

SR 054 and SR 642 Intersection Project



Community Advisory Committee Meeting February 20, 2018

Meeting Number 1

Agenda

- ▶ A. Introductions and Distribution of Meeting Packets
 - ▶ B. Review of the Ground Rules
 - ▶ C. Community Outreach Efforts in Addition to CAC
 - ▶ D. Review Project History
 - ▶ E. CAC Educational Information
 - ▶ F. Discuss Common Themes in the Comments
 - ▶ G. Define the Community Goals and the Alternatives Analysis Matrix
 - ▶ H. Next Steps
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A. Introductions

Please introduce yourself, let us know:

- Your name.
- Who do you represent?
- Something about yourself.

Let's get to know
one another

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ I. What is a CAC

- Advisory group
- Members provide input/views of their constituency
- Open expression of opinions
- An Educational Experience
- All suggestions will be evaluated
- The CAC discussions become part of the project record

Information Exchange
between CAC and
Project Team

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ II. Operating Methods

◦ a. Membership

- Cross Section of the Community
- Each member must designate an alternate
- Your Names and Alternate's Names will be published on the Project Website

Please initial the sign in sheet to allow us to publish your name

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ II. Operating Methods

◦ b. Meetings

- Four Monthly Meetings.
- Meetings will be held near the project area.
- Will be structured as “workshops”
- Will be collaborative

Collaborative
Workshops

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ II. Operating Methods

◦ C. Media Relations

- Press releases will be prepared after each meeting and released by PennDOT.
- If/When approached by the media
 - Individual views should be noted
 - Members should not speak for others

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ II. Operating Methods

◦ D. Reaching Consensus

- Consensus is based on those present and is final
- Consensus is reached when there is a majority that can accept a proposal
- Dissenting views will be noted

Seek Common Ground

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ III. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. CAC Members(or designate)
 - Attend the meetings Liaison between the CAC and constituents
 - Relay factual information to constituents
 - Comment from the prospective of your constituents

CAC = Liaison

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ III. Duties and Responsibilities

- b. Project Team and PennDOT
 - Provide accurate information
 - Provide meeting packets with factsheets
 - Meeting summaries
 - Respond in a timely manner to questions

Summaries with action items, due dates, and responsible parties

B. Review of the Ground Rules

▶ III. Duties and Responsibilities

◦ C. Operating Principles for Committee Members

- Be courteous and respectful
- Disagree with ideas not people
- Listen and consider others opinions
- Be Brief and Clear
- Stay focused
- Concentrate on problem solving



C. Other Outreach efforts

- ▶ 1. Project Website will be used for
 - Educational information
 - CAC Progress reports
 - Project Status
- ▶ 2. Newsletter
 - At conclusion of the CAC process
 - Posted to website
- ▶ 3. Press Release
 - After each meeting

See handout for
instructions on how to
access the website

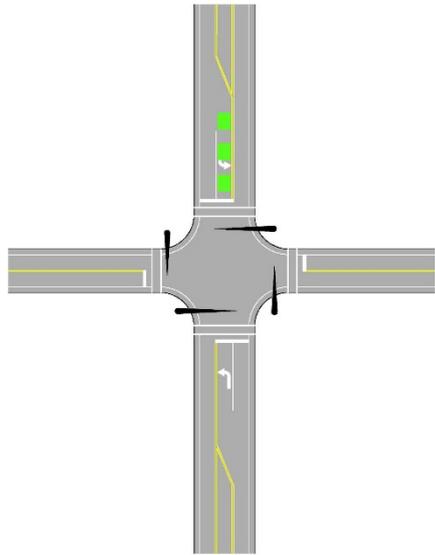
D. Review Project History

- ▶ Pre-2014
 - ▶ 2014 PennDOT planned and began assessing options to improve safety by specifically addressing the offset SR 642 intersections with SR 54
 - ▶ Initial Public meeting was held in August of 2015
 - ▶ A second public meeting was held in April of 2016
 - ▶ A third public meeting was held on November 6, 2017
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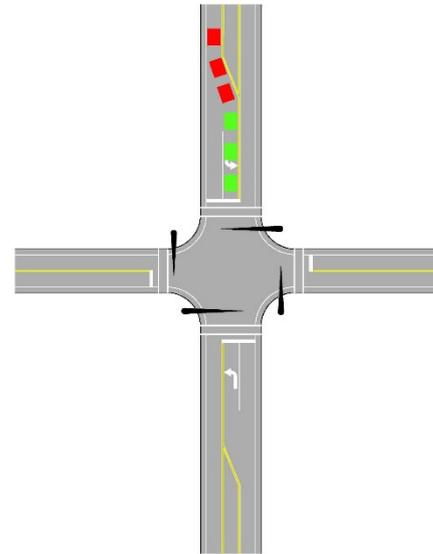
E. CAC Educational Info

1. What is a Design Year

- Not the Construction Year
- Planning ahead for the future



Construction
Year



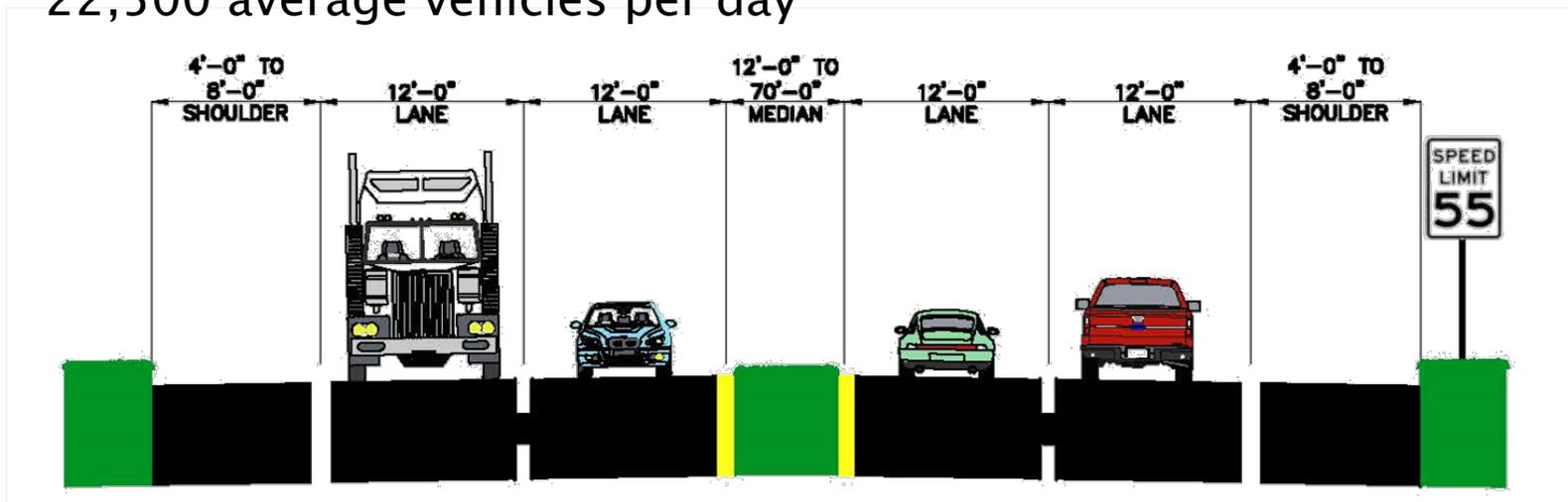
What we do not
want to see in
the design year

E. CAC Educational Info

2. Design of roadways affects speed

- SR 54 – Is:

- classified as a Principal Arterial using the FHWA criteria
- Connection between I-180, I-80 and Route 11
- 22,500 average vehicles per day



Built to carry high traffic volumes at high speeds

E. CAC Educational Info

3. Speed Limits in PA

- Ever driven with the flow of traffic
 - Generally the running speed of the road
- Engineers call this 85th Percentile Speed
- Translation – speed that about 8 out of 10 drivers drive at or below.

Law: Must post the limit within 10 MPH of the running speed

E. CAC Educational Info

3. Speed Limits in PA

- Studies have repeatedly proven that raising or lowering the speed limit has little effect on most drivers
 - The Exception is continuous and widespread enforcement which is difficult

Studies show less than
1 MPH change in driver
speeds

E. CAC Educational Info

- ▶ 3. Lowering Speed Limit would:
 - Result in speed differences between vehicles, increasing crash potential
 - The greater the difference, the greater the damage if a collision occurs
 - When there are drivers who obey the speed limit while at the same time there are those who drive in excess of the limit
 - Slower traffic frustrates drivers,
 - causes traffic queues and congestion, and
 - contributes to increased tailgating and passing

F. Discuss Nov. 2017 Comments

- ▶ The public feels forgotten or ignored
- ▶ Why can't the traveling speed be reduced throughout the Route 54 corridor?
- ▶ Have the effects of commuter traffic from the Geisinger facilities been considered?
- ▶ Inadequate highway lighting resulting in poor nighttime visibility
- ▶ Install traffic signals at Jerseytown Road and Liberty Valley Road
- ▶ Install roundabouts at the Jerseytown Road and Liberty Valley Road
- ▶ Will this project lead to increased traffic on local roadways?
- ▶ Several residents noted their support to the realignment option.

G. Define the Community Goals

H. Next Steps

Meeting Dates and Times

