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February 28, 2013

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To: NJDOT Commissioner James Simpson,
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Cc: West Windsor Township Council Members,
West Windsor Township Business Administrator Marlena Schmid,
West Windsor Twp. Director of Community Development Patricia Ward,
West Windsor Township Engineer Francis Guzik, PE,
West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance Trustees

Re: Recommendations for Route 1 West Windsor Jughandle Concept Design

Please accept the recommended improvements to the recent Route 1 Jughandle Concept Design on behalf of the 400-plus members of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance, an all-volunteer non-profit group dedicated to making our community safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Many people regularly bicycle between West Windsor and Princeton, and the WWBPA is frequently asked at the Farmers Market for the safest route to Princeton, which involves crossing Route 1. We generally recommend Washington Road (CR571) because the traffic circle slows down traffic and lets cyclists make themselves visible to motorists – unlike, for example, the high-speed ramps off Route 1 at Alexander, Meadow or Quaker Bridge roads. West Windsor Township Council supports this, and adopted a resolution calling on Mercer County to designate a bicycle route along CR571 (West Windsor Twp Council Resolution 2010-R174).

Since West Windsor, Mercer County and NJDOT have all adopted Complete Streets policies, you can understand our disappointment that no bicycle or pedestrian safety accommodations were evident in the jughandle concept design.

Please consider the following safety improvements to benefit both bicyclists and pedestrians who wish to use or cross Route 1:

1. Add a multi-use path at least on the east side of Route 1 from Alexander Road to Plainsboro, to connect the Dinky Line multi-use path behind the Alexander Road offices to the Penns Neck neighborhood and on to the hospital (and wellness center) in Plainsboro. Improved pedestrian and bicyclist accommodation for Penns Neck will prevent this stretch of Route 1 from becoming as deadly as further north in Middlesex County. We thank you for the

recently installed sidewalk on southbound Route 1 between the Windsor Green and Nassau Park shopping centers, which is regularly used.

2. Create a safe bicycle route crossing Route 1 using Washington Rd/CR571, for example by reducing the design speed of the jughandle linking southbound Route 1 traffic to CR 571/Washington Road, or by creating a stop from the jughandle before turning right on CR571, to allow drivers an opportunity to look for bicyclists. The current high-speed jughandle merge design will create a dangerous condition for bicyclists traveling the bicycle route between Princeton and Princeton Junction train station.
3. Add marked crosswalks to all legs of the intersections.
4. Add bicycle lanes or sharrows to the improved intersections to guide bicyclists and alert motorists to the safest lane positioning while using the intersections.
5. Add a westbound bicycle crossing at Harrison even though there is no motorized vehicle crossing in that direction.
6. Add an off-road multi-use trail crossing Route 1 to connecting trails adjacent to the Dinky tracks, as described in the West Windsor Twp Circulation Element of the Master Plan.

We look forward to continue working with you to make West Windsor a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jerry Foster
President