A private, non-profit, member-run organization dedicated to making West Windsor a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community

06-23-2008 Presentation to West Windsor Township Council on Recommendations from Bear Brook Road Walk
Bear Brook Rd. Walk, May 13th (during rush hour)

- Walk requested by Windsor Haven resident and Board member (and WWBPA member), Dan Damon, due to the difficult conditions for pedestrians and cyclists
- Over thirty people participated:
  - Residents of Windsor Haven, Princeton Mews and the Estates
  - Township Council members Anklowitz and Geevers, and Mayor Hsueh
  - WWBPA Trustees and members
The Walk Route
What We Did During and After Walk

• Listened to concerns of residents
• Observed existing conditions
• Lingered at intersection of Bear Brook Road and Alexander Road and just watched- (Scary!!)
• Listened to Mayor Hsueh’s explanation of improvements coming to intersection
• Participants brainstormed and developed detailed list of recommendations
• Recommendations sent to the Mayor and his administration, published in local papers and on our web site, and presented to council (tonite)
Winthrop Way and Bear Brook Road

Observation:
• Missing sidewalk link between sidewalk on Winthrop Way and multi-use path on Bear Brook Rd

Recommendation:
• Install missing sidewalk link

Update:
• Sidewalk link installed on both sides of Winthrop Way
Multi-Use Path on Bear Brook Road

Observations:
• Path is a great facility and is heavily used
• Lack of proper illumination makes the path difficult to navigate at night

Recommendations:
• Install pedestrian street lighting to improve illumination (also install lighting on Bear Brook Rd. sidewalks)
• Extend the path to Alexander Road as Maneely property is developed
Traffic Calming on Bear Brook Road

**Observations:**
- Need for traffic calming along Bear Brook Rd
- “End Speed Zone” sign located before the only crosswalk on Bear Brook Rd. presents a clear conflict for the pedestrian crossing (speed limit changes from 35 to 50 mph)

**Recommendations:**
- Remove “End Speed Zone” sign
- Advocate for speed limit reduction to 35 mph on entire length of road
Crosswalk at Windsor Haven Drive

Observations:
• Crosswalk faded
• Lack of pedestrian signage
• Dangerous crossing with 50mph travel speeds

Recommendations:
• Create high-visibility cross walk
• Install pedestrian-activated flashing light
  (with flashing lights embedded in roadway)
• Install pedestrian signage
Bicycle Facilities

Observations:
• Lack of bike lanes on Bear Brook Rd.
• Windsor Haven residents complained about bicycle commuters using sidewalks creating dangerous conflicts

Recommendations:
• Install bike lanes on Bear Brook Road (to be continued on Vaughn Dr.)
• Extend multi-use path on Bear Brook Road to Alexander Rd.
Intersection of Bear Brook and Alexander Roads

Observations:
• Walk/Don’t Walk signalization does not work properly
• Crosswalks should be made high visibility with embedded flashing lights
• Lack of sufficient pedestrian street lighting

Recommendations:
• Install pedestrian count-down signals
• Install high-visibility crosswalks with embedded flashing lights in roadway
• Install pedestrian street lighting

Coming improvements announced by Township:
• Count-down signals, street lighting, high visibility x-walks, pedestrian signage
• Timing: approximately 6 months
Intersection of Bear Brook and Alexander Roads

Additional Observations:

• Motorists making right turns on red creates conflict with crossing pedestrians

• Crossing Alexander Road is difficult (four travel lanes)

• Travel speeds on Alexander Rd. are inconsistent and confusing to motorists
  (30 mph to the south and 40mph to the north); traffic speeds often exceed 50 mph

Recommendations:

• Do not allow rights on red at the intersection to prevent pedestrian conflicts

• Place Alexander Rd. on a Road Diet- one travel lane, bike lanes, pedestrian refuge islands- consistent roadway width and speed limit for entire roadway

• Add left turn arrows for cars making lefts onto Bear Brook and Vaughn Dr

• Add police presence to intersection during rush hour

• Install pedestrian refuge island at Bear Brook road
Summary and Overall Recommendations

• Urgent need to make improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety along Bear Brook Rd. and at the intersection of Bear Brook and Alexander Roads
• Direct commuting route to the Train Station and Alexander Rd for hundreds of residents who live within walking and biking distance of the station
• Alexander Rd is a gateway to the rest of the township, particularly with the opening of the new bridge over the NE corridor rail line
• The improvements the Township is making to the intersection are a great start; we hope these can be expedited
• We hope the additional recommendations to the intersection, Bear Brook Road, and the Alexander Rd road diet, can be implemented in a timely fashion
• We are also looking forward to a bicycle and pedestrian friendly Vaughn Drive
How to Contact Us:

- Web site: www.wwbpa.org
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- Address: P.O. Box 625, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
- Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 PM, West Windsor Municipal Building (Clarksville and North Post Roads)
- Next Meeting: July 10th