

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was established in May of 2001, to study transportation and give advice to the Planning Board and the Township Committee. The TAC recently held two forums, on March 11 and April 11, to gather input from the public and to present ideas and potential solutions. They want to update you about what they have done, and also ask for your thoughts.

At the first forum, the TAC presented a list of 16 intersections and bridges that need improvements. Please refer to the township website to see a complete listing. Intersections and bridges were placed on this list for study based primarily on safety and congestion concerns. Please note that while vehicular traffic has been the focus of initial study by the TAC, the group is also assessing improvements to pedestrian and bike mobility. Interconnections of our recreational pathways to schools and commercial areas of the township will be incorporated into township planning.

The TAC has spent most of its time concentrating on two intersections. Recommendations for the first one, the intersection of Route 206 and Cherry Valley Road / Princeton Avenue, were presented at the March 11 town meeting. These ideas include a two-way municipal roadway link in the northeast quadrant of the intersection in Montgomery Township (behind the existing Sunoco station) in combination with a similar two-way roadway link to be constructed in the southwest quadrant of the intersection within Princeton Township. The construction of the new roadways would allow for the elimination of left turns within the intersection itself, instead shifting those left turn movements to the new roads with the benefit of a left turn lane and through lane.

After the recommendation for this intersection plan was made by the TAC to the Planning Board on March 11, reviewed by the master plan committee and opened for public hearing, the Planning Board voted on April 8, 2002, to include this recommendation as an amendment to the Traffic Circulation Plan Element of Montgomery's Master Plan.

At the April 11 forum, the TAC discussed ideas for improvements to the intersection of Route 206 and Route 518. These ideas include a back entrance to Montgomery (ShopRite) Shopping Center from Route 518; a connection between North Princeton Shopping Center ("Grand Union") and the new park (Shaffer tract) that soon will be created; a new bypass road with a flood-free crossing of Bedens Brook running between Orchard Road and Route 518 west of Route 206; and a loop road behind the Amboy Bank along the same route that so many people already use to bypass the 206/518 intersection. These ideas have not yet been recommended to the Planning Board. The TAC is working on refinements and discussing possible impacts and funding sources. Formal recommendations probably will be made to the planning board in May.

Also at the April 11 forum, the results of a wetlands study commissioned by the township from Omni Environmental Corporation were presented. The consultants were asked to evaluate the wetlands south of the airport and to determine possibilities for building a road between Route 518 and Linton Drive, or Applegate Road, or Cherry Valley Road east or west of Linton Drive. The environmental study concluded that, due to the presence of 83 contiguous acres of "Exceptional Resource Value" wetlands, from both a regulatory and environmental standpoint it would be either impossible or close to impossible to obtain permitting approval for any of these road options. As a result of these findings, the TAC is expected to recommend that the extension of Linton Drive be removed from township Master Plan.

For more information about these proposals, please consult the Montgomery Township website, or ask any member of the TAC. When available, maps showing TAC recommendations will be posted on the website. The TAC wants any and all feedback from township residents. Contact them at TAC@twp.montgomery.nj.us.

Members of the Transportation Advisory Committee are:

Robert Kress, Chair
 Terri Bookman
 Richard Coppola, Planning Consultant
 Frank Donnangelo
 James Gilligan
 Daniel Huttar
 Sgt. Joe Janicak, Montgomery Police

Donald Johnson, Engineering Consultant
 Donato Nieman, Township Administrator
 John Rea, Traffic Engineering Consultant
 Sarah Roberts
 Kent Scully, Township Engineer
 Mike Stachowitz
 Louise Wilson, Mayor

