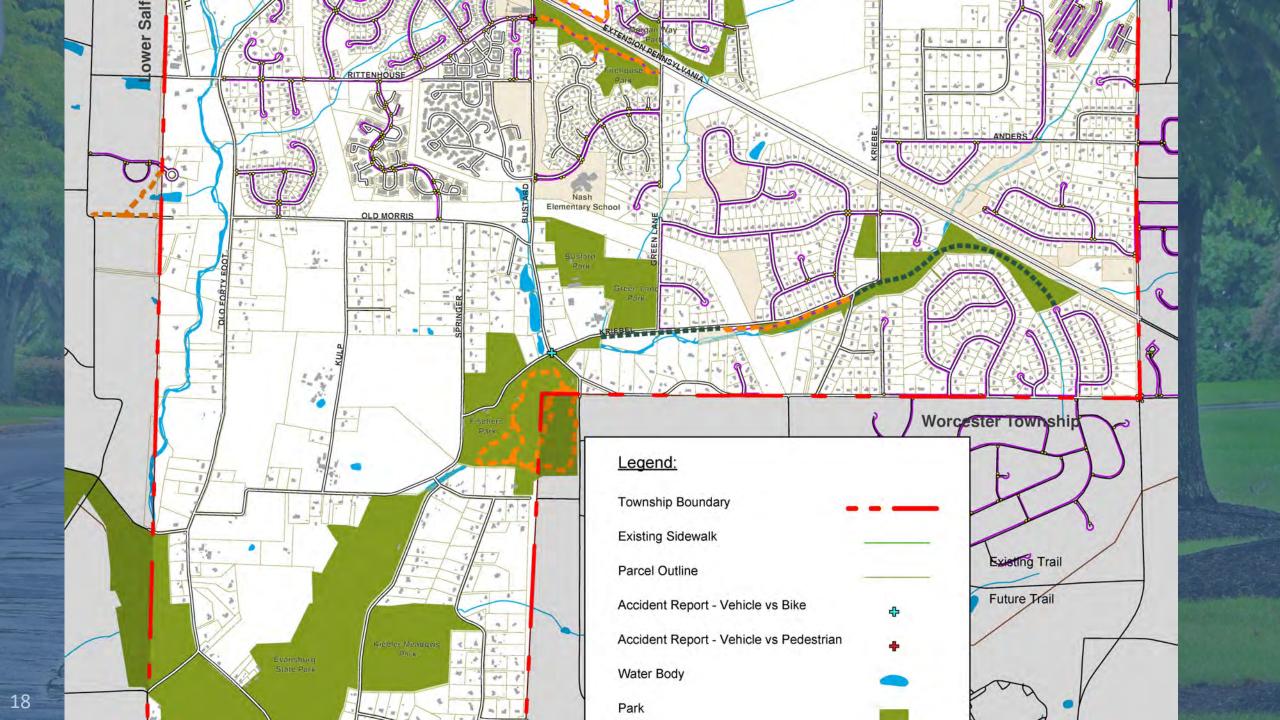
DVRPC: Sidewalks vs. No Sidewalks

# **Existing Conditions Map**

Combined: DVRCP Existing Sidewalks & SC Parks and Trails System Maps





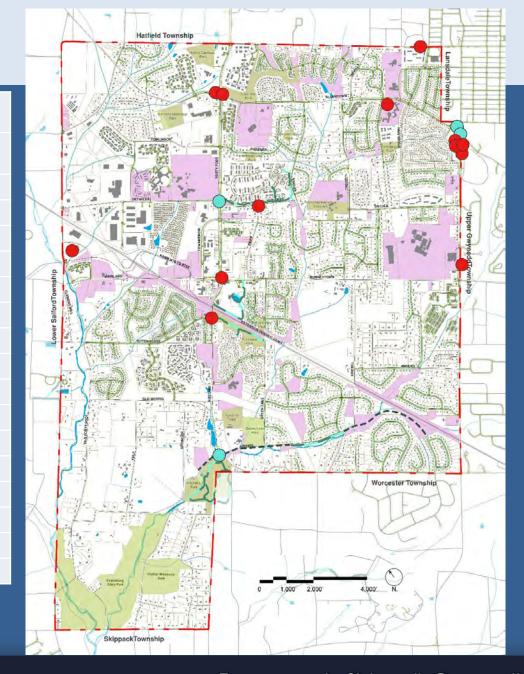


# **Accident Reports**

Report Date / Time	Location & Address	Accident Type
8/31/2022 8:07	SUMNEYTOWN PIKE/BUSTARD RD LANSDALE PA 19446, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
10/3/2021 14:11	ALLENTOWN RD/FORTY FOOT RD TWMC, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
7/11/2021 8:26	QUARRY RD/REIFF RD TWMC, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
6/2/2021 17:14	S VALLEY FORGE RD/ALLENTOWN RD, LANSDALE, PA 19446	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
5/26/2021 10:50	VALLEY FORGE RD/ALLENTOWN RD TWMC, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
12/27/2020 8:34	1290 ALLENTOWN RD, WEST, LANSDALE, PA 19446	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
10/16/2020 13:41	BUSTARD RD & RITTENHOUSE RD, HARLEYSVILLE, PA 19438	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
10/9/2020 0:18	WELSH RD, LANSDALE, PA 19446	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
7/8/2020 15:42	DETWILER RD/FORTY FOOT RD TWMC, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Bike
8/13/2019 11:34	VALLEY FORGE RD/ALLENTOWN RD TWMC, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
7/17/2019 15:42	S VALLEY FORGE RD & ALLENTOWN RD, LANSDALE, PA 19446	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
7/12/2019 14:22	1551 VALLEY FORGE RD, UPPER GWYNEDD TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
6/22/2019 11:54	BUSTARD RD/KRIEBEL RD TWMC, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Bike
6/15/2019 15:02	ALLENTOWN RD & S VALLEY FORGE RD, LANSDALE, PA 19446	Vehicle vs Bike
4/26/2019 16:40	780 VALLEY FORGE RD, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Bike
3/11/2019 22:57	1501 INDUSTRIAL BLVD, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian
9/28/2018 14:47	850 VALLEY FORGE RD, TOWAMENCIN TWP, PA	Vehicle vs Pedestrian

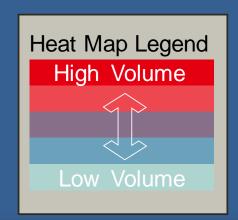


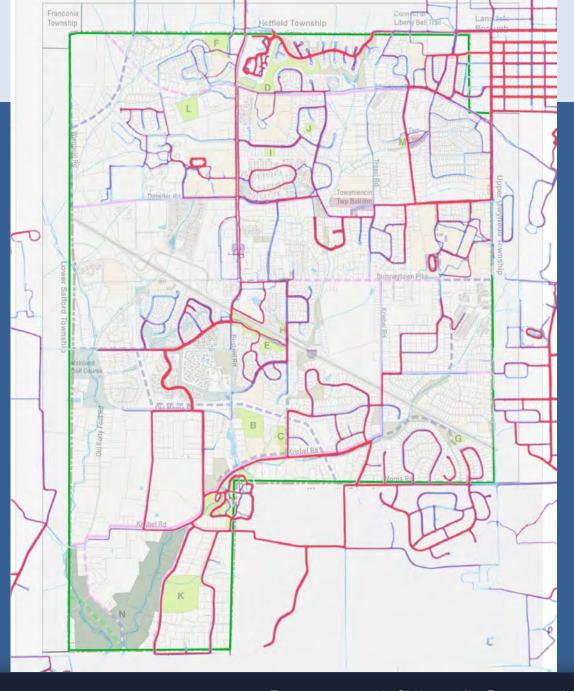




### Data: STRAVA - Run

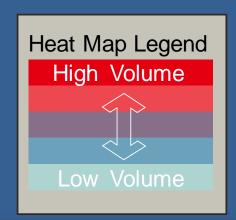
Strava is a social network for athletes to track exercise. The heatmap shows 'heat' made by aggregated, public activities over the last year. The heatmap is updated monthly. Activity that athletes mark as private is not visible.

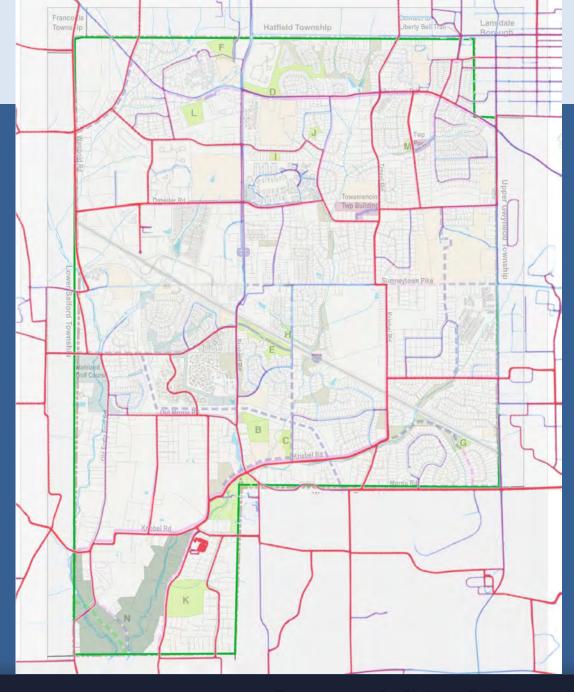




# Data: STRAVA - Cycling

Strava is a social network for athletes to track exercise. The heatmap shows 'heat' made by aggregated, public activities over the last year. The heatmap is updated monthly. Activity that athletes mark as private is not visible.





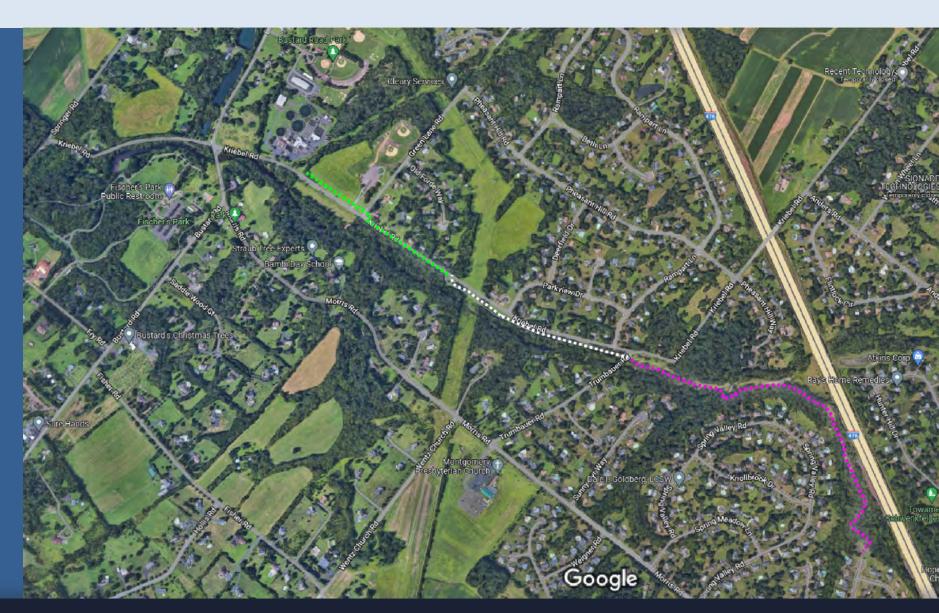
### **Kreibel Road Trail**

KRT Phase 1 and 2 *construction documents* have been bid out. *Installation of the two* sections should occur within the near future.

*Is there a chance to expand* this trail to provide more connections?

**Existing KRT** KRT Phase 1 KRT Phase 2

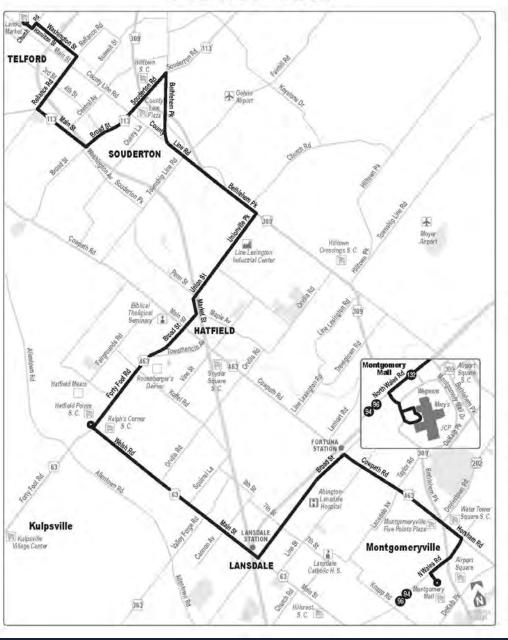




### **Bus Routes**

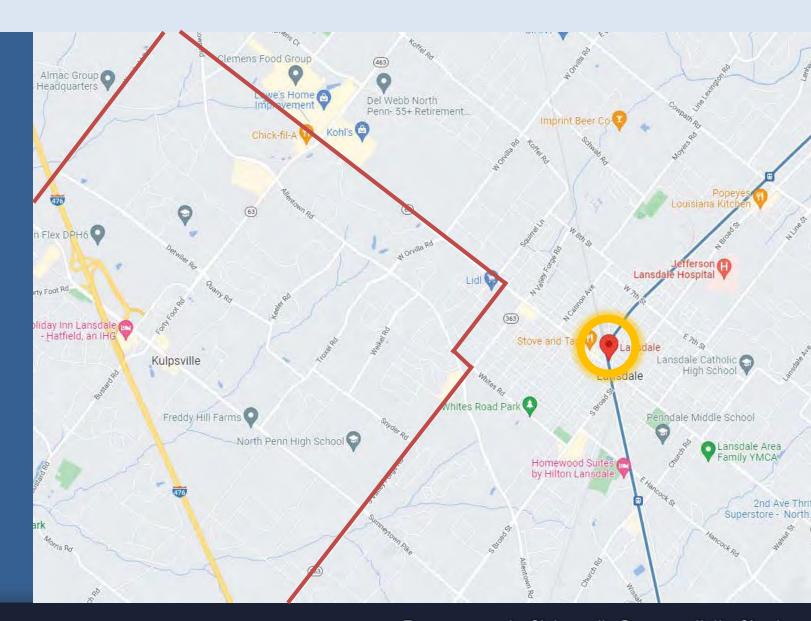
Only bus route - Rt. 132 - runs at the edge of the Township along Welsh Road

### Route 132



# **SEPTA Regional Rail**

- Lansdale is the closest station for the Regional Rail
- 15-minute walk to Township boundary
- 4.0 miles to center of Township (Forty Foot Road and Sumneytown Pike)

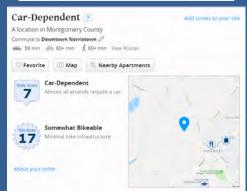


### **Walk Score**

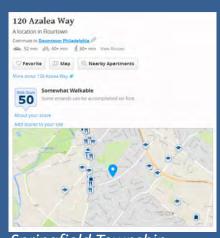
"Walk Score" is a website that provides ratings for walking, biking, and public transportation at an address. Ratings are scored between 0-100, with 100 being the best rating.

<u>Walk Score</u> measures the walkability of any address to nearby amenities, <u>Transit Score</u> measures access to public transit, and <u>Bike Score</u> measures whether a location is good for biking.

### Comparable Locations



Skippack Township

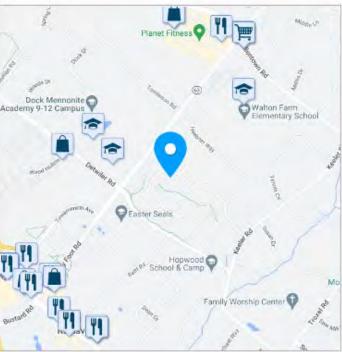


Springfield Township

# Car-Dependent A location in Montgomery County Commute to Downtown Norristown 40 min 60+ min Nearby Apartments Walk Score Almost all errands require a car.



About your score
Add scores to your site

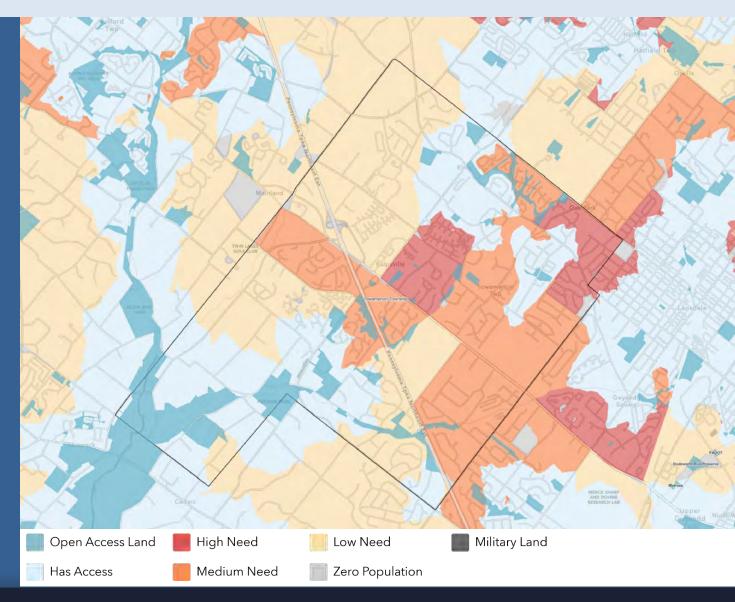


# DCNR Accessibility to Parks, Trails, + Open Space Tool

Maps and stats based on a 10-minute walk to parks, trails, and public open spaces.
Summary stats are at the township level.

Level of need is based on population density, youth population density, and low-income population density within each county.

10-Minute Walk Stats	Statewide	Towamencin Township (Montgomery County)	
Population Served:	<mark>53%</mark>	<mark>28.12%</mark>	
Kids Served:	54%	29.51%	
Low-Income Served:	60%	25.78%	
Minorities Served:	75%	29.56%	



# **Major Destinations**

- Parks
- Schools
- Township building
- Large residential neighborhoods
- Retail Centers
- Employment Centers
- Connections to adjacent communities

Sidewalks (& curbs) are typically required for Land Development Approval. These improvements can be waived or deferred by the Board of Supervisors. For years, sidewalks were often waived, although this is less the case in recent years. Deferral places sidewalk construction costs in escrow for construction at a later date.

Once in place, sidewalks must be maintained in good condition by the property owner. Snow must also be removed within 24 hours.



# Trails 101 – User Groups













# Trails 101 – Design Manuals



# **Design Manuals**

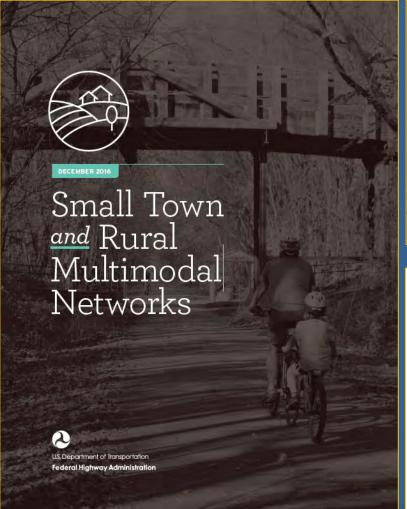




Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning

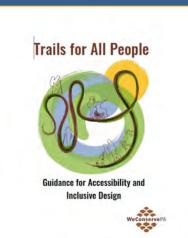


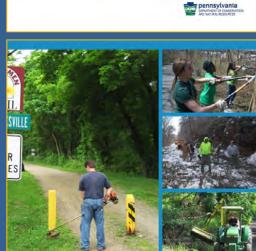






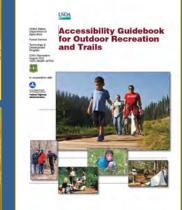






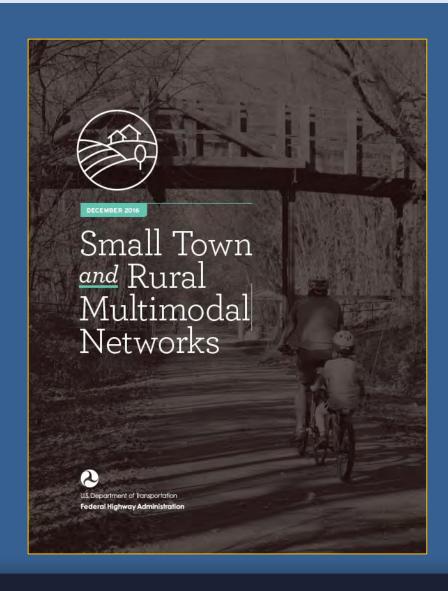






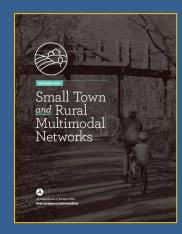


### Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks



- Facility design guide focused on suburban, small town, and rural areas.
- Provides example applications and case studies
- Applications based on roadway characteristics, configuration, and adjacent land use.
- Applications Include:
  - Bicycle Boulevards
  - Separated Bike Lanes
  - School connections
  - Speed Management
  - Bridges
  - Advisory Shoulders
  - Side paths
  - Sidewalks
  - Access to public lands

### **Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks**



### Bicycle Boulevard

Bicycle boulevards provide a bicycle-priority route designed to offer convenient, low-stress access to local destinations and through neighborhoods. Combinations of access management, traffic calming, and crossing treatments work in concert to enhance the bicycling experience.



Figure 2-4. Common elements of a bicycle boulevard

### GEOMETRIC DESIGN



Figure 2-5. Bicycle boulevards combine road markings, traffic-calming measures, and crossing improvements designed to enhance the comfort and priority of bicyclists traveling along the route.

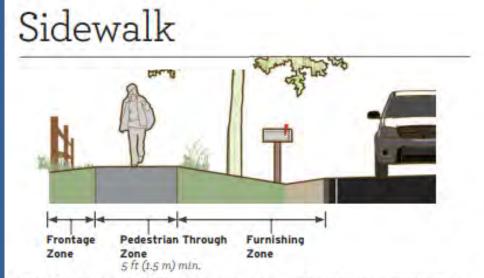
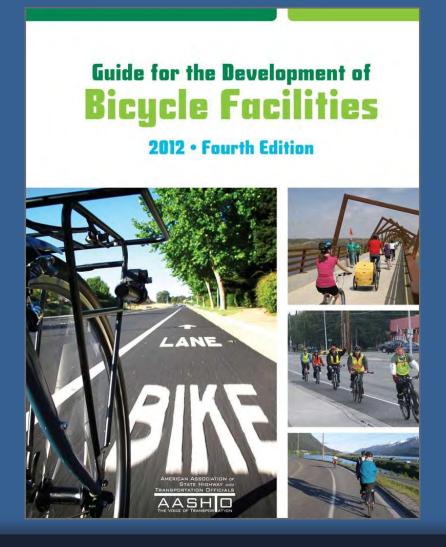


Figure 4-14. Sidewalks should be physically separated from the roadway by an unpaved buffer separation, barrier or curb edge.

## Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities



Prepared by the American
 Association of State Highway and
 Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

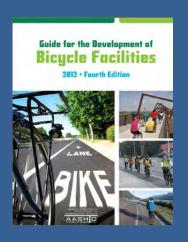


• On-Road Facilities – Bicyclists ride within the existing cartway.



Shared Use Paths— Completely separated from the roadway.
Also known as 'off-road trails', 'greenways', 'shared use paths', and/or 'multi-use paths'.

### AASHTO – On-Road Facilities

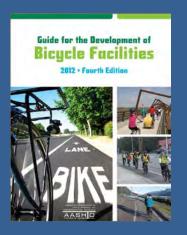




### **BIKE LANES**

- Bicyclists operate within a designated portion of the roadway that is separate from motor vehicle traffic
- Bike Lane Widths
  - Not adjacent to Curb = 4' minimum
  - Adjacent to curb or other obstacle = 5' minimum
  - Adjacent to Parallel Parking = 5' minimum (7' preferred) –
     to be placed between parking lane and vehicle travel lane
- 6' 8' bike lanes allow bicyclist to pass without leaving the bike lane
- MUTCD Signage R3-17 'Bike Lane' at periodic intervals

### **AASHTO – Shared Use Paths**

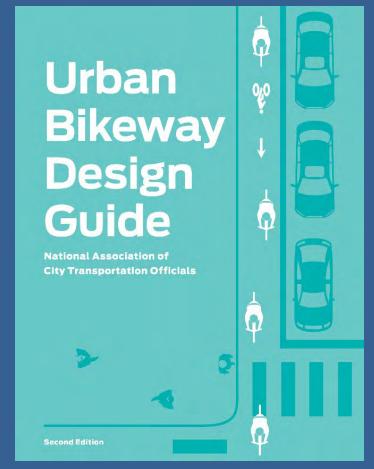






- Characterized as Bikeways that are physically separated from the cartway by a physical barrier or open space
- Should comply with current ADA requirements
- Typical Users include:
  - Upright Adult Bicyclists
  - Recumbent Bicyclists
  - Bicyclists pulling trailers
  - Hand Cyclists
  - Child Bicyclists
  - Inline Skaters
  - Roller Skaters
  - Skateboarders
  - Kick Scooter Users
  - Pedestrians
  - Runners

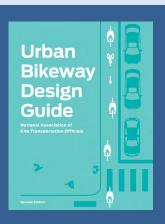
## NATCO - Trail Facility Types



https://nacto.org/publication/urb an-bikeway-design-guide/

- Additional guidelines for the development of trails – AASHTO standards should still be followed
- Provides additional guidelines for:
  - Bike Lanes
  - Cycle Tracks
  - Intersection Treatments
  - Bicycle Signals
  - Bikeway Signing and Marking
  - Bicycle Boulevards

## NATCO - Trail Facility Types





The Shared Lane Marking in lustrated in MUTCD figure 9C-9.

Shared Lane Markings shall not be used on shoulders, in designated bicycle lanes, or to designate bicycle detection at

Frequent, visible placement of markings is essential. The number of markings along a street should correspond to the difficulty bicyclists experience taking the proper travel path or position. SLMs used to bridge discontinuous bicycle facilities or along busier streets (50 to 100 feet) than along low traffic bicycle routes (up to 250 feet or more). SLMs used along low volume routes can be staggered by direction to provide markings closer

 Lateral placement is critical to
 prove bassing behavior. MUTCD guidance

### when a parking lane is present at 11 feet from the curb face.18

On streets with posted 25 mph speeds or slower, preferred travel lane to minimize wear and encourage bicyclists to occupy the

 On streets with posted 35 mph
 speeds or faster and motor ypd shared lane markings are not a preferred treatment. On these streets other bikeway types are

placed far enough from the curb to direct bicyclists away from gutters. streets with posted 25 mph speeds or slower preferred placement is in the center of the travel lane minimize wear and encourage bicyclists to occupy the full travel lane. MUTCD guidance recommends at 4 feet from the curb face.112

B For wayfinding purposes the marking may be adjusted to direct bicyclists along discontinuous

Ocolor may be used to enhance the visibility of the shared lane marking and to further encourage

Dotted line markings may accompany the shared lane marking to further encourage







### encourage riders to avoid the where bicyclists must be especially aware of hazards that could be presented by the driver side door. See guidance for Bike Lanes and

STRIPING -**SHARROWS** 







Preferred placement on 25 mph streets: center of travel lane

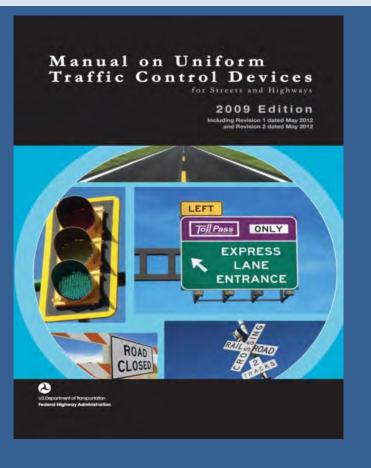




CYCLE TRACKS

### **BIKE LANES**

### **MUTCD**







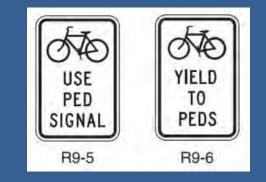


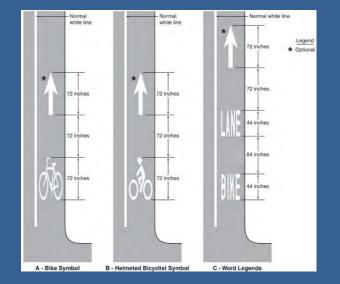




- Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Signage, Pavement Standards and highway traffic signals for both on-road and off-road trail facilities
- Provide for safe and efficient transportation









# Improvement Toolbox



## Improvement Toolbox

- 1. Sidewalk
- 2. Crosswalk
- 3. Speed Table
- 4. Speed Cushion
- 5. ADA Curb Cut
- 6. Rapid Flashing Beacon
- 7. Hand Man
- 8. Pedestrian Refuge Island
- 9. Multi-Use Trail
- 10. Sharrow
- 11. Bicycle Lane
- 12. Bump Out / Curb Extension







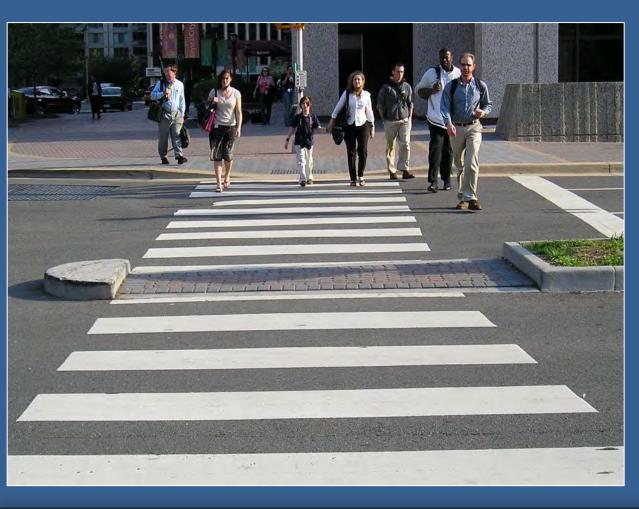


## Sidewalks





## Crosswalk





# Speed Table





# **Speed Cushion**



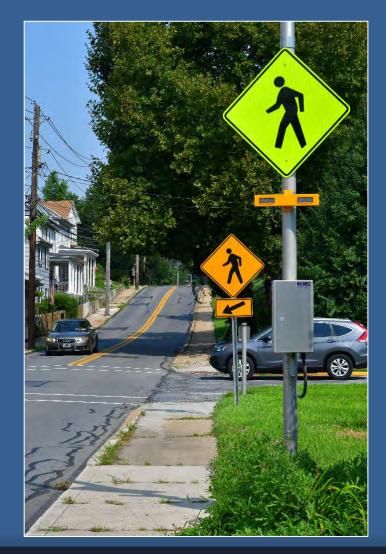


# ADA Curb Cut





# Rapid Flashing Beacon



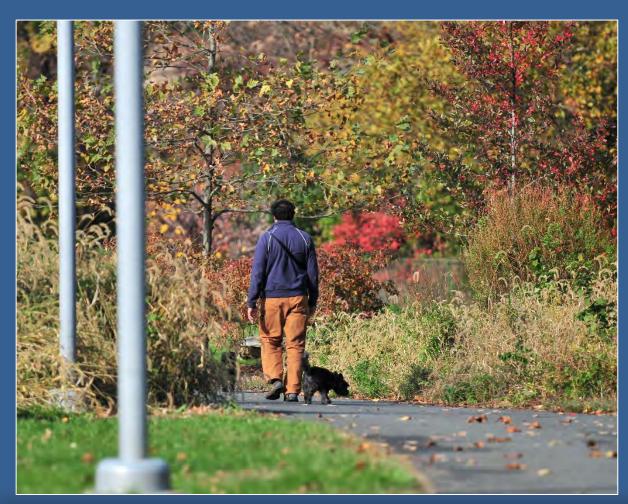


# Pedestrian Refuge Island





# Multi-Use Trail





# Bicycle Lane





# **Bump Out / Curb Extension**







## Card Technique – Public Input



## **Card Technique**



Goals for the project — initially broad, then specific

Facts - Good downtown, trails, walkable areas, large University.

**FACTS** 



Ideas for attaining project goals – Opportunities for connectivity improvement

Partners - Groups, Businesses, Institutions to create a partnership with



### Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...

CONCEPTS **FACTS PARTNERS GOALS DEVELOP A** TRUCK **SCHOOL POPULAR WALKABLE DESTINATION** TRAFFIC **DISTRICT COMUNITY** SAFE **ACCIDENTS AT** MAKE SAFER THE **ROUTES FOR ALLENTOWN** FOR BIKES COUNTY RD + FOLK RD PED / BIKES CONNECT **REGIONAL** NEIGHBORHOOD LOCAL TO THE **HIGHWAY** DEVELOPMENT **BUSINESSES PARKS ACCESS** 

## Discussion / Q&A

### **Desired Routes**

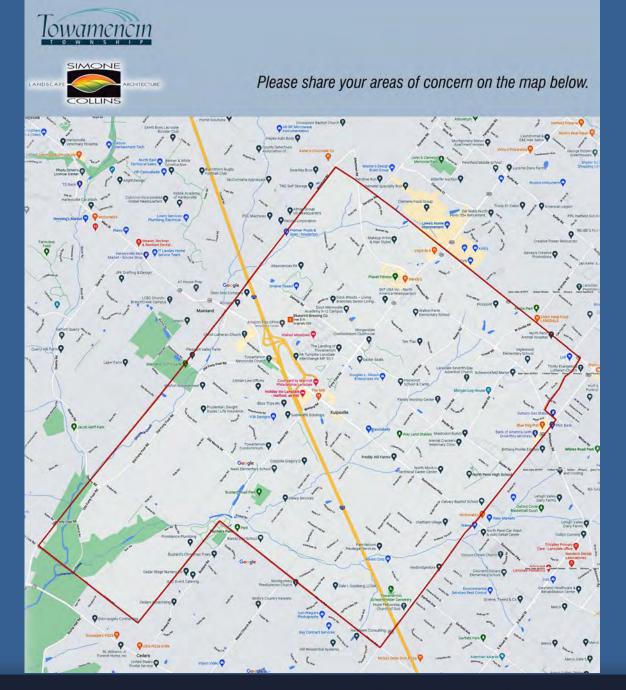
 Where would you like to see a route? On existing Trails, on low Volume Roads?

### **Destinations**

- Schools
- Parks
- Business

### **Challenges**

- Narrow Roads
- Needed Easements
- Difficult Intersections





# **Next Steps**



## Public Opinion Survey & WikiMapping







https://qrco.de/Towamencin-Survey







https://qrco.de/Towamencin-Wikimap

## **Next Steps**

- February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- We will review analysis and concepts of different sidewalk options

### **Towamencin Connectivity Study – Project Schedule**

Meeting	Purpose	Date	Time
Committee Meeting #1	Project overview, initial site analysis, brainstorming	Monday, October 10, 2022	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Opinion Survey/ Wikimapping Period	Write and administer Public Opinion Survey/ Wikimapping	Monday, October 3, 2022 – Thursday, April 13, 2023	
Public Meeting #1	Project Overview / Public Brainstorming	Thursday, November 10, 2022	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Committee Meeting #2	Review Public Meeting/survey, analysis process, initial concepts	Monday, December 5, 2022	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #2	Analysis / Concepts	Thursday, February 9, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Committee Meeting #3	Concept refinement, draft plan overview	Monday, March 6, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM
Committee Meeting #3 Public Meeting #3	Concept refinement, draft plan overview  Draft Plan Presentation		7:00 - 8:30 PM 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Public Meeting #3	Draft Plan Presentation	Thursday, April 13, 2023 Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Monday, May 29, 2023	
Public Meeting #3 Public Review Period	Draft Plan Presentation  45-Day Draft Plan Review	Thursday, April 13, 2023 Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Monday, May 29, 2023 Wednesday, May 10, 2023	7:00 - 8:30 PM

## **Project Consultants**

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