

GERMANTOWN PIKE – KEY ISSUES

Travel lane configuration is inconsistent and transitions in the lane configuration create safety and operational concerns

This stretch of Germantown Pike transitions between two-lane, two-lane with a center turn-lane, and three-lane cross sections. Community members noted that the change in cross section creates confusion and pinch points. Additionally, the transition and change between cross sections impact overall traffic flow along the corridor.

Safety and operational issues at key intersections, particularly due to high traffic volumes and skewed or offset alignments

Germantown Pike intersects with several other key corridors, such as Ridge Pike, Trooper Road (Route 363) and Whitehall Road. As a result, there are heavy traffic volumes along segments of Germantown Pike and heavy turning movements at many key intersections. There are safety and operational issues as a number of key intersections that lack adequate through lanes or turning lanes or have skewed or offset alignments.

Fortunately, some intersection and roadway improvements are underway. In particular, PennDOT is leading the design of reconfiguration of the Germantown Pike and Ridge Pike intersection. Planning and design are also underway for improvements at the Evansburg Road and Kriebel Mill Road intersections. Recent plans and studies and local community input identify six additional key intersections along the corridor with safety and operational issues that include: Ridge Pike, Valley Forge Road / Park Avenue, Trooper Road, Potshop Road, Sunset Avenue / Sandra Lane, and Whitehall Road.

Congested traffic conditions, due to high traffic volumes and numerous driveways along the corridor

Traffic congestion is an issue along Germantown Pike, particularly at the western end near Ridge Pike and the eastern end between Valley Forge Road and Whitehall Road. In these areas, drivers use Germantown Pike and connecting roadways to access the regional highway network, including US 202, US 422, and the PA Turnpike—Northeast Extension (I-476). In addition, there is the potential for increases in congestion due to additional traffic generated by new development and redevelopment along or near the corridor.

Numerous driveways along the corridor impacts safety and operations for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians

There are numerous residential commercial driveways with direct access to Germantown Pike, creating a conflict between regional mobility and local access needs. Turning movements into and out of driveways can impede traffic flow and also pose safety concerns. Additionally, some of the driveways are wide and closely spaced, which impacts the safety and comfort of bicyclists and pedestrians traveling along the corridor. Redevelopment of properties along the corridor may provide opportunities over time for access management improvements.

Buildings and structures located close to the corridor impact the feasibility of improvements

Along Germantown Pike, there are a number of homes, business, and other buildings that are located close to the roadway. Providing additional travel lanes, turning lanes, or bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure may not be feasible or desirable due to the potential significant property and community impacts. In addition, there are some structures, such as the bridge over Skippack Creek, that may limit the ability to widen the roadway or provide dedicated

bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor is disconnected and limits access to key destinations

While there are some segments of sidewalks and trails along the corridor, overall the infrastructure for walking and biking along Germantown Pike is limited, disconnected, and inconsistent. In addition, community members noted that high traffic volumes and travel speeds can make bicyclists and pedestrians feel unsafe or uncomfortable. However, there are a number of key destinations for walking and biking on or near the corridor. Key destinations include mixed-use centers, such as Collegeville and Fairview Village, as well as local and regional parks, including Evansburg State Park, Eskie Park, and Norristown Farm Park.

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