

SWAMP PIKE – KEY ISSUES

Safety and operational issues at key locations

There are several key locations along Swamp Pike that have safety and operational issues:

- Gilbertsville Road
- Between Lutheran Road and Leidy Road
- Between Kurtz Road and Smith Road

The intersection at Gilbertsville Road has congestion that causes traffic to divert to alternate routes in the area. Between Lutheran and Leidy Road the horizontal alignment of Swamp Pike has s-curves that present safety concerns. There is a historic church parking lot close to the road at the Leidy Road intersection, making any widening of the road difficult. Between Kurtz Road and Smith Road there are s-curves that present safety concerns. There are also sight distance restrictions that make left turns onto Swamp Pike difficult in this section of the corridor.

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

Community members expressed interest in adding left turn lanes at key intersections. Swamp Pike, however, has narrow shoulders, sharp curves, and steep topography in some locations that can make it challenging to navigate, particularly given truck traffic. 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.

Development along the corridor will increase traffic

There are several developments proposed along the Swamp Pike corridor:

- Large Town Center mixed use development west of Charlotte Street
- Possible second Spring Ford High School location west of Neiffer Road
- Expansion of Limerick Community Park
- Mixed use development at Lewis Road (under construction)

If all of these potential developments are constructed, it will put a strain on the existing cross section of Swamp Pike. Most of Swamp Pike is only one lane in each direction. There are numerous locations along the corridor with homes/buildings close to the road. This would make widening of Swamp Pike difficult to accomplish. Roadway and pedestrian improvements are planned as a part of the expansion of Limerick Community Park. An extension of Lewis Road including a roundabout at Swamp Pike, have recently been completed to mitigate traffic concerns associated with the new mixed use development in that area.

Flooding and maintenance issues due to the lack of drainage features, topography, and creek crossings

There is limited stormwater management infrastructure in some sections on Swamp Pike. Today, most stormwater runs off the roadway into roadside ditches, which require routine maintenance. In addition, there are approximately three locations where Swamp Pike crosses a creek or stream. In some of these locations, roadway flooding can occur during storm events. In particular, the segment of Swamp Pike that crosses Minster Creek near Lutheran Road and the segment of Swamp Pike that crosses Hartenstine Creek near Sankey Road often flood during major weather events.

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

Community members expressed an interest in providing improved bicycle and pedestrian connections, particularly at the western and eastern ends of the corridor, but may not be safe for pedestrians and biking given the lack of dedicated facilities. 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, may impact the feasibility of providing dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Swamp Pike.

DRAFT