

November 15, 2011

Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh
271 Clarksville Road
PO Box 38
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Dear Mayor,

I hope you are well. I am writing this letter in response to a letter that you wrote to County Executive Hughes on October 4th in regard to the design recommendations for Route 571 in Princeton Junction. In that letter, you state that:

“I have met with Jerry Foster and explained to him that now is not the time to change the concept plan for CR571 and that it had been the topic of numerous public meetings and had been endorsed by the WWBPA under a previous president.”

As President of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WBPA) from 2006 to 2009, I have to emphatically state that the WWBPA did not endorse the concept plan for Route 571. The WWBPA has been consistent in its insistence that the current concept plan is not an acceptable plan with respect to improving bicycle and pedestrian safety in Princeton Junction. The improvement project that came out of the concept plan calls for a road with a 45 mph design speed, travel lanes in each direction, and a center turning lane, with no pedestrian refuge islands. Such a design would never be approved by any organization whose mission is to advocate for bicycle and pedestrian safety. In fact, one of the main reasons the WWBPA was formed in 2006 was to squarely address pedestrian safety in Princeton Junction, with a particular focus on the dangerous conditions along Route 571 between Clarksville and Cranbury/Wallace Roads. We advocated for the Rt. 571 crosswalk at Sherbrooke Road, and heavily advocated for improvements to the intersection of Route 571 and Cranbury Wallace Road. Both of these advocacy campaigns were successful, although we were not successful in getting pedestrian refuge islands installed at the Sherbrooke Road crossing. It is for the lack of pedestrian refuge islands, and the 45 mph design speed, that the WWBPA has been opposed to the current improvement plan for Rt. 571. This might be an improvement plan for motorized vehicles, but it is actually a step backward for bicycle and pedestrian safety in what is arguably the most heavily trafficked road by pedestrians in the township.

So please let me set the record straight by saying that the WWBPA during my tenure as president did not approve of the current design plan for Route 571. It is my hope that the County and the Township can do the right thing and create a roadway that is bicycle and pedestrian friendly that will truly serve as a safe and multi-modal main street for the West Windsor community.

Sincerely,

Ken Carlson

Former President and current member of the WWBPA

CC: County Executive Brian Hughes

CC: WWBPA