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## WW residents urge safer roads after critical injury to bicyclist

By: Courtney Gross , Staff Writer

### Car spins out of control on Route 571 and strikes bike rider

WEST WINDSOR — After an accident involving two vehicles and a bicyclist left one man seriously injured Friday, some residents are again calling for road improvements and enforced safety measures throughout the township.

Members of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance have called in the past for an increase in bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly roadways. But as more accidents occur on West Windsor's major corridors, the group's president, Ken Carlson, is recommending the township speed up its improvement plans.

"Until we make additional efforts to improve our roads, there will sadly be more serious injuries and fatalities in our town," Mr. Carlson noted on the group's Web blog. "Let's work together for solutions and implement improvements rapidly," he continued.

Mr. Carlson said he has been communicating with the Township Council and the administration to discuss what can be done to prevent fatal and serious accidents in West Windsor. Part of the problem, he said, is accumulating funding for projects that have already been proposed.

"We have a very open dialogue with the township on safety issues," Mr. Carlson said. But, he added, "Everything moves much more slowly than you like it to."

Friday's accident has once again shown how hazardous Route 571 can be for bicyclists, Mr. Carlson noted.

At approximately 5 p.m., a motor-vehicle accident at the intersection of Route 571 and Rabbit Hill Road caused one vehicle to spin out of control and strike a 46-year-old bicycle rider, James Balough of Keansburg, police said.

Police said a 2004 Ford Escape driven by Ritamarie Crowley, 39, of Bordentown was westbound on the county road when it struck an eastbound vehicle, a 2005 Ford Freestyle, driven by Glenn Briffa, 40, of West Windsor.

The Ford Escape rolled onto its side on impact and struck the bicyclist, police added.

Mr. Balough was taken to Capital Health System's Fuld Campus in Trenton, where hospital officials said Monday he was still listed in critical condition. Ms. Crowley was taken to University Medical Center at Princeton and was later released, hospital officials said.

Route 571 has long been identified as a roadway in need of repair and improved safety measures, Mr. Carlson said.

The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance has supported a concept plan for the roadway that would include one lane for each traveling direction and a center turning lane, Mr. Carlson said.

This plan would also include the addition of bike lanes and sidewalks, he added. Many of these recommendations are in line with suggestions given by the Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force in January. The alliance's membership includes many members of the task force.

In response to Friday's accident, Mr. Carlson also said the township should consider allowing vehicles making left-hand turns onto Rabbit Hill Road or Lanwyn Boulevard to do so only when there is a green turning signal.

He also said the alliance is urging increased helmet use for cyclists, including adult riders.

Mr. Carlson, who was at the scene of the accident Friday, said it didn't appear Mr. Balough was wearing a helmet.

Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh agreed. He said he would like to see more residents in West Windsor wear helmets and stay off of Route 571 while bike riding until the proper safety measures are put into place.

"Step by step we can connect all of the sidewalks," Mayor Hsueh said. "But right now we don't have the resources."



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