AGENDA FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 AT 6:00 PM IN THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING

A. **Chapter 6:**

Review the first draft of Chapter 6: Manage Traffic and Vehicular Congestion

B. **Chapter 7:**

Review the first draft of Chapter 7: Maintain and Enhance Services Provided
Goal

Promote a safe, effective, and diversified transportation system that addresses current and future needs in coordination with land use planning and resource protection objectives.

Overview

Over the last decade, transportation system improvements in Middletown Township have ranged from the completion 2.8 miles of a regional multimodal trail, the Chester Creek Trail, to restoration of rail service and the rebuilding of a SEPTA train station, an investment of over $150 million. Both regional and local transportation investments in Middletown have influenced growth and travel patterns through the region. It will be significant to address traffic congestion and provide local access to transit, trail, and major surrounding highways for residents’ safe and efficient mobility in the future as residential growth continues. Transitioning the roadway network in the Township to Complete Streets- a street that is safe for any user, whether biking, walking, riding public transit or driving automobiles- will serve the residents and regional commuters travel patterns positively by providing multiple transportation options for people that live, work and visit Middletown Township. With the expected growth and redevelopment in the Township, density increases in existing areas of infrastructure can preserve more open space and mitigate sprawl but will require efficiency in infrastructure spending to focus on redeveloping current roadways. The Township can explore alleviating traffic congestion through methods like redesign of obsolete roadway intersections, improving gateway intersections by reducing pedestrian conflicts to increase traffic flow, reducing unnecessary turning movements, and directing traffic away from residential streets.
Objectives

1. Promote use of existing mass transit opportunities in the Township for residents and visitors alike.

2. Advance new roadway connections to relieve congestion, improve access, and reduce cut-through traffic on residential streets.

3. Support implementing complete streets through promoting sidewalk connections, bus stop enhancements, and cohesive streetscapes.

4. Work with adjacent municipalities to ensure consistent transportation planning and participate in regional coordination opportunities for transportation improvement projects.
Manage Traffic and Vehicular Congestion
Federal functional classifications for roads serve as the basis for the Middletown Township road typology distinctions, and they are determined by functional class - arterial, collector, and local. The Middletown Township functional classification system is outlined below.

**Arterial:** roadways that provide the highest level of service at the greatest speed for the longest uninterrupted distance.

**Collector:** roadways that provide a lower level of service at a lower speed for shorter distances by collecting traffic from local roads and connecting them with arterials.

**Local:** all roads not defined as arterials or collectors, primarily for the purpose of proving access to land with little or no through movement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional Classification</th>
<th>Distance Served</th>
<th>Access Points</th>
<th>Speed Limit</th>
<th>Usage (DVMT*)</th>
<th>Travel Lanes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arterial</td>
<td>Longest</td>
<td>Few</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>Highest (10,000-45,000)</td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collector</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium (1,500-9,999)</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Shortest</td>
<td>Many</td>
<td>Lowest</td>
<td>Lowest (Up to 1,499)</td>
<td>Fewer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manage Traffic and Vehicular Congestion

Legend
- Township Boundary
- Parcels 2019
- SEPTA Regional Rail Line
- SEPTA Regional Rail Station
- SEPTA Bus Routes
Recommendations

1. Support use of mass transit by township residents and regional commuters.
   Action Items:
   a. Incentivize developers and transportation organizations to link non-motorized transportation to existing mass transit hubs.
   b. Maintain a transition between existing residential uses that are in close proximity to the higher intensity uses along the Baltimore Pike corridor.
   c. Consider ways to improve access to the Elwyn train station.

2. Improve mass transit facilities to increase efficiency and functionality for users.
   Action Items:
   a. Coordinate with SEPTA about the long-term maintenance and potential upgrades to the Elwyn train station and parking area improvements.
   b. Coordinate with SEPTA to identify improvements to bus routes or rail schedules to serve more users.
   c. Support bus stop enhancements, pedestrian connections, and streetscape elements to be added to existing facilities where feasible.

3. Improve traffic flow by implementing access management strategies and making operation and capacity improvements where feasible.
   Action Items:
   a. Coordinate with PennDOT about the long-term maintenance and potential upgrades to PennDOT roads in the Township.
   b. Coordinate with PennDOT about the long-term transportation improvements targeted for the Route 1 and Route 352 interchange, Route 352 and Route 452 intersection, and stretch of Baltimore Pike located in between these two intersections.
   c. Work with PennDOT
   d. Review Township ordinances, programs and policies to consider amendments to the current standards that would refine access management strategies and facilitate capacity improvements.

4. Consider evaluating transportation aspects and streetscaping details needed to transform roads into complete streets.
   Action Items:
   a. Review Township ordinances, programs and policies to determine implementable improvements to incorporate or require the installation of streetscape elements such
as benches, street lighting, planters, street trees, bicycle racks, bus shelters, and other amenities.

b. Develop a consistent roadway cross section design to guide conversion and/or implementation of complete streets.

c. Consider temporary installations to test implementation of the complete street strategies to allow the community to provide feedback on the implications of the proposed changes.

5. Engage and participate in regional transportation projects and facilitate partnerships where projects cross municipal boundaries.

Action Items:

a. Coordinate with Delaware County Planning Department, DVRPC, and other transportation agencies to add projects to the County’s Transportation Improvements Inventory (TIP) and the region’s Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

b. Coordinate with PennDOT about the long-term transportation improvements targeted for the Route 1 and Route 352 interchange, Route 352 and Route 452 intersection, and stretch of Baltimore Pike located in between these two intersections.

c. Pursue funding for transportation projects for planning, engineering, and construction costs. Potential funding sources include but are not limited to: DVRPC’s Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and PennDOT’s Multimodal Transportation Fund.
Goal
Provide services to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community; improve stormwater management, promote energy efficiency, and enhance Township facilities.

Overview
Efficient administration of township resources, meaning the services provided by Middletown Township’s elected officials, staff, and volunteers, are important for maintaining and improving the quality of life for the community. Middletown has a multitude of institutional and recreational resources that are significant to the region, including Riddle Memorial Hospital, Middletown Free Library, Williamson College of the Trades, two elementary schools and the high school of Rose-Treé Media School district, Tyler Arboretum, and Linvilla Orchards, to name a few. Supporting the diverse institutions and recreational places that characterize the Township through cooperative planning, increasing accessibility to these places, and facilitating improvements is critical for their longevity. Ensuring that Township residents have effective fire and emergency services is a fundamental component to the protection and well being of residents; thus continued support and coordination with the fire companies, ambulance service, and other desired community security improvements are important for quality of life services for the Township to continue to provide. Evolution of Township policy over the next ten years will focus on supporting the sustainability of the many entities in the community that make Middletown diverse and attractive to residents, along with overall environmental sustainability with the implementation of energy conservation policy measures.
Objectives

1. Evaluate municipal staff and facility needs to continue to meet administrative and public works needs, stormwater management requirements, and energy efficiency goals that ensure effective public service.
2. Enhance and increase recreational amenities with the support and involvement of the community.
3. Promote and implement renewable energy strategies to further the sustainability and energy efficiency of the Township.
4. Encourage low-impact, environmentally sensitive development to increase protection of natural resources.
5. Consider identifying local historic resources and developing preservation standards to ensure the longevity of local historic resources in the Township.
6. Work with adjacent municipalities to utilize shared community facilities and services where feasible.
Recommendations

1. Improve stormwater management through appropriate best practices and regulations that remain current with evolving technology.

   **Action Items:**
   - Identify and prioritize Township-owned properties suitable for new or enhanced/retrofitted stormwater facilities.
   - Support educational programs for Township residents and businesses of the voluntary actions that impact stormwater management and protect water quality.
   - Periodically review and update Township Code Chapter 198 to continue efficient and effective stormwater management.

2. Continue to support Township staff, Public Works, and Sewer Authority to enhance services provided to residents.

   **Action Items:**
   - Continue to implement a fiscally responsible annual budget that is responsive to the evolving needs regarding provision of services and facilities.
   - Continue to maintain a Capital Improvements Plan to address the long-term goals of Township Council and staff while exploring revenue diversification to ensure funding for future capital improvements.
   - Continue to coordinate with Public Works to ensure the department has adequate resources to maintain the public spaces and department facilities.

3. Develop new municipal parks and recreational facilities on Township-owned property.

   **Action Items:**
   - Utilizing the Smedley Tract Master Plan completed in 2010, undertake the recreational and passive open space improvements to complete a new park in the Township for residents.
   - Undertake a public master planning process to identify and determine the design and use for the extension of Sleighton Park on the 80+ acre parcel acquired in 2020.
   - Examine the possible conversion of Township-owned open space for passive recreation, most notably trails, to permit a comprehensive Pedestrian Network to be developed throughout the Township.
   - Identify parcels that could be targeted for purchase of recreational or open space purposes through development of an Official Map.

4. Consider implementing policy to better protect identified historic resources.
Action Items:
  a. Verify the accuracy and update the map of historic resources located in the Township.
  b. Develop and maintain accurate listed/eligible historic resources, at both the local and national level, to coincide with the historic resources map.
  c. Investigate ordinance provisions to adopt for better protection of identified historic resources.

5. Maintain support for, and expand where feasible, community activities for civic and recreational purposes.

Action Items:
  a. Continue to provide reasonable support of the Middletown Free Library and encourage continued diverse events and programming.
  b. Coordinate with the Middletown Free Library to discuss maintenance and capital improvements of the site of the new library and Roosevelt Community Center to provide more engaging public space and opportunities for community activities.
  c. Coordinate with developers of the Promenade at Granite Run and Franklin Mint Redevelopment to implement public gathering space into the redevelopment of these sites.

6. Provide support to the fire companies, EMS provider, and other security measures for the Township to ensure that appropriate service and response times are maintained for the safety of residents.

Action Items:
  a. Work with Fire Companies leadership to regularly assess staffing, equipment, and facility needs to effectively serve and provide safety to residents and businesses in the Township.
  b. Encourage Neighborhood Watch programs for security along trails and in public park space.

7. Incentivize and adopt township policy that promotes renewable energy use and energy conservation.

Action Items:
  a. Review Township ordinances, programs, and policies to consider amendments to the current standards to include regulations for the use of wind, solar, and geothermal energy sources for residential and non-residential uses.
b. Consider undertaking and adopting an energy efficiency plan that would engage local residents and business owners through a public planning process.

c. Select model municipal projects that will help the Township reduce energy consumption to demonstrate for commercial and residential uses the municipal commitment to energy use reduction.

d. Work with DVRPC to identify possible funding for municipal projects in the Township.