SAFE ROUTES to TRANSIT

MAKING IT EASIER to **WALK** and **BIKE** to RAIL STATIONS in the GREATER PHILADELPHIA REGION

DELAWARE VALLEY dvrpc REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Media Strategic Planning Session
Meeting Notes and Next Steps

Background

DVRPC's Safe Routes to Transit Program is a competitive technical assistance grant program periodically offered to municipalities in Greater Philadelphia that are interested in enhancing pedestrian and bicycle access to transit stations. More information on this program is available at www.dvrpc.org/saferoutestotransit.

As part of this program, DVRPC facilitated a meeting with representatives from Media Borough on April 17, 2019 to discuss pedestrian and bicycle access issues and opportunities around the Media Regional Rail Station. This memo summarizes the topics that were discussed at that meeting and presents strategies and resources that can help guide planning and development in the station area.

Meeting Participants
- Betsy Mastaglio, DVRPC
- Andrew Svekla, DVRPC
- Joe Banks, DVRPC
- Joe Natale, DVRPC
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- Logan Axelson, DVRPC
- Ronald Joseph, DVRPC
- Thomas Hastings, Delaware County Planning Commission
- Karen Taussig-Lux, Media Borough
- Kevin Matson, McCormick Taylor
- Jeffrey Smith, Media Borough
- Jim Jeffrey, Media Borough

Station Access Considerations

Both Upper Providence Township and Media Borough emphasize access to the Media Regional Rail Station as a priority, with multiple plans focused on that need. In order to realize increased station access for both municipalities, greater coordination between both municipalities and relevant stakeholders are necessary, including agencies such as SEPTA and PennDOT.

The main priority for Upper Providence Township with regards to station access is to install sidewalks along S. Orange St. The main goal is to ensure safer pedestrian travel to the station for residents who live in apartments along the street. The Township officials also believe that installing these sidewalk facilities will reduce the need for additional parking at the station and illegal parking on the street. South of the station, sidewalks are only present on Media Station Road and South Avenue. The absence of sidewalks on S. Orange St. is a condition restricted to the Township as sidewalks are present on the part of S. Orange St. that lies in Media Borough. Other issues present include the steep grade change that occurs when the sidewalk on S. Orange St. turns to the inbound platform of the station and the right-of-way issues that emerge from PennDOT ownership of S. Orange St. where the Township wants sidewalk facilities.

Media Borough's key priorities for station access are reopening an access point to the outbound platform from the Borough and to implement a set of interventions that would enable the Media Station to become a "gateway" to the Borough as outlined in the Media Borough Comprehensive Plan. Some elements of this "gateway" plan include installing bike racks at the station, improving the station for ADA accessibility, and providing a shuttle bus service to the station. The Borough recently made some strides toward improving station access when it received grant funding to install decorative streetlights from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and to place wayfinding signage from other grant sources (note: these interventions will be limited to the Borough). The Borough is also interested in installing a "kiosk-style" map at the station to help people who arrive there to navigate the Borough. Many of these improvements will need approval from SEPTA as it involves SEPTA property.

Next Steps

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1. S. Orange St. Improvements in Upper Providence Township
   a. Utilize the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) process for any improvements proposed on PennDOT right-of-way.
      i. Possible improvements involving PennDOT right-of-way on S. Orange St.:
         1. Sidewalks along S. Orange St., continuing up to the Media Borough border, where it can be connected with existing sidewalks on S. Orange St. in the Borough.
         2. Pavement markings along S. Orange St.
         3. Shared intersection at the S. Orange St. and Media Station Rd./South Ave. intersection. PennDOT typically does not allow shared intersections, however.
2. SEPTA Station Access from Media Borough
   a. Document and submit to SEPTA the access issues involving Media Station, in particular the lack of an access point to the outbound platform from the Borough.
   b. Work with Delaware County Council to formulate and submit a formal request to SEPTA to implement the desired station and access improvements at the Media Station.
      i. SEPTA is receptive to input from county governments and councils when considering transit projects.

3. Coordination between Upper Providence Township and Media Borough
    a. For projects involving multiple municipalities, one municipality typically takes the lead on implementation while having a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with other municipalities.
    b. Pro-active planning and coordination will get more funding and support, leading to implementation sooner.
        i. Coordinate with all relevant stakeholders - property owners in particular - to identify and resolve right-of-way issues.
        ii. Investigate the engineering feasibility of any potential ideas.
        iii. Investigate, identify, and apply for funding from appropriate funding sources to secure funds for design and/or implementation.
            1. DVRPC's Municipal Funding Resource: This online database is intended to assist local governments, community groups, and non-profit organizations in identifying federal, state, regional, county, and private sources of funding for locally initiated planning and development projects.
            2. Though lower cost projects with small footprints are typically not competitive for CMAQ, the Multimodal Transportation Fund, and Transportation Alternatives, these sources are often utilized for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and improvements.
                a. If applying for PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund, reach out to David Bratina to discuss the application.
                    i. David Bratina: dbratina@pa.gov; 717-705-1230
            3. Another potential funding source is the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Program. TCDI supports municipalities by providing funding to undertake planning, analysis, or design initiatives which enhance the efficiency of the regional transportation system and implement the long-range plan. Next funding round for TCDI will begin in Fiscal Year 2020.
            4. Secure matching funds for funding sources that require them. Some funding sources will count pre-construction costs incurred by applicants as matching funds.
                a. Note: SEPTA and PennDOT do not provide matching funds for projects initiated by municipalities.

Planning Resources

- Park and Ride Passenger Origins Web Map: This interactive map can help guide station area planning by showing where passengers who park and ride are driving from. The map indicates that many passengers parked at Media Station originate from the north of the station.

- [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center](#): The PBIC aims to improve the quality of life in communities by increasing opportunities for safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. The [PBIC library](#) includes sample pedestrian and bicycle plans and planning tools, design guidelines, research and safety studies, articles and white papers, case studies, and links to presentations, videos, and other web resources.
- [NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#): The National Association of City Transportation Officials' Urban Bikeway Design Guide includes extensive recommendations regarding signing and marking safe bike routes that help to inform and instruct all road users. Subsections specifically address shared lane markings and wayfinding signage.
- [NACTO Urban Street Design Guide](#): The National Association of City Transportation Officials' Urban Street Design Guide includes extensive recommendations regarding sidewalks, crosswalks, and other interventions that help to inform and instruct all road users. Subsections specifically address sidewalk and crosswalk design.

Helpful Contacts

PennDOT
- Fran Hanney: fhanney@pa.gov; 610-205-6560

SEPTA
- Ryan Judge: RJudge@septa.org; 215-580-3781

DVRPC
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