



Borough of Chambersburg

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Discussion on Proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan

Chambersburg – At the Regular Town Council Meeting on February 12, 2018, Chambersburg staff has been asked to schedule a public discussion on the draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan, which was originally presented to Town Council at a Council meeting on October 16, 2017. Following the discussion, staff will ask if Council wants to schedule an official public hearing on the subject.

The draft plan was prepared by Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) and recommended for adoption by the citizen volunteers who serve on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan Advisory Committee. April Showers and Neil Beach from JMT, the consultant hired by the Borough to prepare the plan, provided Town Council with a brief background of the project and summary of the vision, goals and strategies for the Borough's first-ever draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan.

In 2014 Summit Health representatives approached the Borough with the idea of forming a partnership to improve bicycle and pedestrian access by improving connectivity with existing trail and sidewalk networks. In response, a stakeholders group comprised of representatives from the Borough, Summit Health and Downtown Chambersburg, Inc. – as well as bicycle enthusiasts – got together and prepared a Request for Proposals for consultant services to prepare the first ever Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan for the Borough, to include a prioritized list of new sidewalk installations, development of a network of bicycle routes to include extension of the Rail Trail and connections between the network and public areas – such as parks and the downtown – and the creation of a public education campaign designed to encourage walking and bicycling as alternative modes of transportation.

The stakeholders group also discussed ways to conduct a fundraising campaign to pay for the consultant services. Ultimately, Downtown Chambersburg, Inc. coordinated the fundraising campaign to secure grants and donations totaling \$35,928 that were raised by from the entities or people listed below.

Fundraising Campaign to Help Pay for Draft Plan

National Association of Realtors and Tourism Grant Program: \$15,000
Chambersburg Road Runners Club: \$6,000
Franklin County Quality of Life Enhancement Grant Program: \$5,250
Volvo Construction Equipment: \$3,328
Chambers' Apothecary: \$1,000
Charles M. Nitterhouse Post 1599 VFW: \$1,000
Craig and Paige Nitterhouse: \$1,000
William and Diane Nitterhouse Foundation: \$1,000
Nursery Supplies, Inc.: \$1,000
Norland Avenue Pharmacy: \$500
Park Avenue Pharmacy: \$500
American Legion: \$250
Patti Nitterhouse: \$100

Volunteers on Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements Plan Advisory Committee

Cathy Dusman, Chambersburg Area School District
Karen Keefer, Franklin County Cyclists
Deb Miller, Bicyclist
Tanya Nitterhouse, SunnyHill Properties, Inc.
Barbara Rossini, Summit Health
Tammy Seville, Summit Health
Larry Camp, Chambersburg Bike Park
Dr. Mike Gaudiose, Dunham Army Health Clinic
Dan Grandel, Bicyclist
Sam Thrush, Bicyclist
Mark Willson, Summit Health

Ultimately, the planning effort became one of the objectives of the goal to create a Safe, Clean, Green and Healthy Community, as described in the Borough Budget for 2015. In January 2016 Town Council approved a contract with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, of York, Pennsylvania, to prepare a Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan for an amount to not exceed \$35,000. Also, in January 2016 Council appointed the volunteers to serve on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan Advisory Committee.

The goal of the discussion on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, 100 S. Second Street, will be to see if Council wants to make any changes to the draft plan, when to schedule a public hearing, and to discuss the concept of a permanent advisory committee if, and when, the final plan gets adopted by Town Council.

A copy of the draft plan, as with all important documents, is available at www.chambersburgpa.gov, click on Transparency and look under Planning Documents. If you have any questions about the draft plan or the upcoming discussion, please contact Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager, at pwolgemuth@chambersburgpa.gov.

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater.

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). www.chambersburgpa.gov