

SR 3003-A11 Washington Pike Public Meeting

Public Meeting Q&A Summary

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

I. PUBLIC FORUM: IN-PERSON COMMENT/QUESTION SUMMARY

Public Meeting Comments/Questions:

The following topics were based upon questions from community members in attendance during the open discussion question and answer portion of the presentation:

Are the tests for utilities the same for wells and mines? Many properties are on top of mines.

- Testing for utilities does not address things like wells or mines. This project will only require digging a few feet down or minimally raising the roadway in many parts of the project area, so there are no anticipated impacts on wells or former mines within the roadway/project area.

What is the funding source for this project, and will the current Federal funding freeze affect it?

- This project is funded with federal money, and the funds have already been programmed for this project.

For the 23 properties impacted by the project, will property owners be compensated and will taxes be reduced based on owning less property?

- The design process includes development of a Right-of-Way plan, and after the plan is approved, appraisers will value the property. Negotiators will work with each property owner to reach an agreement to purchase the property.
- When all right-of-way is acquired, PennDOT will create a log of all property acquired (in square feet), deed information, and total property remaining for each owner. This log is filed and recorded with the county, and the county handles any adjustments to property assessments and taxes.

The current Level of Service is F. What will the level of service be after the project?

- For roadways like this with heavy volume and area constraints, PennDOT strives to achieve an acceptable Level of Service B or C over a 20 year period. Based on traffic analysis performed, the Level of Service will improve to an overall Level C for both the Boyce and Alpine intersections during the design life. A Level of Service A is likely not possible with the amount of traffic in this area.

Will the (traffic signal) lights be linked?

- Yes. Signals are expected to be coordinated. Their operation will alleviate excessive queues within the intersections and create gaps to allow residents to exit and enter driveways.

How will emergency vehicles get through with the new traffic lights?

- The signals will have emergency preemption. This was discussed with the Township during a public officials briefing held prior to this meeting. PennDOT will coordinate with South

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Fayette Township and local emergency services to determine which preemption system is best.

Washington Pike is used as an alternate route when I-79 is closed. Will the signals still work when that happens?

- The new signals will help manage that additional traffic and congestion.

Will tractor trailers be able to use the new turn lanes?

- The improvements have been designed to accommodate semi-truck turning movements without encroachment into other lanes. Both intersections have a larger template for this reason. This is particularly important for the predominant movement to and from Boyce Road to allow unimpeded turns in both directions.

How far will traffic back up down Washington Pike toward Bridgeville (before Alpine Road)?

- The signals will be coordinated and will help to clear the traffic queues within both intersections. The turn lane lengths have been sized to accommodate the traffic volumes. Based traffic analysis performed queues north of Alpine Road will be significantly less as the operation of both signals will move traffic efficiently through the intersections.

Many people run the stop sign at Boyce Road. Will there be warning signage when the signals are installed so people know it's not a stop sign anymore?

- The current directional signage will be replaced. "Signal Ahead" and lane control post-mounted signs will be placed at required distances prior to the proposed signals.

Are there plans to replace the Alpine Road bridge over I-79 as part of the I-79 widening project?

- There are no current plans for replacement of that bridge. The widening project is still in initial stages of design and never included replacement of that bridge.

Who puts mailboxes back if they're moved during construction?

- Mailboxes are protected by federal laws and will be reinstalled by the contractor.

Who will replace landscaping that is disturbed during construction?

- Impact to landscaping is included in right-of-way appraisals and will be compensated to allow the property owner to replace what they want. PennDOT will also pay for tree removal. These appraisals also include impacts to privacy and appearance of the home/property.
- One property owner noted that there are historical sycamore trees along Washington Pike and requested the project team to review impacts to those trees.

II. PUBLIC FORUM COMMENT FORM SUMMARY

As of the end of the public comment period, February 18, 2025, a total of three comment forms were returned. The following is the summary of the responses from the hard copy comment forms and online survey. (Please note that participants were permitted to provide more than one

response for some of the questions and some did not respond to all the questions. Comments are also shown below exactly as they were submitted, including spelling and grammatical errors.)

What concerns do you have about the project?

- Ease of entry and exist into driveway after completing, impact of property value, impact on property tax due to land loss/adjustment.
- Delays...Congestion...Detours for years! (Thinking about the Mayview/Boyce intersections).
- Turning left going towards Cecil from our houses. And turning left from Washington Pike to our houses when people already do not want us to turn into our homes. When we get deliveries and trash, how will traffic get around safely?
light at Alpine Road, then the proposed traffic light at Boyce Road could be installed.

District Response: The intersection improvements along with the widened proposed template should alleviate congestion and provide more space for delivery/garbage truck operators to perform their required tasks.

What would you like the project team to consider as part of this project?

- Moving “stop lanes” further back to ease exit from property.
- Neighbors value of house.

Additional Comments:

- How are the lights timed? Will the time go up during peak times?

District Response: The traffic signals will be actuated; the length of green time will vary based on volume of traffic. Traffic signal cycle times will be greater during peak hours.

III. OTHER COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE PROJECT TEAM

The following comments were submitted during the public comment period via email directly to the project team.

- We are residents of South Fayette Township. We have lived at the corner of Washington Pike and Boyce Road for the past 50 years. We watched traffic at the intersection function effectively and efficiently and without bottlenecks through those years even though the amount of traffic increased during that time. The only time we saw delays is when there were icy conditions or an accident.
CONCERN PennDOT is calling for a red light to be placed at the intersection of Washington Pike and Boyce Road and Alpine Road which will result in a long lines of traffic and fumes. A bottleneck will be created at Washington Pike and Boyce Road because of these two traffic lights as they both operate.
SOLUTION Place the traffic light only at Alpine Road to alleviate safety concerns in that area rather than creating bottlenecks at the intersection of Boyce and Washington Pike. If the traffic flows smoothly and efficiently, the traffic light at Washington Pike and Boyce Road would be unnecessary.
If the light at Washington Pike and Boyce Road causes undo congestion, there will be a lot of angry drivers who will want to understand why the light was put there in the first place since there is so much traffic on Boyce Road and the light causes such a delay.
However, if traffic concerns are not alleviated by just having the traffic light at Alpine Road, then the proposed traffic light at Boyce Road could be installed.

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- I approve and support PennDOT's Washington Pike Improvements Project. The aspect that I love about PennDOT's Washington Pike Improvements Project is that left turn lanes will be added to Washington Pike at the Alpine and Boyce Roads Intersection which will improve safety and reduce left and right turn crashes.