



**MORRIS
TOWNSHIP
TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

PREPARED BY
NORA SANTIAGO
AND DJ CURNOW

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Morris Township on the Move

The Transportation Advisory Committee’s purpose, powers and duties are to explore, study and make advisory recommendations regarding ways to improve travel and transportation (walking, bicycling, driving, and parking) in Morris Township*. Factors to be taken into consideration are safety, convenience, accessibility and connectivity. The committee aims to develop methods to obtain and utilize resident input and ensure residents have opportunities to ask questions, make suggestions, contribute actively, and have access to information they need to better understand various issues, situations and decisions.

The committee looks to evaluate concerns/requests regarding sidewalks, traffic calming, traffic flow, bike lanes, alternative transportation programs, public transportation, and special transportation needs. Taking all of this into account, the committee will address ways to improve transportation in each of the four (4) major categories: walking (sidewalks and trails), bicycling (programs, routes, and pathways), driving (traffic volume, congestion and violation concerns), and parking.

*Ordinance 22-19 by the Township Committee on August 21, 2019. Chapter 9 of the Municipal Code: Article IX Transportation Advisory Committee.

2021 SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

WALKING:

RICK BYE (LEAD), ALIDA KARAS, CATHY WILSON, KRISTINA RUGGIERI

BIKING:

RANDY EMOND (LEAD), JIM HUNT, NORA SANTIAGO, DAVID WILSON

DRIVING:

DJ CURNOW (LEAD), MARK GYORFY, DANN NUNN

PARKING:

DANN NUNN (LEAD), MARK GYORFY, DJ CURNOW

TOWNSHIP PROFESSIONALS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR:

TIMOTHY QUINN

TOWN ENGINEER:

JIM SLATE

CHIEF OF POLICE:

MARK DICARLO

DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION:

BILL FOELSCH

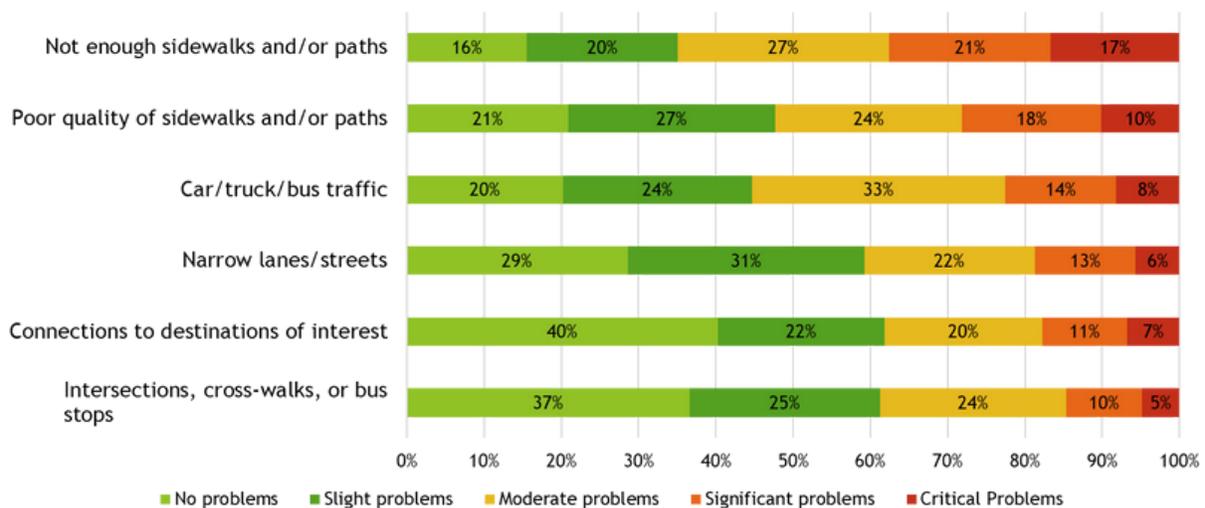
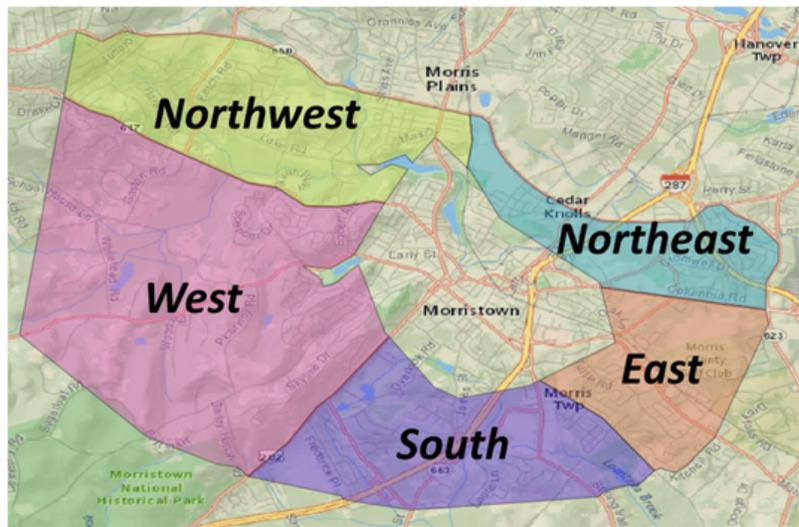
SECRETARY:

MICHELLE FISCHER

MOBILITY SURVEY

Since its establishment in 2019, resident volunteers who serve as members of TAC have been studying up on the rules and regulations governing our roadways and have been listening to input from members of the public.

To thoroughly review the data, TAC split into different groups to focus on specific sections of the Township, known as census tracts. After completing this initial assessment based on geography, TAC then evaluated the data by subcommittee: walking, biking, driving, and parking.



MOBILITY SURVEY

TAC's recommendations encompass specific needs and desires as well as overarching themes and high-level projects. The recommendations broken down by subcommittee include:

Driving Subcommittee

- Implement a formal Morris Township Traffic Calming Policy
- Develop and implement a Morris Township Complete Streets Policy
- Publish a "Public Projects" list on the Morris Township website
- Apply the Traffic Calming Policy, as appropriate
- Perform a traffic study of Hanover Ave (A longstanding issue that requires as yet unachieved consent of and cooperation with the County and Morris Plains).

Biking Subcommittee

- Install lane narrowing and sharrows for speed/traffic mitigation and pedestrian/bike safety on selected roadways
- Create a Loantaka Bike/Walking Loop for resident recreation
- Create path extensions to Frelinghuysen School/Parks/Fields into the Summit neighborhood where feasible

Walking Subcommittee

- Collect, update, and adapt trail/path information and place it at a centralized location on the Township website, include:
 - Township, county, federal and nearby municipalities paths/trails
- Access and parking
- Rules of the road
- Recommend the construction of a sidewalk along Normandy Parkway
- Fill Madison Ave sidewalk gaps between Madison Ct and Punch Bowl Rd
- Fill sidewalk gaps to connect sidewalks between neighborhoods and recreation complexes

Parking Subcommittee

- Map parking locations for trails, parks and other recreation areas where feasible for residents to view before visiting recreation facilities, whether they are Township or county-owned

OLD GLEN RD RECONSTRUCTION, TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY AND COMPLETE STEETS PROJECT

Project that our TAC worked on during the year 2021

Old Glen Rd Recommendation

Many residents of Old Glen Rd in Morris Township were seeking better safety measures for pedestrian mobility - specifically, slower traffic and increased safety for walking, bike riding, etc. In an effort to address these resident concerns, TAC formed an ad-hoc Old Glen Rd (OGR) sub-committee to review and discuss possible solutions. Their goal was to find options for a safe inviting road for all users and forms of transportation with the idea of striking a balance between personal safety and vehicle/traffic speed. The OGR sub-committee took into account all possible traffic calming measures and reviewed traffic calming policies implemented in nearby municipalities. In March 2021 the TAC OGR sub-committee presented recommended options to the larger TAC group. After discussion the Transportation Advisory Committee unanimously carried the motion to present the OGR sub-committee recommendations as amended to the Township Committee.

Traffic Calming Policy

One of the initial recommendations from the Mobility Survey was the development and implementation of a formal Morris Township Traffic Calming Policy. The TAC Driving subcommittee made this a primary focus to start 2021 knowing that establishing a comprehensive, transparent process will allow fair treatment and attention for the areas of town that need it most. During the May 2021 TAC meeting, the Morris Township Engineering department presented a draft policy for review. The policy was presented as a living document, with TAC able to make modification/adjustment recommendations to portions then and in the future. The policy was thoroughly discussed and reviewed during the next few months of TAC meetings. The final draft was ultimately adopted during the October 2021 TAC meeting and was presented to the Morris Township committee.

Complete Streets Project

Although the Traffic Calming Policy adopted during the October 2021 TAC meeting incorporated portions of different Complete Streets policies, TAC recognizes more work needs to be done. In 2021 TAC members reviewed different complete streets policies from across the state and members worked to educate themselves on how Morris Township implements complete streets elements in its road projects. The New Jersey Department of Transportation sponsored a free virtual NJ Complete Streets summit in October 2021. Several TAC members participated in the summit with an aim to identify the pros and cons of using complete streets for different roads across the Township. One of the primary goals of 2022 is for TAC to develop a recommendation on how Morris Township can customize their own policy that works for our area.

LOANTAKA LOOP

"Do the L Loop"

The Morris Township Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) in cooperation with the Morris Township Police Department and the Morris Township Parks & Recreation Department sponsored a special 3-week trail event in late August 2021. The event promoted a safe and well-marked 5-mile trail around the south-eastern section of the Township with connections to many recreational activities. The Loantaka Loop, also known as the “L Loop!”, begins and ends at the Morris Township municipal building on Woodland Ave. During the event, physical maps were stored and distributed (Click here) using a bin outside the municipal building, a website was created (Click here), and several recreational sites were highlighted including: Loantaka Brook Reservation, Seaton Hackney Stables, Ginty Pool, Ginty Recreational Complex, Traction Line Recreation Trail, and Shakespeare Garden.



WEBSITE AND MAPS

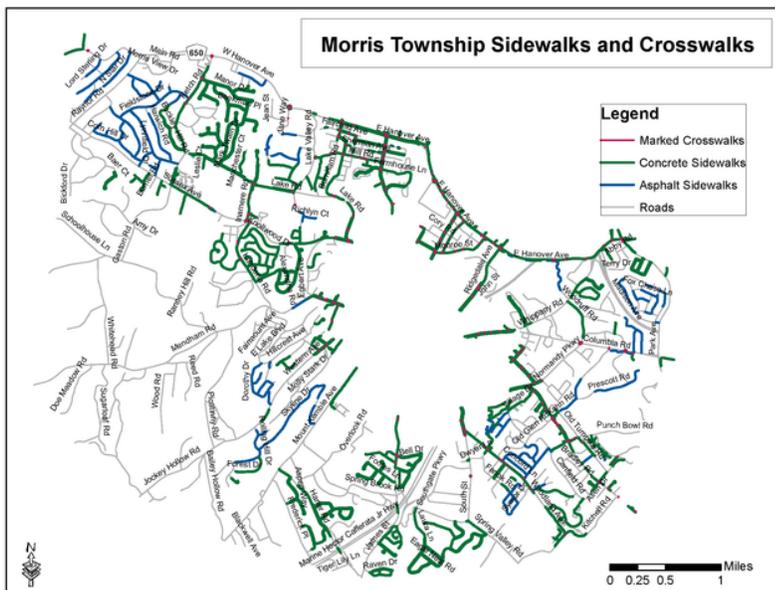
Project that our TAC worked on during the year 2021

TAC Website

TAC recognizes a key resource for communication and information sharing is the development of a website. In 2021, the groundwork was laid for a dedicated website here. The information located on this page will include, but not be limited to: public comment submission form, link to pot hole repair form, upcoming road projects list, links to key resources such as county trails maps, TAC presentation, survey findings, etc. This is another priority for TAC in 2022.

Maps

Throughout 2021 TAC members worked to identify existing public and private maps that encompass paths, trails, sidewalks, parking, etc. in an effort to consolidate resources. The ultimate goal is to organize these resources and provide one location on the TAC website for residents to use.



GIS Maps

One major initiative was to identify and document every sidewalk location and crosswalk within Morris Township. This allows for a clear idea of where missing segments/gaps in sidewalks exist and identify needs for repair. In December, Rick Bye and Nora Santiago took the information gathered and updated the existing Morris County GIS public database. This now creates a digitized view of Morris Township walkability that TAC will leverage to recommend ways of improving connectivity between neighborhoods.

RESOURCES

Resources used to educate TAC Members

State and Federal Resources

- **NJDOT Roadway Design Manual**

The New Jersey Roadway Design Manual provides the mandatory roadway design standards for New Jersey state highways. Most of the RDM standards comply with the national policy on highway design practice. When standards differ, however, the RDM instructions govern in New Jersey (except on interstate highways).

- **New Jersey Statutes, Title 39 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic Regulation**

- **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices**

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, or MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel.

Morris Township Resources

- **Morris County Master Plan Circulation Element**
- **EDAC Strategic Plan**
- **Township Master Plan**
- **Parks and Rec Trail Plan**
- **Morris Township Municipal Code**

Complete Street Resources

- **Complete Streets**
- **FAQS**
- **Resources**

eBikes and eScooters Resources

- **eBikes and eScooters** - In late 2021, Morristown banned electric powered bicycles and scooters from their sidewalks. While the Township's sidewalk network differs from the Town's, education and safety tips will be important moving forward. Here is the [article](#).