

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
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WALK BIKE RIDE SOUTH ORANGE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 18, 2023 – 8:00-9:30 PM

Webex Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://southorange.webex.com/southorange/j.php?MTID=m52bbcc5c9b38a47f04b42b90846bce65>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
 - a. Notetaker: Terri Noland? Yes
 - b. Attendees: Drew Pattison, Kweli Campbell, Trustee Summer Jones, Ed Moore, Alisa, Terri Noland, Julia Flath, Dan Peterson, Nathan Nassif, Ben Vitale, Mike Jaslow, Kevin Kelly
3. Approval of Minutes from 11/20/2023
4. Upcoming Meeting Dates:
 - a. Monday, January 15 at 8 PM - MLK Day - possibly reschedule? Fed Holidays, so we should move them since ppl will be off from the Town....applies to both
 - b. Monday, February 19 at 8 PM - President's Day - possibly reschedule?
 - c. Meetings are 3rd Monday of month
 - d. Subcommittee meetings to be scheduled - any other ones out there scheduled? No comments
5. Public Comments - Kweli Campbell - Intersection of Vose and Montrose....question regarding plans for improvements. Town Engineer resubmitting plans. Lights out, clarification on what should be reported to NJDOT vs the Town. Light at the train station...out for 1.5 yrs. Issue on who is responsible. Can look up by ID if on the light to identify which light. Lights the pedestrian overpass coming of the train station, (Mountain). Lightbulb needs replaced. Report A Concern link on SO website.
6. Communications
 - a. Follow and Share [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
 - b. Discuss using tool such as Slack, Google Spaces, What's App for committee members to communicate between meetings. Members to ponder on this and discuss more for next meeting.
7. Community Events
 - PAST
 - a. Holiday lights bike ride - Dec 9th - 7-8 riders - timing was good
 - UPCOMING
 - b. Next social ride? - Drew looking at maybe a Polar Bear Ride on NYears Day -
 - c. Jan/Feb Crossing Guard Appreciation Week - Feb 29, 9:15a (110 Irvington Bldg) Breakfast, Cards and Templates for crafting, Julia and Terri to reachout to schools to socialize idea and cards to print out. Suggest we include SOMSD Security when we reach out to SOMSD.
8. Traffic Calming



- a. SS4A (federal Safe Streets & Roads For All grant program) - SO Awarded! Meet w Julie Doran early January to get process started. There will be webinars we should review about the process. Topology likely to be involved. Plan will put us in a better place to apply for future projects. Ben - is this enough to fund the plan? Dan P - should we tour what other towns are doing?
 - b. Complete Streets Technical Assistance - table due to SS4A?
 - c. EZ Ride School Audit - smaller project. More school specific and would need to engage a specific school. Discussion of Columbia HS, but Trustee Jones suggest SO Middle School - maybe easier from a funding standpoint since we are SO committee. Ben & Julia to discuss w SOMS PTA.
 - d. [Traffic calming process doc](#) - waiting for further discussion w trustees to clarify questions about the process- working on this. Recent Academy St process as example for discussion.
 - e. Leaves -.how do we change this process. Environmental commission in transition and doesn't have capacity right now...Maplewood sent a mailer regarding keeping leaves. Montclair banned - moved to bagged leaves and sold bags to residents, Kevin Kelly saw improvement immediately. Impacts visibility for pedestrians, bike paths, and slippery conditions on sidewalks. Bring up in the Spring with the Environmental Committee.
9. Village Engineer Update
- a. No update
 - b. David Battaglia has a Tuesday conflict with Health & Public Safety mtgs - may need to reschedule so he can attend. Engineer should attend HPS meetings and be funded for hours to attend them.
 - c. Battaglia is a consultant for SO, which offers benefit of drawing on his firm's breadth of knowledge. Maplewood has a FT Engineer and an assistant engineer.
10. SOPD Update
- a. Crossing guard times - can they start before school dismissal like Maplewood and like they used to before school times were changed? PD said likely no due to budget, they made changes for kids walking long routes but crossing guards are not there for parents getting to school.
 - b. SOPD Crash Report Discussion - Any follow up from last month's discussion?
 - c. SOPD data requests - follow up from last month's discussion?
 - d. Tinted windows and license plate covers - follow up from last month's discussion? They do issue Window summons when observed, Sgt Lonero, don't have a recap of # of tickets
 - e. New webpage sharing traffic studies, starting with most recent Academy St study: <https://www.southorange.org/986/Traffic-Studies>
 - f. Academy Street Speed Study - see below - residents want more information.
11. Pedestrian
- a. Academy St concerns notes from 12/12 Public Safety Mtg
 - i. Academy residents expressed concerns about safety between on Academy in the Roland-Hixon area (where a child was hit by a car this fall),



- ii. Police conducted traffic study in a different area, at 252 Academy near 4th St & OLS, due to Roland-Hixon area having poor visibility from road grading and parking that obstructs radar data collection.
- iii. Results of traffic study do not meet problematic criteria for installing traffic control changes.
- iv. SOPD currently doing a new traffic study at Prospect Pl & Academy, closer to Roland-Hixon.
- v. Village has proposed to use \$16,000 of developer funds to install two permanent radar speed signs, don't know how soon. The signs won't record data because that would be more expensive with monthly subscription.
- vi. Battaglia agrees there is a blind spot due to grading, considering what can be done.
- vii. There is \$100k+ developer funding earmarked for Academy Heights, residents request more be spent.
- viii. Maplewood is conducting their own traffic study on Academy St. At both the 12/12 SO & 12/13 Maplewood Public Safety meetings, Julia & others requested the towns coordinate responses.
- b. 3rd & Sloan construction & corner visibility notes from 12/12 Public Safety Mtg
 - i. Construction vehicles disrupting traffic: not addressed in 12/12 mtg
 - ii. Broken gaslamp for over a year: resident responsible for reporting to PSEG, Village Clerk to note for periodic mtgs w PSEG
 - iii. Crosswalk paved over, what about repainting or diagonal crosswalk: Per engineer, diagonal crosswalks not advisable
 - iv. Setbacks: Confirm 0 ft setback on 3rd St is compliant with zoning - not addressed, ask Zoning
 - v. Long-term planning: David Battaglia (village engineer) & Eric Keller (planning board engineer) discussed - they recommend not to make any changes while construction is in process – wait until project is complete and traffic patterns have changed as a result of new development, then do a traffic study to look at changes to implement.
 - vi. Sight lines: Battaglia thinks there won't be sightline issues once complete. Thinks intersection unlikely to meet criteria for multi-way stop. Yet sightlines will be worse than previously when there was an open parking lot, and the intersection will be even busier.
 - vii. Can developer fund traffic study and/or improvements? The development docs indicate the developer was supposed to do a full traffic study but only did a partial study. Also indicate they are responsible for funding traffic improvements.
 - 1. Summer says to ask Jen Greenberg re Planning & Economic Development committee - that one has a trustee liaison (Planning Board doesn't and maybe Dev Comm doesn't either), which is meeting tomorrow morning - and Topology is part of their meetings.
 - viii. Resident recommends ordinance for sidewalks to be kept open during construction, or else it will get missed as in Sloan & 3rd.



- ix. Speed study set up closer to area of concern for Academy - waiting on more details
 - c. Reflectors - not discussed - who wants to reach out to jitney? Library to wait until library reopens
- 12. Bicycling
 - a. Report from 12/5 Bicycle subcommittee mtg - discussed Maplewood bike mtg below - want to stay in touch so bicycling updates match with SO for cross travel
- 13. Maplewood
 - a. Report from 12/4 Maplewood working group meeting re bike lanes
 - i. Deb Engel (Deputy Mayor), Patrick Wherry (township administrator), members of Environmental Advisory Committee, several residents
 - ii. Not a formal group but a working group focused on bike lanes (not other traffic calming concerns) to create a proposed bicycling network and phased implementation plan. May start with small demonstration areas.
 - iii. Will complement separate masterplan implementation committee
 - iv. Funded by town budget - Per Wherry, Maplewood has put a good amount of resources behind traffic calming and will continue to do so. Cannot implement everything all in one year, and will continue to apply for grants, but implementation of traffic calming and bike lanes is not reliant on grant funding.
 - b. Report from 12/13 Maplewood Public Safety Meeting
 - i. Many traffic safety concerns with Parker Ave and Springfield Ave
 - ii. Vic DeLuca did walk-through and recommendations on Parker Ave, and DPW will implement some changes soon
 - iii. In 2024, will allocate some traffic calming budget toward consultants to study Parker Ave and Springfield Ave area near Walgreens to propose plans to implement. On Parker ideas include striping for shoulders, daylighting, signage and high intensity beacons at intersections.
 - iv. Discussed increased enforcement of No Parking near intersections
 - v. Trustee Jones to reach out to learn more about how Maplewood budgets for traffic calming.
- 14. Transit
 - a. No updates
- 15. Greenway
 - a. Report from 12/13 Greenway Committee Meeting
 - i. Waterlands
 - 1. Since construction bids came in higher than the grant, the Village intends to allocate additional \$500K to \$1 million? in the 2024 budget.
 - 2. It's an ask that will be reviewed - was discussed at Dec finance committee mtg. Will be reviewed at Jan 20 all day 2024 public budget meeting.
 - 3. A new RFP for Construction Services is under review by NJDOT.
 - ii. SO Ave - 3rd St Phase



1. Per Julie Doran, the Village is "working with the 2 agencies (NJ Transit and the NJ Economic Development Authority) to determine interest and financial feasibility" in redevelopment of the NJ Transit parking lot.
 - iii. 3rd St - NJT parking lot
 1. We continue to make progress in determining ownership and access between 3rd St and the NJT lot, with help from outside attorneys for the Village.
 - iv. Repairs between Mead St and S.O. Ave
 1. Pathway is too narrow for vehicles, causing ruts and puddles. Travers shared rough estimates for asphalt replacement (presumably using permeable asphalt) of \$500K for full 12-foot replacement or \$200K for widening/replacement in key sections.
 2. Considering crushed stone cinder pathway instead of asphalt - looking for cyclist feedback. Drew said ability to bike on it depends on how well it's installed.
 - v. Maplewood Greenway
 1. Maplewood, BOE & Gleason's developers are actively discussing a) the roadway from Parker to Czych Field and b) path from Parker, through the student parking lot, to Jefferson. Recent article:
<https://villagegreennj.com/environment/south-orange-maplewood-look-to-get-river-greenway-projects-rolling-along/>
16. School / EZ Ride
- a. Transportation, safe routes to school was the majority of the Municipal partnership meeting with the BOE on 12/13
17. Budget
- a. Submitted 2024 budget request for
 - i. \$125-300 from SOPD for Crossing Guard Appreciation week
 - ii. \$200 from Rec Dept for Greenway Parade
 - iii. \$100 for printing flyers for other events
 - iv. \$100 for Cycling skills class
 - v. \$160 for subcommittee zoom account
18. Last call for questions, next steps, etc
- a. Reshare vision zero legislation support ask
19. Educational Webinars/Events/Info
- a. SAFE Network next TBD <https://njbwc.org/streets-are-for-everyone-network/>
 - b. Vision Zero NJ Alliance meetings every 3rd Wednesday from 2-3 PM
20. Adjournment