

LIGONIER VALLEY JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Focus Group Summary – Transportation
January 16, 2017 – 7:45 PM

A total of five (5) persons attended the session facilitated by Mark Lazzari (EADS). Suggested topics as per input received from field work, the prior workshop and the community survey included the following, but these were noted for guidance only:

- Truck traffic routing
- Traffic safety issues
- Public transportation
- Walkability/pedestrian safety issues

An additional topic of bike friendliness was discussed by attendees. After a brief introduction on the process and the purpose of this session, input on issues and recommendations were welcomed.

Truck Traffic Routing

There was considerable interest in reducing truck traffic in the Ligonier Valley by actively discouraging trucks from passing thru the Valley. Attendees suggested a number of actions aimed at accomplishing this:

- Add weight restrictions to PA Route 711 (PennDOT) and Main Street (Borough);
- Maintain more frequent deployment of Safety/Compliance Inspection teams along the PA Route 711 and US Rt. 30 corridors – suggested that the Borough and Township hire additional police officers specifically for this purpose. Attendees said they would be willing to pay more in taxes to fund these additional officers;
- Install air quality and audible monitoring stations around the Diamond and along Main and Market Sts. Results of this monitoring can be used as justification to reduce truck traffic;
- Suggested that the Borough and Township prepare Hazard Mitigation plans to address potential spills/leaks/accidents from trucks; and
- Work to have the Diamond itself along with information that navigating around the Diamond is difficult for trucks appear on truck routing programs used by dispatchers.

Traffic Safety Issues

Issues and comments on various aspects were noted:

- A need to better coordinate planning efforts so that one action (promoting more bicycle use in the Borough) does not impact another (making it easier for trucks to route around the Diamond) was expressed.
 - Suggested that all Plan recommendations be evaluated for their potential impacts with each other and their resulting in additional vehicle/truck traffic.

- Concern was expressed over the recently revised zoning ordinance and their resulting increases to vehicle/traffic.
 - Suggested that the recently revised Township zoning ordinance be evaluated to identify ways the new districts are encouraging additional vehicle and truck traffic.
 - Further suggested that the districts be revised to discourage additional vehicle and truck traffic.
- Concern over safety conflicts arising from frequent School Bus stops along US Rt. 30 and trucks. The concern here is that trucks will not be able to adequately stop when School Buses stop.
 - No specific solution was given for reducing conflicts between buses and trucks other than, in general, reducing truck traffic will lessen this potential problem.

Public Transportation

The attendees suggested that the need for expanding public transportation into the Ligonier area is not a significant issue. Although not perceived to be a significant issue, suggestions to improve public transportation service were provided:

- Public transportation expansion should focus on connecting residents with special needs, senior and others unable to drive with regional job centers in Westmoreland County like Greensburg.
- Reported that local churches offer transportation services on an as needed basis to Township/Borough residents – between promotion and dissemination of information regarding is recommended.

Bicycle Friendliness

The discussion focused on making the Borough more bicycle friendly. It was noted that off-sidewalk bicycling be encouraged and considered a transportation mode that should receive that same amount of focus as pedestrian movement and safety. Attendees suggested the following:

- Identify streets in the Borough suitable for biking and that bike routes be established along suitable streets by adding street paint markings to the street surfaces.
- Identify pedestrian/bike routes that will connect key assets in the Borough and Township – build off of the designated Walking route in the Borough.

At the conclusion of the session, the attendees asserted that the overall vision of the Ligonier Valley should be to maintain, preserve and build upon the historic, natural, environmental aspects of the Valley. And that all Plan recommendations should contribute to achieving the vision.