

West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance

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To the Editor:

Pedestrian Improvements Needed in Princeton Junction

The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance sponsored two walks in October along Princeton-Hightstown Rd. in Princeton Junction to highlight the difficulties pedestrian commuters encounter when trying to walk to the train station during rush hour. These walks began at the corner of Sherbrooke Drive and Princeton-Hightstown Rd. where we crossed Princeton-Hightstown Rd., and proceeded along Princeton-Hightstown Rd. to the train station entrance at Wallace Rd. Joining us on the walks were Alliance trustees, members, residents, and two members of town council. In doing these walks, it was obvious to us all that there are serious safety gaps in the pedestrian infrastructure that exists in the area around what is one of the busiest train stations in the Northeast. Those who participated in the walks brainstormed about potential improvements. The major recommendations that came out of these walks were the following:

- Install pedestrian activated signal crossing at intersection of Sherbrooke Dr. and Princeton Hightstown Rd. (similar to the signal that exists at University Place in Princeton by the McCarter Theatre). This is a particularly dangerous crossing for pedestrians, and is nearly impossible during rush hour
- Stripe crosswalk on Cranbury Rd. at Princeton-Hightstown Rd. (no crosswalk currently exists)
- Equip intersection with functional pedestrian activated traffic signal
- Stripe crosswalk on Wallace Rd. at intersection with Princeton-Hightstown Rd. and add curb cuts. (There is no striped crosswalk at this dangerous intersection to bring commuters to the train station side of Wallace Rd. Because of this, most pedestrians don't cross here, but instead walk along the Schlumberger dirt path and make a dangerous mid-block crossing across Wallace Rd.)
- Place sign that states "no right turn on red" at the base of the bridge over the NE Corridor Train Tracks for eastbound cars approaching the intersection. Preventing cars from making a right on red will ensure the safety of pedestrians crossing at Wallace Rd.
- Improve sidewalk on west side of Wallace Rd. from Princeton Hightstown Rd. to train station entrance, including the two driveway entrances to the school bus parking lot which are in serious disrepair and unsafe for pedestrians
- Additional lighting along Wallace Rd. and at intersection with Princeton-Hightstown Rd.
- Construct missing sidewalk link in front of Sovereign Bank
- Stripe sidewalk lines on asphalt parking lot in front of Gloria Nilson Realtors

We know that Mayor Hsueh and his staff share our concerns about pedestrian safety in our town. We also understand that improvements for pedestrians and cyclists will be coming to the Princeton Junction area with the improvements to Rt. 571 and with the Redevelopment of the Princeton Junction Train Station Area. While these improvements are welcomed, we're concerned about their timeframe, with the Rt. 571 improvements thought to be up to three years away and the Redevelopment anywhere from 6-10 years away. We have thus recommended to the Township that these proposed improvements be included in the 2007 Capital Budget, and that they be enacted as soon

The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to promote bicycling and walking in West Windsor Township, emphasizing access, education, mobility, and safety

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as possible to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the Princeton Junction area. To learn more about the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance, please visit our web site at <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/wwbpa>

Sincerely,

Kenneth Carlson,
President, West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance.