

APPROVED

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES March 4, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Township Vice Chair Dea called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Supervisors Dowling, Johnston, and Odgers. Also, in attendance on behalf of Franklin Township (FT) were Township Operations Manager Jeff Eastburn, Township Controller and Office Manager Melissa Ortega, and Township Secretary Stacy Hollis. There were 30 members of the public in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Announcement: The Vice Chair stated that the meeting would be held as a discussion and that public comments were welcome throughout the conversation during the evening.

Business:

PennDOT Route 896 Traffic Detour Plan: Vice Chair Dea introduced PennDOT Project Manager, Bruce Masi and KSI Engineering Consultant, Tom Lindsey, to explain the traffic detour plan. Mr. Lindsey gave a detailed description of the six-stage plan for the Route 896 detours and stated the work should begin in the Spring of 2025. He explained the project is expected to have a three-year time frame for completion. The multi-state detour plan will be set up in stages; however, these stages may not necessarily stay in the order presented. For detailed routing information, the public is encouraged to visit the Township's website to view [PennDOT's preliminary plan](#) maps.

Township Operations Manager, Jeff Eastburn explained that there may be a problem with the suggested detour by the Avon Grove Charter School-Early Learning Center Campus by Peacedale Road. The school currently has a large amount of traffic in the area for the carline and bussing during pickup and drop off times.

Resident Sarah Beth Kohut voiced her concern over the blind intersection on Chesterville Road (Route 841) and Fox Den Road. Supervisor Dowling agreed this was a difficult place to navigate and that large trucks may find it very difficult. An all-way stop sign was suggested and PennDOT will review that location.

Jerry Porter, Road Master for New London Township, suggested a modified truck route utilizing Route 273 to Route 272 to Route 1. He explained the intersection at State Road and Route 896 is already very congested and this modified route may reduce the problem.

Supervisor Johnston questioned the project's stage order and was told that PennDOT's contractors may change the order. Mr. Johnston also inquired about the use of Gypsy Hill Road. PennDOT stated there will be no restrictions or closures on the road.

Resident Sarah Beth Kohut questioned the hours when work will take place. PennDOT responded that work would take place during the day.

Mr. Eastburn mentioned a challenging spot on Chesterville Road (Route 841) and Old School House Road, explaining a narrow bridge and a spring that runs across the road that frequently

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freezes in the winter. He asked if PennDOT could remedy this area with possible ditching while completing the Route 896 project. PennDOT agreed to investigate this area.

London Britain resident, Matthew Himmelstein, and Franklin Township residents; Nancy Friggle, Anthony Bernadzikowski, and Dave Galligan commented on the constraints, inspections, and updates on the project. Mr. Eastburn agreed to post all updates on the Township's website and Facebook page to help inform the public.

Ryan Mullen, the Roadmaster for London Britain Township, questioned if PennDOT will be responsible for repairing any damage to the roads that are designated as detour routes. PennDOT explained they will take videos of the detour roads both before and after construction and if there is damage, their hired contractor would be responsible for repairs.

Josh Hawk, Deputy Fire Chief of the West Grove Fire Department, questioned if fire hydrants will be installed by the Aqua PA Utilities Company at the Route 896 & Route 841 traffic circle and Route 896 & Gypsy Hill Road. Township Operations Manager Jeff Eastburn will work with PennDOT and Aqua PA to find out if this is possible.

Mr. Eastburn asked if PennDOT would repair Gypsy Hill Road at Route 896 if there was damage during construction. PennDOT agreed to apply a final layer on the road if repairs are needed.

Public Comment: Vice Chair Dea thanked PennDOT for their presentation and their consideration of the Township's suggestions. There were no public comments.

Adjourn: Vice Chair moved, seconded by Supervisor Johnston, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion passed 3-0 with Supervisor Odgers being absent for the vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hollis
Township Secretary