President’s Message

Members and Friends,

We hope you enjoy our Annual Report; it reflects countless hours of activities on the part of our trustees and volunteers, and the efforts of our elected and professional officials. We thank you all.

In 2011 these efforts came together in a really big way: sidewalks and bike lanes on the Alexander Road S-curve, Southfield, Penn Lyle, and Village Roads; sidewalks along Alexander and North Post Roads; and flashing crosswalk signals at Wallace Road, Scott Avenue, and South Mill Road, to name a few. Those covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can now navigate our sidewalks and municipal facilities more easily, due to new curb cuts and crossing-signal buttons reachable from a wheelchair.

We now have a network of sidewalks and bike lanes that are mostly connected, with some gaps -- an achievement that we’ve been building toward over many years. We can be rightfully proud of what we've achieved; we were even recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community, the first New Jersey community to be so recognized.

We appreciate all the hard work that's gone into improving West Windsor, and look forward to closing the remaining gaps, but the real fun is in heading out for a walk or bike ride with your family, friends, and neighbors. We hope you’ll join us this year as we continue to help people bike and walk safely.

See you around town!

Jerry Foster, president

WWBPA Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7 p.m.
West Windsor Municipal Center

Complete Streets:
• What they are
• Where we are
• Where we’re going

Interested in becoming a WWBPA trustee? We have an opening. Email wwbikeped@gmail.com

Advocacy

The WWBPA remains concerned about plans to redesign Princeton-Hightstown Road (County Route 571) between Clarksville and Cranbury/Wallace Roads—downtown West Windsor. The conceptual plan shows one travel lane in each direction plus a shared continuous left-turn lane in the center. Pedestrian crossings are located too far apart, and only at locations with extra lanes and greater crossing distances.

We applaud the planned pedestrian-activated rapid-flashing beacon that is planned for Sherbrooke Drive/Windsor Plaza (Acme), similar to those recently installed at the entrance and exit to the train station drop-off on Wallace Road. That will help connect the shopping center to the neighborhood. An additional pedestrian crossing, with a center refuge island, is needed between Sherbrooke and Cranbury/Wallace as well as at the five-lane crossing at the light, so that people of all ages and abilities have a safe place to wait for a gap in traffic. We would like to see that in the plans now, rather than retrofitting at greater expense at some point in the future.

We also applaud the plans for continuous sidewalks along Route 571, but want the “bicycle-compatible” shoulders on both sides of the roadway to be designated as bike lanes. The additional paint would alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists.

Finally, the most significant step we can take to improve safety and to change the feel of the area to a downtown street, rather than a roadway to somewhere, is to lower the design speed to 25-30 mph, which will enable motorists to honor pedestrians in the crosswalk. Under free-flowing conditions, that will cost only 24 additional seconds of travel time.

Join Us for Movie Night on Feb. 25!

Ride the Divide is an award-winning 80-minute feature film about the world’s toughest mountain-bike race, which traverses over 2,700 miles along the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains. The film weaves the story of three characters’ experiences with immense mountain beauty and small-town culture as they attempt to pedal from Banff, Canada to a small, dusty crossing on the Mexican border. ridethedividemovie.com

Join the WWBPA for the screening at the West Windsor Arts Center. Admission is free for current members and $5 for others. All must come to the box office to get a ticket. Box office and doors open at 7 p.m.; the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and a discussion with others who have done long-distance rides will follow.
Infrastructure Update

2011

This has been an incredible year for bike lanes, sidewalks, and safer crossings. Much of it goes back to the WWBPA’s advocacy work, but the township and the county are the ones that did the work. Thank you!

Bike lanes (or shoulders) were added along Penn-Lyle from Village Road West and Stony Brook Way (phase 2 will extend them to the high school), along the Alexander Road S-curve, and on Wallace Road from Route 571 past the train station to Alexander Road.

Sidewalks were added as part of the Penn-Lyle project on the eastern (high school) side, the S-curve, and along Schlumberger on Wallace Road by the train station. Three key gaps were filled: on Alexander Road between Vaughn Drive and the roundabout, on Alexander Road between Wallace Road and Scott Avenue opposite the Arts Center, and on the curve of North Post Road between the roundabout and the library.

Pedestrian crosswalks and countdown signals were added at all corners of Route 571 and Wallace/Cranbury Roads. Closer to the station, three pedestrian-activated flashing lights and crosswalks were added or repainted. Signs that display a driver's speed were put up around Village School and Grover Middle School. A multi-use trail was built on South Post Road between Village Road West and Conover Road, and the Trolley Line Trail got a crosswalk and pedestrian-activated signal on South Mill Road.

2012

An extension of the Edinburg Road bike lane between Village Road East and the entrance to Mercer County Park is planned for this year. This would mean a continuous bike lane from the intersection of South Mill Road and Route 571 (close to a crossing of the Trolley Line Trail) to almost Old Trenton Road. Construction is anticipated for August to November, according to the Township's capital improvement budget.

The Township expects to extend the bike lanes on Penn-Lyle to High School South and Clarksville Road as part of a bigger construction project.

A traffic light at Canal Pointe Boulevard and Meadow Road will make it easier for Canal Pointe residents to walk to and from MarketFair.

Community Events

Learn to Bike

More than 70 kids took part in the WWBPA’s two “learn to bike” classes to get kids off training wheels and enjoy the freedom of two wheels. You may have seen us with a big group at the Farmers’ Market. The technique is simple: Pedals and training wheels come off so that kids learn to balance. Then the pedals go back on and we review how to start and stop. Watch the video of our first session! Sessions will be offered again in 2012 for members and their families, and we hope to add classes on bike skills for other age groups.

Bike Rides

Did you take part in one of our four free bike rides in 2011? The fifth annual Community Bike Ride was the most popular, but we also supported a Ride of Silence to honor cyclists killed or injured on the road and hosted the inaugural ride of Eagle Scout Paul Ligeti’s 11-mile route showcasing historic sites in West Windsor. Finally, we went into Monmouth County to ride part of the Henry Hudson Trail and visit the Metz Bicycle Museum. Watch for more rides in 2012!

Community Walk

About 20 people, from grandparents to grandchildren, joined our second annual walk from Maurice Hawk School to the Farmers’ Market at the Vaughn Drive parking lot. This time, we stopped at the Arts Center on Alexander Road where Greening of West Windsor (GroWW) was holding an herb sale to benefit the plantings at the Arts Center. Our 2012 walk will be May 5, and we’re looking forward to using the new sidewalks along the route. Join us!

Be Bright at Night

The WWBPA wants walkers, joggers, and bicyclists to make sure motorists can see them at night. We spotlighted nighttime visibility at the Farmers’ Market in October and offered extra safety items for sale. Thanks to a generous donation from the West Windsor Policemen’s Benevolent Association, we were then able to offer lights, helmets, reflective vests, tape, and other items at a discount at two area churches. Many thanks also go to our Spanish-speaking volunteers at these two events. We wrapped up the year with a special one-week sale to our members. In all, we sold dozens of safety items. For everyone’s peace of mind, please encourage your friends and family to be bright at night.

New Jersey Bike and Walk Summit

The third annual New Jersey Bike and Walk Summit is being held in New Brunswick on February 25. Are you a member and interested in attending? The WWBPA will contribute $25 toward the cost.

Email wwbikeped@gmail.com for details.
Walk to Hawk

Once again, the WWBPA teamed up with Maurice Hawk Principal Denise Mengani and the Hawk to mark International Walk to School Month in October. About 45 students and their parents went on the walk, which started at the West Windsor Municipal Center and ended at Maurice Hawk Elementary School. The WWBPA, which has been co-sponsoring this event since 2006, thanks the West Windsor Police for guiding the students at street crossings.

Do you think a similar event should be held at another school? Email us at wwbikeped@gmail.com with your thoughts.

Community Service and Scholarship Awards

At the 2010 Annual Meeting, the WWBPA was delighted to honor George Fallat, Mercer County’s traffic engineer and a big supporter of bike and pedestrian improvements on county roads; Alex Drummond, West Windsor’s director of Public Works, whose team installed bike lockers and racks at the train station and road signs around the township; and Ken Jacobs, head of West Windsor’s recreation department and one of the behind-the-scenes forces of BikeFest.

WWBPA student advisor Kim Meersma was the recipient of a $500 WWBPA college scholarship. In her essay, she wrote: “As I have learned through my five years of experience as a Student Advisor, the best way to convince people of the importance of building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community is to have them experience a bicycle ride or a walk for themselves. Through events such as the Community Bike Ride, and the walk to the Farmers Market, cyclists and walkers of all ages and experience levels are able to see that given a safe route, they are able to reach places around the community without a car.”

The WWBPA has an annual scholarship budget of $1,000. Applicants must be seniors in the WW-P schools or live in West Windsor. Requirements and applications are at wwbpa.org.

Student Advisors

The WWBPA is once again looking for student advisors to work with its trustees over the next 12 months.

Serving as a student advisor is an excellent way for students to make a difference in their community while developing organizational skills, helping to plan and publicize events, and learning to advocate before local government for improvements to make our community friendlier for bicyclists and pedestrians. This year’s student advisors played a big part in our community bike ride, but student advisors have considerable freedom to come up with a project that interests them.

Applicants must attend West Windsor-Plainsboro schools or live in West Windsor and attend other schools in the area or be home-schooled. The application deadline is Feb. 20.

Learn more about what’s involved and download the application form on wwbpa.org.

2012 Calendar

Feb. 25 ........Movie Night: Ride the Divide. 7:30 p.m., WW Arts Center. Free to current members, $5 for others
March 18 ....Find us at St. Anthony of Padua’s Health Fair, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Hightstown.
April 21 ........Adult “Learn to Bike” (rain date Sunday, April 29) time and place, TBA
April 28 ........Communiversity in Princeton. Find us there.
May ..........National Bike Month. Take part in our annual mileage tally.
May 5 ..........First day of the Farmers’ Market; 3rd Annual Walk to the Market
May 9 ..........National Bike to School Day
May 14-18 .National Bike to Work Week
May 16 ........Ride of Silence, 7 p.m.
May 19 ........WWBPA back at Farmers’ Market and alternate weeks throughout the season
May 26 ........BikeFest. Find us there.
June 16 ......“Learn to Bike” class for kids at the Farmers’ Market

Follow the WWBPA

The WWBPA emails our spring and fall newsletters, but relies on our website, Facebook, and Twitter to communicate news between newsletters and to get feedback from members and friends. Stay on top of events, advocacy, infrastructure improvements, and more by subscribing to wwbpa.org, and search for West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance on Facebook. Content is similar but not identical!

Monthly Meetings
Second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., Room A, West Windsor Municipal Building, North Post and Clarksville Roads. The next meetings are March 8, April 12, and May 10.

Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

Complete Streets:
• What they are
• Where we are
• Where we’re going

Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, where we will discuss our goals for 2012 and vote for trustees. As always, all meetings are open to the general public.

PO Box 625
West Windsor, NJ 08550
wwwwwbpa.org
wwbikeped@gmail.com

Board of Trustees
Jerry Foster, president
Silvia Ascarelli, first vice president
Alison Miller, second vice president
Daryl McMillan, secretary
Stacey Karp, treasurer
Michael Ogg
Dave Robinson
Chris Scherer
Mark Shalcross

Advisory Board
Ken Carlson, founding trustee and past president
Susan Conlon, founding trustee and past vice president
Dan Gerstenhaber, chairman, West Windsor BikeFest
Alan Hershey, chairman, NJ Trails Association
Barry Keppard, transportation planner
Joe Pica, Chief of Police, West Windsor Township
Sandra Shapiro, founding trustee and past secretary, treasurer

Student Advisors
Laura Foster
Alisha Kanikar
Rachel Karp
Brandon Ling
Greg Ling
Elissa Lomakova
Sanjana Saksena
2011 Financial Summary

Nearly half of the WWBPA 2011 income came from member dues. Contributions in excess of basic membership and corporate donations to honor volunteerism or to match members’ donations added to income. We also received generous donations from the West Windsor Policemen’s Benevolent Association and Venture Crew 66, a coed teen group that is part of the Boy Scouts. The WWBPA awarded a scholarship to a graduating senior, paid an intern for research time to complete the township’s successful application as a Bicycle-Friendly Community, and promoted education and safety with equipment and outreach.

Income 2011 $10,005

- Membership Dues $4,729
- Contributions 3,488
- Safety Equipment 1,788

Expenses 2011 $5,765

- Safety Equipment $2,703
- Printing/Postage/Office 1,021
- Scholarship 500
- Bike-Friendly Application 500
- Insurance 428
- Dues/Subscriptions 335
- Farmers’ Market Canopy 200
- Education/Outreach 78

Membership

Become a Member/Renew Your Membership

WWBPA membership continues to grow, with now close to 400 members. If you didn’t renew in 2011 or haven’t joined, please consider doing so now. Membership dues make up nearly half our budget; the local support it represents gives us more clout with government officials. You can renew/join online at www.wwbpa.org (click on Join), or complete and mail the form below.

Membership Form

Tax-deductible membership dues are:

- $15.00 Student
- $25.00 Adult
- $40.00 Family
- $50.00 Supporter
- $100.00 Benefactor

Name ________________________________

Address ____________________________ State _____ Zip ______

Phone ________________________________

E-mail ________________________________

# household members ____________________

Please make checks payable to WWBPA, Inc. and return the completed form to: WWBPA
PO Box 625
West Windsor, NJ 08550