GERYVILLE PIKE – KEY ISSUES

Safety and operational issues at key intersections

There are several key intersections along Geryville Pike that have a skewed alignment, or horizontal or vertical curve on the approaches to the intersections such as Sumneytown Pike (PA 63), Hendricks Road, Old School Road and Buck Road. Poor intersection geometry can impact the efficiency and safety of turning movements and reduce sight distances. Some intersections also have large vegetation close to the roadways that reduce sight distances. In addition to poor alignment and visibility in the village of Sumneytown, PA 63 lacks separate turn lanes at Geryville Pike to remove vehicles from high speed through traffic . Open access driveways near the intersection also contribute to safety concerns in the village.

The signalized intersection with PA 663 is a safety concern due to high speeds. Each approach of the intersection has dedicated left-turn lanes, however, right turning vehicles on PA 663 do not have dedicated lanes.

The off-set intersection of Geryville Pike with James Road and St. Pauls Church Road creates confusing and conflicting turning movements. Large building structures located close to the roadways and Stony Run parallels near the intersection impacting the feasibility of realignment options to improve the safety of traffic movements.

High vehicular travel speeds create safety concerns

Representatives from police forces and other community members noted that speeding is safety concern along Geryville Pike, including average speeds 10 MPH over the posted speed and observations of drivers passing within no passing zones. Additionally, the high speeds impact sight distance and the safety of vehicles turning on or off of Geryville Pike. High vehicular speeds also impact the safety and comfort of bicyclists and pedestrians along the corridor. Given the north-south orientation and connections to other regional arterials, Geryville Pike serves as an alternative to the nearby PA 29 and Pennsylvania Turnpike Northeast Extension corridors. Based on anecdotal reports, drivers sometimes divert from the Northeast Extension at the Lansdale or Quakertown interchanges and utilize the Geryville Pike corridor to avoid congestion.

Narrow, winding, and hilly nature of the corridor poses safety concerns and impacts feasibility of improvements

Geryville Pike has narrow shoulders, sharp curves, and steep topography in some locations that can make it challenging to navigate, particularly given truck traffic and higher vehicular speeds These safety issues are exacerbated during inclement weather, which heightens the need for responsive winter maintenance. Additionally, the roadway width and geometry impacts the feasibility of some roadway improvements or providing dedicated facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Flooding and maintenance issues due to the lack of drainage features, topography, and nearby creeks

There is limited stormwater management infrastructure on Geryville Pike. Today, most stormwater runs off the roadway into roadside ditches, which require routine maintenance. In addition, there are approximately nine locations where Geryville Pike crosses a creek or stream. In some of these locations, roadway flooding can occur during storm events. In particular, the segment of Geryville Pike parallel to Unami Creek to the north of Sumneytown village and south of Swamp Creek Road floods during extreme weather events.

Interest and support for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, but constraints to providing dedicated infrastructure along the corridor

Community members noted that it is a popular bike route, but may not be safe for biking given the lack of dedicated facilities and high vehicle speeds. In addition to biking, stakeholders highlighted the interest and need for pedestrian connections and crossings in specific locations, such as the Sumneytown Village area and Unami Creek Park. The horizontal and vertical geometry, as well as structures, utility poles, residential fences/ decorative walls and heavily wooded and vegetated areas close to the roadway impact the feasibility of providing dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Geryville Pike.