

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

January 19, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Solebury Township Board of Supervisors meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform. The meeting was held in this manner due to the current State and Federal regulations in place from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair, Noel Barrett, John S. Francis, Robert McEwan, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

Zoom recording device was turned on.

**I. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**II. Approval of Bills Payable** – December 15, 2020 and January 4, 2021

**Res. 2021-23 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Francis, the list of Bills Payable dated December 15, 2020 and January 4, 2021 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes** – December 8, 2020 Virtual Budget Meeting and January 4, 2021 Virtual Reorganization

**Res. 2021-24 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Virtual Budget Meeting and January 4, 2021 Virtual Reorganization were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments**

- Executive Session  
The Board announced an executive session held prior to the meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 dealing with Legal Issues and Land Acquisitions.
- Resignation of Frank Nassetta from the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee  
Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Frank Nassetta from the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee. The Board thanked Mr. Nassetta for his service.

**Res. 2021-25 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the resignation of Frank Nassetta from the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee was unanimously accepted.**

- Mr. Baum Baicker commented on COVID-19 vaccine distribution updates.

**V. Supervisors Comment** – No Supervisor Comment

**VI. Public Comment** – No Early Public Comment

**VII. Public Hearing**

Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) – Certificate of Appropriateness – Molly Schreiner and Jonathan Cohl (TMP # 41-002-091, 6212 Saw Mill Road)

The applicants, Molly Schreiner and Jonathon Cohl, are interested in installing a shadowbox fencing.

*Upon a Motion by Marnie Newman, seconded by Steve Young, the Solebury Township Historical Architectural Review Board agreed to recommend issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP#41-002-091 to install shadowbox fencing to the left of the house and the right of the garage per the submitted email dated November 9, 2020; and, recommend approval of the proposed hardware that was submitted in the original HARB application dated September 8, 2020.*

*Opposed: Larry Peseski – Due to the proposed fencing style does not meet the Design Guidelines recommendation*

*In Favor: Scott Minnucci; Marnie Newman; Nancy Ruddle; Buz Teacher; Steve Young; and C L Lindsay*

**Res. 2021-26 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP # 41-002-091, 6212 Saw Mill Road as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board. Issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness does not relieve the applicant from obtaining any and all applicable permits prior to commencement of work.**

Historical Architectural Review Board – Certificate of Appropriateness – Pedro Reyes (TMP # 41-004-034, 3733 Aquetong Road)

The applicant, Pedro Reyes, is interested in replacing the existing roof shingles.

*Upon a Motion by Larry Peseski, seconded by Steve Young, the Solebury Township Historical Architectural Review Board agreed to recommend issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP#41-004-034 to replace the existing shingles with Timberlane asphalt shingles per the details in the application.*

**Res. 2021-27 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP # 41-004-034, 3733 Aquetong Road as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board. Issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness does not relieve the applicant from obtaining any and all applicable permits prior to commencement of work.**

Historical Architectural Review Board – Certificate of Appropriateness – Michael and Pepi Brooks (TMP # 41-002-007, 6291 Fleecydale Road)

The applicants, Michael and Pepi Brooks, are interested in installing a generator and propane tanks.

*Upon a Motion by Steve Young, seconded by CL Lindsay, the Solebury Township Architectural Review Board unanimously agreed to recommend issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP#41-002-007 for the installation of a generator and two propane tanks with fencing to screen the units. The fencing will match existing in terms of design, materials, paint colors and hardware per the submitted plan.*

**Res. 2021-28 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP # 41-002-007, 6291 Fleecydale Road as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board. Issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness does not relieve the applicant from obtaining any and all applicable permits prior to commencement of work.**

## VIII. Presentation

### 202 Corridor Plan Presentation

Mark Roth, Township Traffic Engineer presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy of which is attached) regarding a traffic plan for the 202 Corridor.

Public comment made utilizing the Zoom Chat feature:

- Barbara Zietchick: Have jug handle turns been considered? How does a driver best turn around—go from North to South etc.
- Barbara Zietchick: What plans are considered to safely have neighborhood residents' cross route 2202 to visit Aquetong Spring Park.
- Joanne Reszka: are there any plans for 202 and upper mountain? needs left turn lane on 202 South to Peddlers, also many bicycles cross 202 on upper mountain. very dangerous crossing.
- Helen Tai: I'm assuming your recommendations are based on traffic studies. Were these studies done during the pandemic, and if so, how do you account for differences in traffic during the pandemic. Also, do your recommendations consider anticipated future traffic?
- Joanne Reszka: also route 202 and Aquetong intersection has severe water/rain problems. will this plan rectify those?

### Farm Committee – Match Program Proposal

Mr. Morrissey thanked the Farm Committee for all their work and dedication.

Kaitlyn Farbotnik presented the Farmer – Landowner Match program. Highlights of the presentation included: background to the program; steps taken by the Farm Committee; and the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) program [njlandlink.org](http://njlandlink.org).

Ms. Farbotnik is to contact the Township Secretary with contact information for the NOFA representative. The Township Secretary is to then schedule a meeting with Ms. Farbotnik, Mr. Freed and NOFA to answer any questions and determine if there are any legal issues.

Public comment made utilizing the Zoom Chat feature:

- Gary Manoff: nice job Kaitlin!

## IX. New Business

### Authorization to Bid – Aquetong Spring Park Entrance

The next step improvement project at Aquetong Spring Park is the entrance to the Judy house.

**Res. 2021-29 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Administration to bid the Aquetong Spring Park Entrance Project.**

### 2020 Accomplishments

The Board of Supervisors read highlights of the accomplishments for 2020 (copy of which is attached).

Public comment made utilizing the Zoom Chat feature:

- Barbara Zietchick: Thank you so much for your caring and wonderful accomplishments.

## X. Public Comment – No Public Comment

## XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

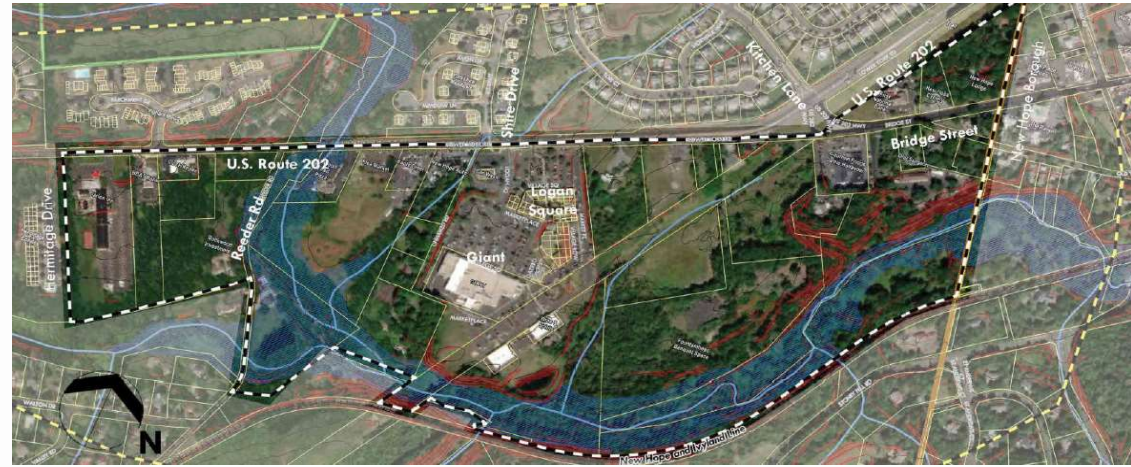
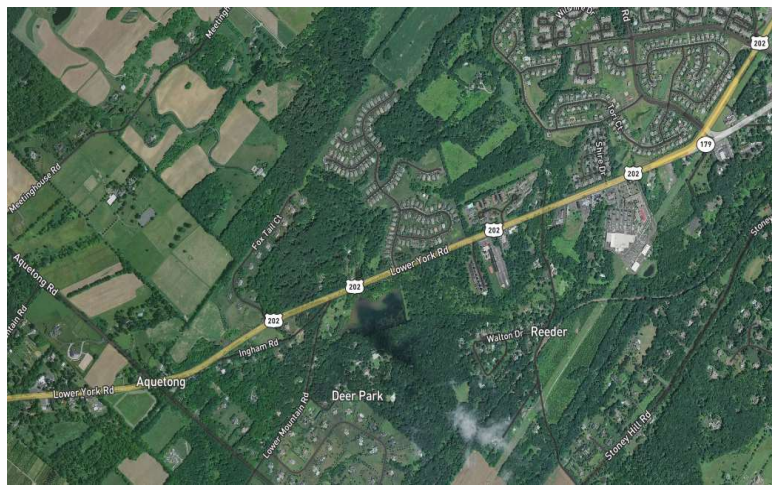
Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Cataldi  
Secretary

# Solebury Township

## ROUTE 202 CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PREPARED BY MCMAHON ASSOCIATES

January 19, 2021



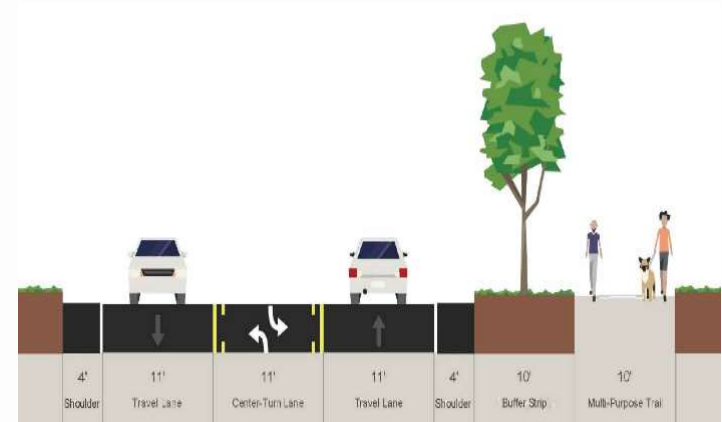
## Presentation Outline

- **Transportation Study Purpose and Goals**
- **Route 202 Characteristics**
- **Existing Conditions Evaluation – Issues and Deficiencies**
- **Future Conditions Evaluation – support sustainable change**
- **Results and Conclusions**
- **Short-Term and Long-Term Corridor Improvements & Enhancements**



## Study Purpose & Goals

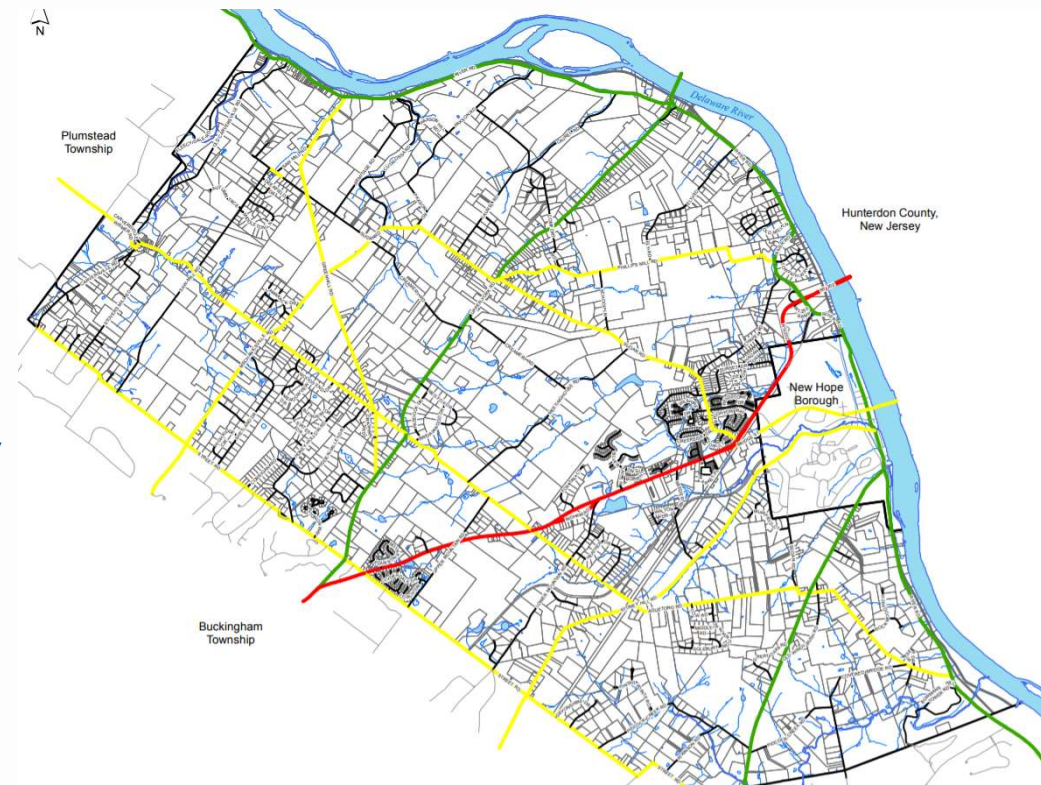
- This transportation plan provides a blueprint for transforming the Route 202 Corridor into a safe, vibrant, comfortable, and desirable area of the Township for walking, biking, and driving.
- Develop a corridor plan to promote sustainable growth
- Improve traffic flow to reduce congestion and emissions along to corridor
- Compatibility with, and enhancement of, adjacent neighborhoods and communities



*Solebury Township Trail at Sugan Road*

# Route 202 Corridor Characteristics

- Route 202 is a principal arterial, approximately 2.0 mile-long segment that traverses the center of the Township.
- Route 202 carries over 16,000 vehicles per day
- Route 202 is a vitally important roadway that provides regional traffic flow and connectivity across Solebury Township, Bucks County, and New Jersey.
- Route 202 provides linkages to a wide variety of key destinations, including schools, office parks, community facilities, retail shops, parks, residential neighborhoods, tourist destinations, and other major roadways.



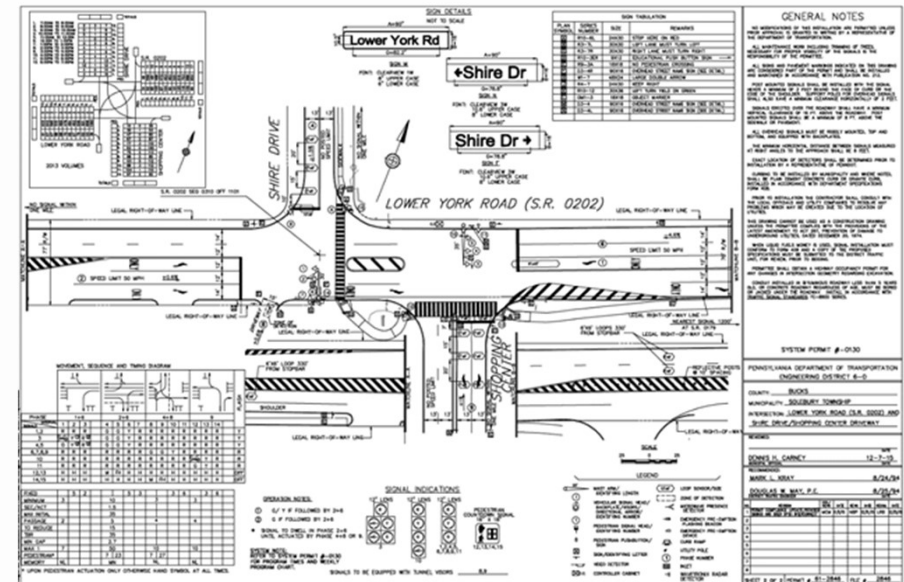


# Existing Conditions and Deficiencies

- Heavy daily traffic flows along Route 202 – intensified by seasonal and recreational traffic
- Timing of traffic signals along Route 202 is insufficient and uncoordinated
- Left-turn movements along Route 202 at unsignalized intersections are dangerous
- Shoulders are non-existent or not wide enough to move around cars turning left
- Traffic delays and vehicle queues at the intersection of Route 202 and Shire Drive/Logan Square Shopping Center - off-set intersection and signal timing
- Pedestrian/Bicycle accommodations provided within the study area are expanding, but still limited
- Pedestrian crossings along Route 202 are desired - minimum requirements must be met for new uncontrolled midblock crossings



Existing Queueing Issue along Route 202



# Future Conditions Evaluation

- Evaluated future year (2040) traffic conditions
- Regional traffic growth accounted for as recommended by PennDOT and DVRPC – includes traffic growth from areas outside Solebury Township
- Local traffic growth from recreational (Aquetong Spring Park) land uses, as well as planned land development (Commercial District) is anticipated to generate additional traffic along corridor
- In order to improve existing traffic conditions and help in accommodating the long-term future traffic demand throughout the Route 202 Corridor, traffic improvements were evaluated

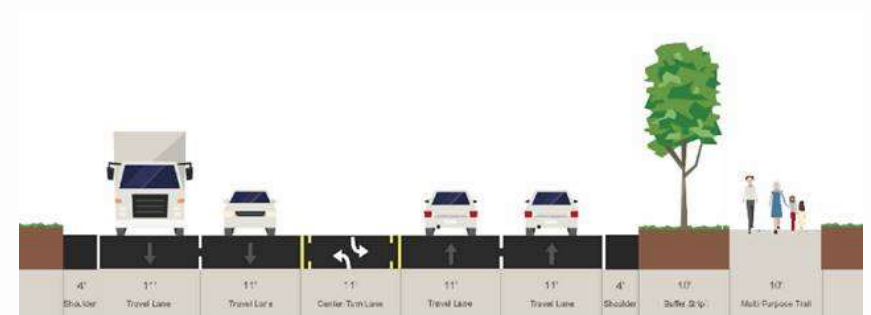


# Corridor-Wide Improvements

- Optimize signal timings and provide equipment upgrades at all signalized intersections to maximize operations and traffic responsiveness
- Provide a uniform 3-lane cross-section along Route 202 from Aquetong Road through Reeder Road to improve safety
- Provide a 5-lane cross-section along Route 202 from south of Shire Drive to Kitchens Lane to improve safety and reduce congestion/vehicle emissions
- Provide a multi-use trail along one side of Route 202 to accommodate multi-modal transportation use along the corridor for sustainable growth
- Enhance corridor by providing a planted buffer strip to separate vehicle traffic and pedestrian/bicycle traffic



Route 202 from Aquetong Road through Reeder Road



Route 202 from south of Shire Drive to Kitchens Lane

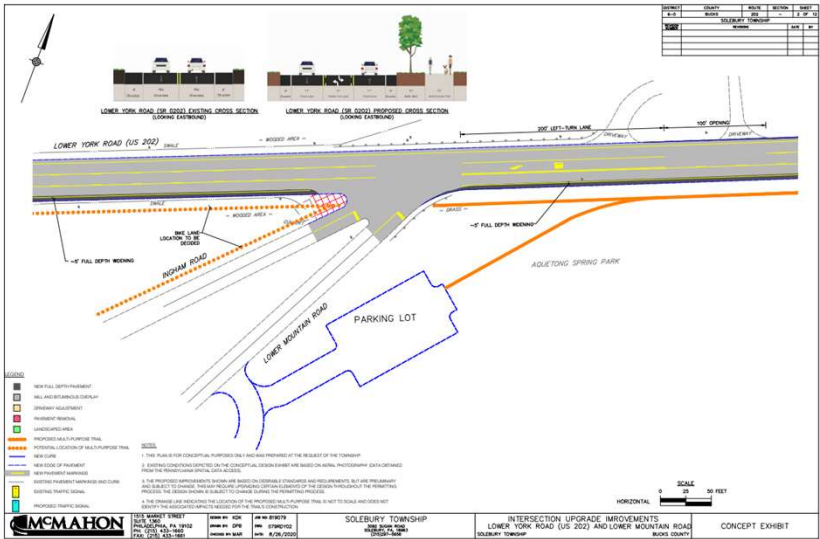
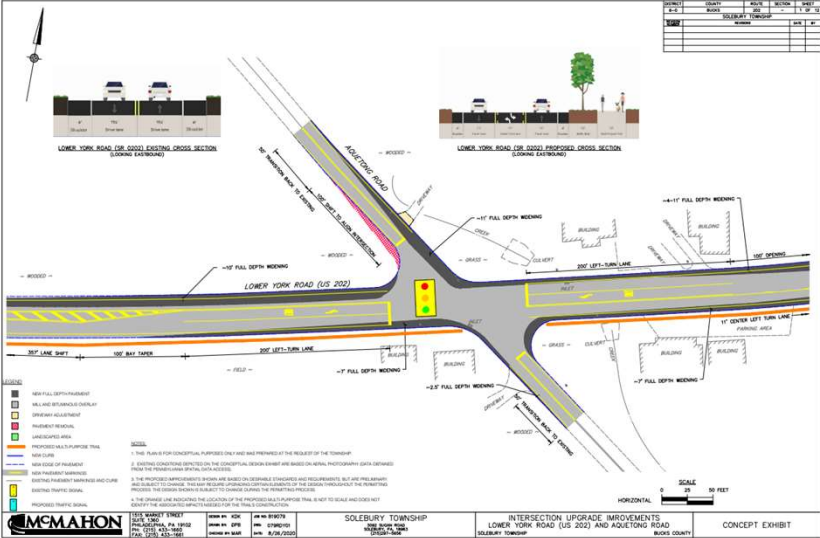
# Route 202 Intersection Improvements

## Lower York Road (Route 202) and Aquetong Road

- Widen Route 202 to provide separate left-turn lanes
- Minor widening to align Aquetong Road
- Modify traffic signal to eliminate split phasing and maximize intersection capacity and efficiency
- Provide ADA curb ramps, pedestrian crosswalks, and ADA/pedestrian traffic signal equipment for increased safety

## Lower York Road (Route 202) and Lower Mountain Road

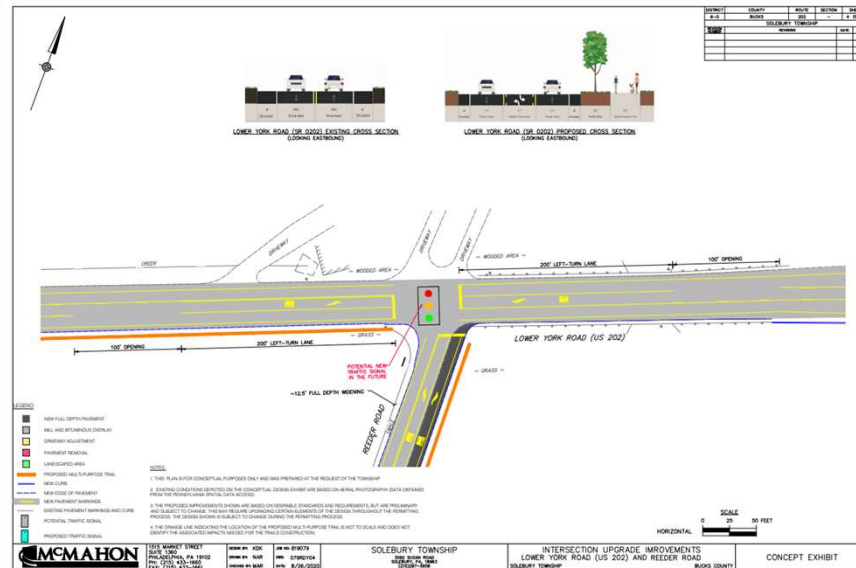
- Provide a separate left-turn lane along the Route 202 southbound – improves vehicle delays, reduces the potential for rear-end crashes, and assists public access for Aquetong Spring Park.
- Provide three-lane cross section with area for future pedestrian trail on east side
- Provide ADA curb ramps and pedestrian crosswalk for crossing Lower Mountain Road



# Route 202 Intersection Improvements

## Lower York Road (Route 202) and Reeder Road

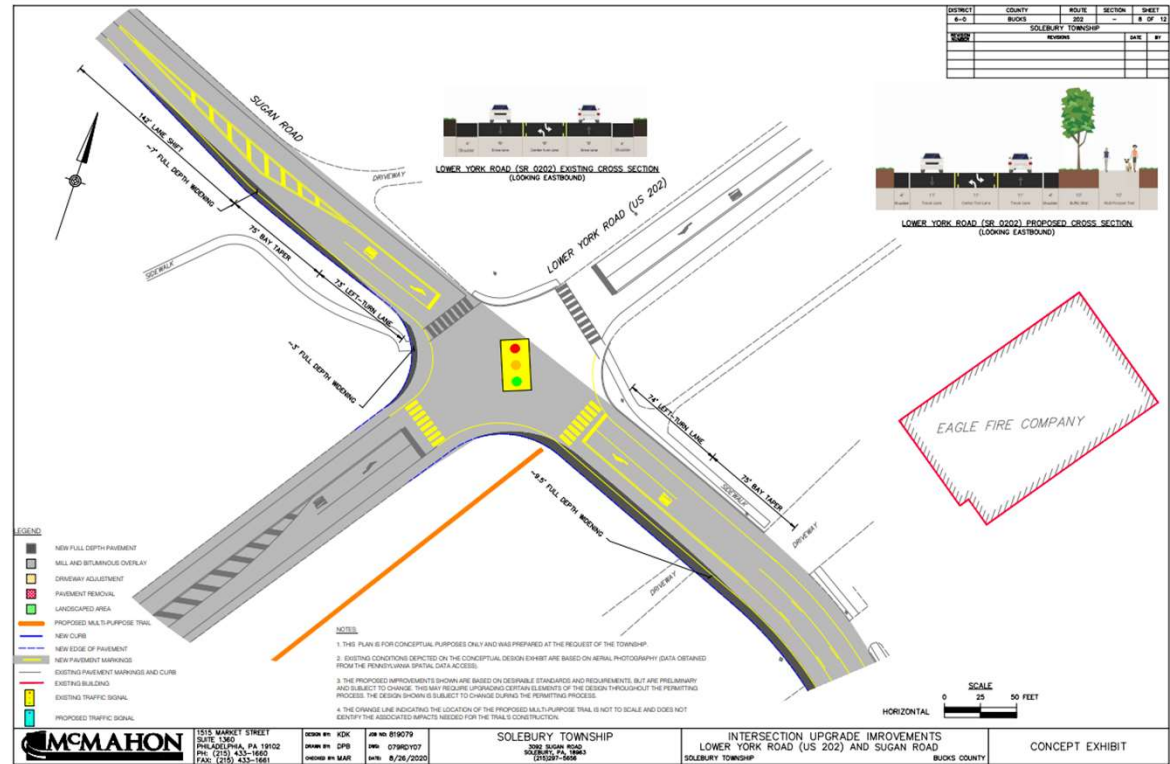
- Provide separate left-turn lanes along the Route 202 approaches – improves issue of vehicle delays and reduces the potential for rear-end crashes
- Widen Reeder Road approach to provide separate left and right lanes to improve circulation
- Township owned lands along the northeast quadrant of the intersection allow for operational and safety improvements at the intersection – including larger turning radii and improved sight lines for vehicles exiting Reeder Road
- Provide curb ramps, pedestrian crosswalks, and ADA upgrades for increased safety



# Route 202 Intersection Improvements

## Lower York Road (Route 202) and Sugasn Road

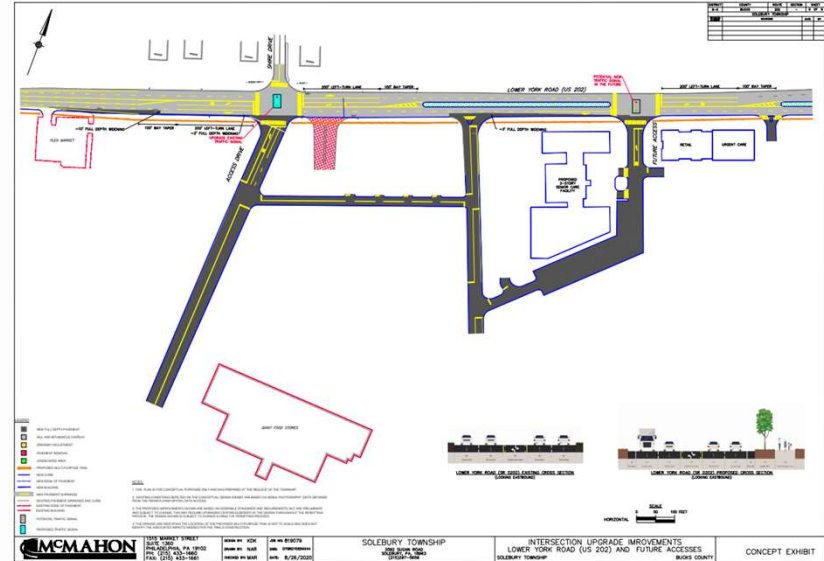
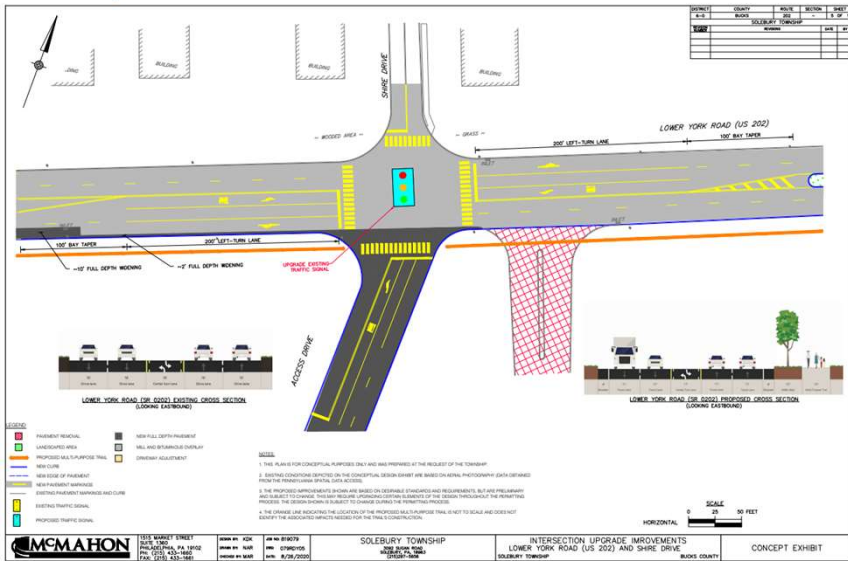
- Minor widening and re-stripping along Sugasn Road to provide separate left-turn lanes
- Modify traffic signal with phasing for left-turn vehicles; and Smart Technology to maximize intersection capacity and efficiency – both reducing vehicle emissions
- Provide upgrades to the ADA curb ramps, pedestrian crosswalks, and ADA/pedestrian traffic signal equipment for increased safety and accommodations for Multi-Use Trail



# Route 202 Intersection Improvements

## Lower York Road (Route 202) and Shire Drive/Logan Square Shopping Center

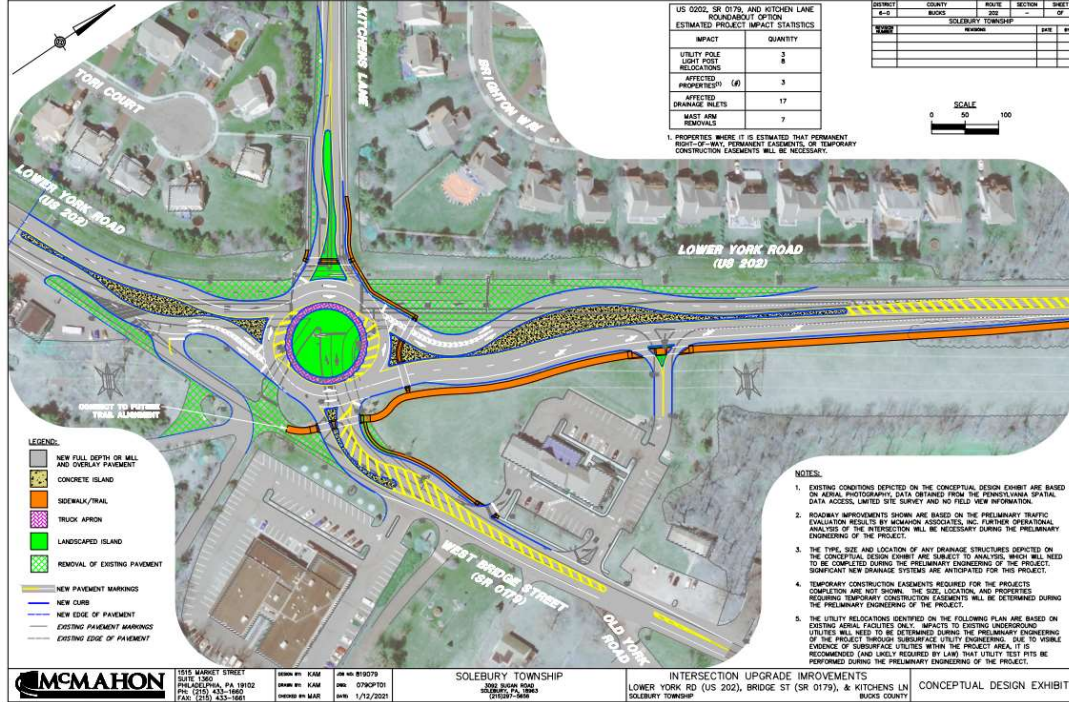
- Modify the intersection to align the Logan Square SC access with Shire Drive to eliminate the existing off-set intersection and split phasing of traffic signal
- Convert the existing northbound right-turn lane into an additional northbound through lane to improve vehicle flow and reduce vehicle queues
- Complete upgrade of the traffic control signal to provide video detection, dilemma zone detection, and provide advanced Smart Technology
- Provide upgrades to the ADA curb ramps, pedestrian crosswalks, and ADA/pedestrian traffic signal equipment for increased safety and accommodations for Multi-Use Trail



# Route 202 Intersection Improvements

## Lower York Road (Route 202) and Kitchens Lane/Bridge Street (Route 179)

- Construct a multi-lane roundabout with two lanes along the Route 202 approaches, two lanes along the Bridge Street approach, and one lane along the Kitchens Lane approach. Remove traffic signal
- Benefits include additional green space along Route 202; greater separation of intersection from residential neighborhood; eliminates congestion; reduces vehicle emissions; reduces vehicle speeds





# Recommendations, Project Priorities, and Next Steps

## Priority Projects

- Route 202 and SC Access/Shire Drive intersection realignment improvements
- Route 202 – 5-lane cross section from west of Shire Drive through Kitchens Lane
- Route 202 and Lower Mountain Road intersection improvements
- Continue to design and construct the Route 202 Multi-Use Trail in segments

## Short-Term Project Goals

- Route 202 and Aquetong Road intersection improvements
- Route 202 and Reeder Road intersection improvements
- Route 202 and Sугan Road intersection improvements

## Long-Term Project Goals

- Route 202 – 3-lane cross section from west of Aquetong Road to east of Reeder Road
- Route 202 Multi-Use Trail along entire length of corridor within Solebury Township limits
- Route 202/Route 179/Kitchens Lane Roundabout

## Next Steps

- Continued collaboration among the various stakeholders to adhere to the Township's transportation goals and to encourage the implementation of this plan over time



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[Home](#) > Solebury Township Achievement Summary – 2020

## Solebury Township Achievement Summary – 2020

### Introduction

A “Declaration of State of Emergency” was announced in Solebury Township on March 17, 2020. Despite this situation, the Board of Supervisors, Administration, Township staff, contractors and over 50 resident volunteers who comprise Township committees have endeavored to ensure that the Township government remains a foundation, for the entire community. The Board of Supervisors believes this has been accomplished and is very thankful for all of these efforts during one of the most difficult years in recent history of this Country.

During 2020, the Solebury Board of Supervisors addressed over 150 issues. Many of these topics required extensive additional meetings and analysis. The Board of Supervisors met together a minimum of 33 times during the year. In addition, all Supervisors are liaison to one or more Township Committees which in total met at least 70 times a year. Lastly, the Township Administration provides the valuable service of addressing many community matters daily as well as coordinating the decisions made by the Board of Supervisors.

All this was accomplished during a pandemic.

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### Financial Overview / Bond Rating

- Moody’s has rated the Township at Aa1 due to its strong financial position that consistently has been improving in recent years.
- The pandemic created an uncertain economic situation for the Township. Consequently, expenditures were reduced, eliminated, or deferred. Balanced budgets were set for both 2020 and 2021.

### Township Administration

- Township Administration has continued to make changes in staff schedules and work procedures, to meet safety requirements and to allow the Township to operate efficiently throughout the pandemic.
- Solebury Township hired two full time employees and recruited thirteen volunteers to its various boards and committees.
- A 4-year contract has been signed with PECO for 100% Renewable Energy reducing rates at the same time.
- The Township has installed video cameras in the main meeting room whereby meetings can be recorded and uploaded to the website, for use when in-person meetings resume.
- The Township is paying more vendors electronically to eliminate the need for paper checks.
- Permit applications are available on Solebury’s website and are being accepted electronically.

## Land Preservation

- There was a bond issue in the amount of \$4,850,000 to facilitate ongoing preservation, in accordance with the 2019 voter referendum that authorized \$12 million in new open space borrowing. The Township took advantage of historically low interest rates, locking into a rate under 1.10%.
- 81 acres were preserved this year. Among the properties preserved this year is the 35 acre Manoff Farm on Comfort Rd, 18 acre Scannapieco property along the Delaware River, and the 12 acre “Flea Market” properties along route 202.

## Police Dept.

- The Solebury Township Police Department began to transition to hybrid police vehicles, a process that will continue by purchasing new hybrid vehicles until the entire fleet is hybrid.
- The Police Department became fully operational with their K9 unit. Blitz and Officer Rice are fully trained in Patrol and Narcotic Operations and are being utilized for these services.
- A comprehensive review of the SPD was conducted this year. The evaluation confirms that the SPD is keeping Solebury residents safe in a professional and respectful manner.

## Roads, Bridges & Trails

- The Township continued the roadway upgrade schedule for 2020 and the following roads were treated: Stovers Mill Road; Paxson Hill Road; Reeder Road; Sугan Road between RT 202 and Kitchens Lane; Estates Drive; Blenheim Drive; Bedford Drive; and Yorkshire Road.
- Safe, paved parking was installed at Laurel Park allowing organized parking of more vehicles.
- The shared-use path of the Solebury Gateway Trail on Route 202 from Sугan Road to Kitchens Lane project has been initiated. Engineering is expected to be completed in 2021. The Township hopes to begin construction in 2022.

## Park & Recreation Dept.

- Coordinated and participated in January’s Annual Winter Festival with 32 events over 10 days with over 5,000 participants.
- While following CDC and PA State guidelines for social distancing and non-contact, P&R conducted a 4-week summer camp session, coordinated a fall sports program as well as the annual Halloween Community Safety night event on October 31st.
- Park Improvements: Construction of two pickle ball courts.

## Aquetong Spring Park

- Extensive stream restoration was completed.
- A timber harvest, consisting of removal of invasive/dead/dying species. Numerous trees/vegetation have been re-planted to better support wildlife and to help secure a sustainable habitat.
- Mowed trails within the site have been maintained and mapped and several additional trails are being designed/permitted for construction in 2021.
- Construction of the parking and trail has been approved by Penn Dot and will begin in the spring 2021.

## Deer Management

- The Township, EAC and the Deer subcommittee are continuing the effort to reduce the overpopulation of deer in the Solebury. The Deer Management Program, under the direction of the USDA , recorded a 44 percent increase in the Red Tag harvests this year. Efforts are continuing to contact farmers whose yields have been affected by deer damage and encouraged to apply for an agricultural damage depredation permit through the state Game Commission.
- A deer population census via drone will take place in 2021.

## **202 Corridor**

- Solebury Township acquired two properties in the 202 Corridor. One property is located at Reeder Road and Route 202 and the other is located on Route 202. A focused effort will commence in 2021 to obtain community consensus as to how this property will best support the community. These acquisitions will enable the continuance of the trail connection planned to link Aquetong Spring Park with the canal walk.
- Solebury Township Administration has continued the 202 Corridor study. A traffic presentation was presented at the 1/19/2021 BOS meeting.
- The Township continues to work with Bucks County Water and Sewer, North Wales Water Authority, and UHL Associates to execute the Ground Water Study.
- The Township is continuing discussions with the developers of the Heritage Senior Living Facility and emergency care project located adjacent to Logan Square.

## **Grants**

- New grants awarded in 2020 were 1) Solebury Trail grant \$400k with a \$400k match from the Township. This provides funding to build the walking/bike trail from Sukan Road at the Eagle Firehouse to Kitchens lane /179. This will extend the trail that starts at Magill's Hill Park. 2) Leaf truck \$213k.
- Grant funding used this year is from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for \$350k and a portion of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for the Aquetong Stream restoration and plantings completed November, 2020.

## **New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry**

- Quarry operations have ceased at the Phillips Mill Rd site. Equipment has been removed and sold. The property was offered for sale at a September 2020 auction. The DEP has informed the Township that a new owner has not been established. The Township continues to work with the DEP to ensure that quarry reclamation and Primrose Creek stream restoration is completed.

## **Sign Ordinance**

- The revision of the Sign Ordinance is an effort by the Township to adapt to changing technologies as well as methods of posting signs. The updated ordinance represents a significant improvement with how and where signs will be displayed in the Township. Much appreciation is given to the Planning Commission and Farm Committee for their efforts.

## **Library**

- The Township contributed \$120,000 to the Library in 2020, 40% of its revenues—making it the largest supporter of the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury. This year the Solebury Board

of Supervisors appointed a task force to start the review of the Township-Library relationship. These discussions will continue in 2021.

## Sustainability

- Currently there are several efforts pursuing this goal.
  - The Township has received a Platinum Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification. This is the highest recognition level, and only 7 other municipalities in the state have achieved this rank.
  - The BOS has endorsed the EAC “Ready for 100” proposal which set the Township goal of adopting 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and fully renewable energy by 2050. Currently, the Township Energy Transition Plan is in draft mode.
  - The Planning Commission is currently evaluating an additional sustainability metric by the American Planning Association (APA).
  - The BOS has established the Sustainability Steering Group to coordinate Township sustainability efforts.

## Other Projects started in 2020

- The BOS endorsed the Heritage Road initiative. This would include in the Solebury Comprehensive Plan this new road classification that reflects the Township plan to preserve the character of historic roads in the community.
- The BOS is reviewing a Solebury Farm Committee proposal for a “New Farmer- Landowner” program. This would support the effort to introduce farmers and Solebury land owners who would like to have a portion of their acreage farmed.
- The BOS is determining community consensus as to whether the Township should initiate a new committee, “The Arts and Heritage Committee”. It would support endeavors to heighten awareness of cultural and historical elements in the Township.

**Source URL:** <https://www.soleburytpw.org/home/news/solebury-township-achievement-summary-%E2%80%93-2020>