

Public Meeting Summary

Date:	<u>November 16, 2017</u>	Location:	<u>Adams Township Building</u>
Project Name:	<u>SR 0228, Section 29B</u>		
Attendees:	<u>See Attached List</u>		

The following is a summary of the public officials and public meeting held for the SR 0228, Section 29B Project. An open house meeting was held on November 16, 2017 at the Adams Township Municipal Building from 5 to 7 PM. Approximately 83 people signed in. See attached sign in sheet. Prior to the meeting a public officials meeting was held with approximately 12 officials signing in. A 100-scale plot of the proposed improvements along the SR 0228 corridor from the railroad bridge in Mars east to near Quality Gardens (approximately 2 miles) was displayed. PennDOT and the consultant team had representatives available to discuss project design, environmental features and the property/right-of-way acquisition process.

The meeting was announced through the Butler Eagle newspaper as well as direct mailings to the property owners along the corridor. After the meeting an article was published by the Butler Eagle on November 18, 2017 (attached).

The following represents key topics discussed that should be considered moving forward into final design. The list starts in the west and moves to the east end of the corridor. The list focuses on the property or business owner name and not the individual having the discussion.

1. Vogel – He understands and is ok with the design, particularly the Marland Drive area. He did mention that south along Marland Drive there is embankment material available if the selected contractor needs it. This will be noted in the construction documents through a notice to contractor.
2. Adams Fire Company was not present but did request a set of the plans.
3. Harby property recently sold. New owner plans to develop into a strip mall that could access SR 0228 at the Marland Drive intersection.
4. The Playful Pooch owner/operator was present and indicated they would like to remain if possible, even with a decrease in the number of parking spaces. They do not have truck traffic on site, even for deliveries. They did ask about cutting the hillside to the east. PennDOT explained that such excavation would have to be agreed upon with the adjacent property owners outside of the PennDOT contract as PennDOT does not have the right to impact one property for another's parking. We agreed to meet sometime in early 2018 to develop a parking layout that hopefully works for all parties.
5. Kalan – Would like the cul-de-sac moved to the Geyer property. Due to grading issues this can't be accommodated.
6. Funk – Property owner is upset with how close his house would be to the new alignment. Depending on drainage ditches and grading between SR 0228 and the frontage road, the house might end up being displaced. His water well is currently situated under the proposed frontage road.
7. Weaver – Would like the driveway on SR 0228 to remain even if only RIRO.

8. McKee – Based on the large amount of embankment proposed in their front yard, they were concerned over their property value. They agreed with the overall design concept. They were also warned that once the stormwater management facilities were designed, additional impacts to their property and/or house could occur. They understood.
9. Stewart – Again, due to proximity of the new frontage road to their property, she was not happy with the design. She would be losing about half of her front yard.
10. Daschbach – The golf course owner was present. He seemed to understand the plan. He did request a pdf of the display which was sent to him after the meeting.
11. Ganter – The owner was quite unhappy with the impacts to his rental properties. He would prefer his driveway access the new Brickyard Road rather than the frontage road to the school.
12. High School – requests that the access point to Three Degree Road is only right in. They had concerns with student drivers and school buses conflicting at the proposed roundabout.
13. Mar Home for Youth – During a phone call the next day, they indicated that they would provide the deed for the area being sold to the school district. They also talked about possibly selling the corner piece as well as desiring an access point to Three Degree Road.
14. Seebacher (Barrel Co.) - requested that all future turnarounds be designed to handle interstate truck traffic.
15. Valencia Sport Park – Did not like the current situation with the RIRO nor did they like the impacts to the front of their parcel. They did want to work with Geyer for a common signalized access point along SR 0228.
16. Another general concern was to provide for U-turns east of the corridor now instead of waiting for the Balls Bend Project.

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Don + Carolyn Burt	1577 Three Degree Rd Mars PA 16046	
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WAY TO GO Public eyes preliminary plan to widen Route 228 near schools

Paula GrubbsEagle Staff Writer

November 18, 2017 Local News

ADAMS TWP — Reverse jug handles, roundabouts, parallel access roads and a new traffic signal are all included in the plans for a 2-mile stretch of the Route 228 widening project near the Mars schools.

A steady stream of curious or concerned citizens on Thursday evening cycled through the state Department of Transportation plan presentation at the Adams Township Municipal Building.

The \$22 million project will begin just west of Quality Gardens and end near the intersection of Mars-Valencia Road, where it will connect with a previous widening project.

For several years, the historical significance of the 19th century property now known as MHY Family Services — which started out as a dentist's 200-acre home and became an orphanage — precluded the state Department of Transportation from using that land in a widening project.

But Lisa Schiller, executive director of MHY Family Services, said PennDOT officials explained to her over the course of creating the project that Route 228's safety issues trump the property's historical significance.

"Of course you hate to lose land, but I understand the growth in the community," Schiller said.

According to the plans displayed Thursday, two lanes will be added to the north side of the highway between Mars High School and MHY Family Services.

Several interesting features to facilitate traffic flow, increase safety and mesh with the township's zoning ordinance were included in the project.

For example, the end of Brickyard Road near the Mars Primary Center will be eliminated and all traffic going to those Mars schools or the west side of MHY Family Services will use a new short road that will run north and south between Route 228 and Gables Court off Brickyard Road.

A traffic signal will be added at that new intersection.

Traffic will still be able to enter the east end of MHY, but only if turning right into the property. Those leaving will be able to turn right onto Route 228.

A roundabout on the plans near MHY's school, Longmore Academy, will help circle traffic and buses around on the property.

Because no vehicles will be permitted to turn left when leaving a property on the south side of Route 228, two "reverse jug handles" were included on the plans.

In one jug handle, a vehicle looking to head west when leaving Classic Automotive near the intersection of Mars-Valencia Road would turn right onto Route 228 and proceed to the new signaled intersection, turn right into the jug handle and swing around in a circle to face west.

Likewise, traffic traveling west looking to access a business on the south side of Route 228 like the Playful Pooch will turn into another jug handle at Marland Road to swing around and head east.

Access to the Mars High School also will change if the current plan remains unaltered.

Three Degree Road on both sides of Route 228 will be widened and a turning lane added, with the south side lanes being moved east and eliminating the buildings that now house a dry cleaner, pet groomer and a few other businesses.

A large roundabout suitable for bus traffic is planned for Three Degree Road and Pine Drive so school buses and other traffic can enter the Mars High School property at the rear of the building.

The current entrances to the high school off Route 228 will be right-in, right-out only. Those traveling west on Route 228 from the school will proceed to the roundabout on Three Degree Road, swing around and head north and turn left at the traffic signal at the intersection.

In keeping with the township's plan to avoid multiple entrances directly onto Route 228, a parallel access road with a cul-de-sac will be added on the south side of Route 228 just west of the Mars Primary Center. The road will end just short of the Playful Pooch Doggie Daycare.

The purpose of the road, explained PennDOT project manager Mark Rozich, is so that the property owners must access the widened Route 228 at the new signal light and cannot pull out onto the busy road from their driveways.

The access road is a safety measure in keeping with the township's effort to prevent cars from pulling out onto Route 228, Rozich said.

Most residents who attended the event appreciated the plan as well as the plethora of PennDOT officials on hand to explain the confusing, multicolored mish mash of lines and measurements.

"Something has to be done," said resident Marcy Bogdanich. "I think they've done a great job presenting this project."

Andy Kuchta said the improvements to the two-lane road are long overdue.

"There is better control of access," Kuchta said of the plans. "Instead of everyone having direct access to Route 228, it funnels everyone to the parallel access road, which is safer."

Connie Ritzert also was pleased with the plans.

"There were a number of rumors that were a lot worse," Ritzert said. "Anyone who lives in this area knows Three Degree is too narrow."

She said she would like to see a longer stretch of Three Degree Road widened to accommodate school bus traffic.

Mary Beth Smetana was also glad to see the project in the works that would improve the traffic flow on Route 228.

"I just found out I won't be able to make a left turn out of my driveway," Smetana said, "but I'm not upset about it."

Dayle Ferguson, Mars School board president, said the lawn and parking lot at the administration building adjacent to the primary center would be affected by the plan.

"The school district was engaged in the plan process and we appreciate the collaboration with the township and PennDOT, who have kept us apprised of the plan every step of the way," Ferguson said.

Adams Township engineer Ron Olsen appreciated all the consideration Rozich and his team afforded those impacted by the plan.

"It's important that this is not just 'make 228 more efficient,'" Olsen said. "They put a lot of thought into how to connect Route 228 and not inconvenience the school district or other property owners."

Rozich said if all goes according to schedule, construction could start in 2020 and will likely last more than two years.

He said he received positive feedback from the majority of property owners he talked to Thursday.

"People are thrilled with the lane configurations and access roads we are building," he said.