

**LAFAYETTE STREET EXTENSION PROJECT  
MUNICIPALITY OF NORRISTOWN AND PLYMOUTH MEETING TOWNSHIP  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Meeting Summary**

**Date:** Wednesday, November 17, 2010  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Colonial Middle School – Cafeteria  
716 Belvoir Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

**Attendees**

Carmen Italia	J. Turchi	Sharon Pontithio
Ryan Tyrrell	J. Bleicher	Jeremy Benn
Michael Naholnik	Mike McLaughlin	Mary Noon
Walt Wright	Kosma Gianginis	John Lenzi
Frank Carfagno	Margaret Deltisan	Barbara Lenzi
Michael Valerio	William & Sandy Kramer	Sam Monastero
Constantino Valerio	John DiMino	Kathy Monastero
A. Cagliola	Louis Alba	Bob Mancini
Nick Zubrzycki	MaryLee Cook	Sal Sader
Joe Gallagher	Joseph A. Mirabel	Kevin Burton
Al Wahall	Shelela Simpson	Tiffany Glass
Jeanine Whitney	Craig Miren	Jim Carbo
Ed Eason	Pat Valerio	Jimmy Rye
Joe R. Weidinger	Mico Valerio	Joe Lepone
DJ Shell	Jeffrey Williams	Jimmy Stinson
Charles Tornetta	Elizabeth Williams	Sean E. Cullen
Ron Ciune	Dean Eisanbarger	Lisa Stafford
Ted Hoffman	Betty Prostock	Devan Borum
Chip Capinski	Eric Womack	Mary Mack
Charles Interrante	Ron Battaglia	Joseph A. Turchi
Edward Gramlich	Carl Bungler	Barry K. Fulton
Michael Picard	Michael Branca	Steve Fels
Leona Palmer	Maria Weeding	John Frangiosa
Robert Beausoleil	Eugene A. Mastrangoco	Doug Jones
Joseph Bucci	Shari Hoffman	Donna Singleton
Nicole Borum	Michael Hoffman	Tom Jerrigan
Theodore E. Wood	Jodi Friedman	
Annette Turchi	Harry Mirabile	

**Project Team Members**

Leo Bagley	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Matthew Edmond	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Karen Weiss	Township of Plymouth Meeting

Josefina Brown	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Jayne McColl	McCormick Taylor, Inc.
Jeannette Quirus	McCormick Taylor, Inc.
John Kahil	McCormick Taylor, Inc.
John Mullen	McCormick Taylor, Inc.
Kristian Bellotti	McCormick Taylor, Inc.
Susan Giannantonio	Gannett Fleming

### **Display Materials**

- Lafayette Street Extension Project map (Eastern Section and Western Section)
- Typical Cross Sections (A through G)
- Construction Stages
  - Barbadoes Street to Ford Street
  - Ford Street to Conshohocken Road
  - Local Road Improvements
- Noise Barrier Concept

### **Handouts**

- Project Fact Sheet
- Comment Form
- Lafayette Street Extension Project map (Eastern Section and Western Section) – 11 x 17

### **Schedule**

- Start Construction (Phase 1) – 2012
- Start Construction (Phase 2) – 2013
- Start Construction (Phase 3) – 2015
- End Construction – 2016

### **Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was to present officials and the public, engineering and environmental studies for the extension of Lafayette Street and other local roadway improvements in the Municipality of Norristown and Plymouth Meeting Township, Montgomery County. The Final Design is being conducted by the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

### **Meeting Summary**

An open house public meeting was held at the Colonial Middle School cafeteria for the Lafayette Street Extension Project. Over 80 residents attended the meeting between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to learn the latest information about the project, and discuss next steps with the project team.

The current design includes the extension of Lafayette Street into Plymouth Township, acting as a "gateway" to the downtown areas of Norristown, thereby improving access to the Norristown Transportation Center. In addition, the project will provide improved pedestrian and vehicular access, as well as the incorporation of green space and landscaping, and will make the Schuylkill River Trail accessible to the neighborhood by removing the aerial viaduct and retaining walls.

Later phases, once funded, will connect the Lafayette Street extension to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and connect existing Lafayette Street to US 202. When completed, the total project will maximize the economic benefits of the entire planned project.

Construction of Phase 1, which includes the extension of Lafayette Street from its current terminus at Ford Street to create a signalized intersection at Conshohocken Road is expected to begin in 2012.

Phase 2, which includes realigning Conshohocken Road along a widened Diamond Avenue, realignment of the Diamond Avenue / Fairfield Road intersection, a new Connection Road between the Lafayette Street extension and Ridge Pike, and improvements to Ridge Pike is expected to start construction in 2013.

Phase 3, which includes the reconstruction of Lafayette Street from Barbadoes Street to DeKalb Street, and widening of existing Lafayette Street between DeKalb Street and Ford Street is planned for construction in 2015.

The final, or later phases of work, including the construction of ramps connecting Lafayette Street to the Pennsylvania Turnpike as well as replacement of the Norfolk-Southern bridge over Conshohocken Road and the widening of the Dannehower Bridge will be constructed once funding for these projects becomes available.

Many residents had questions regarding property impacts, changes to local access and anticipated construction schedule. A summary of comment forms received is shown below:

### **Comment Forms**

1. Once Conshohocken Road reopens and the traffic picks up again, will there be a light or at least a do not block intersection sign, so it will be easier to exit to the left?

I would also like to know the reason behind a connector road when traffic could always access Main Street at Ford Street.

2. I am probably the lowest property along the rail siding. All of the water from most of the properties make it on my lot. The only drain is a 20" ductile iron pipe 100++ years old. Looks like all of the water will be going away from the property line? I also do not see any retaining wall on the plans. Do you have any detail drawings and elevations of the area?

Please look at map so you can see my property. Thanks.

3. Our concern is the elimination of parking directly across our place of business and neighboring residential homes. Most residents have two vehicles per household. Our business has three employees with cars, a shop truck and trailer. Where are we supposed to park?

This doesn't even take into account customer parking or deliveries to the shop!!

4. Diamond Avenue parking?
5. We are concerned about the parking on Lafayette Street and speed of the vehicles.

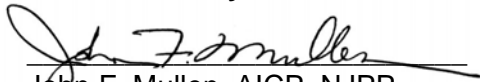
We would like to be kept informed as the project progresses.

Thank you for having the open house for the property owners and such.

6. I understand there will be major changes taking place. I have a big concern with what the new parking arrangement will be and whether or not I will be directly affected. I have a disabled child who uses Lofstrand crutches to walk with and cannot walk long distances. Currently I have a disabled parking placard enabling parking directly in front of my house. I am anxious to know how if at all I will be affected by these changes. If someone could be kind enough to give me a call regarding this matter, I would greatly appreciate it.

*Report prepared by:*

**McCormick Taylor, Inc.**



John F. Mullen, AICP, NJPP  
Senior Planner