



Community Working Group Meeting #1 - Summary

Meetings Schedule

CWG meetings will be held at the Upper Merion Township Building and will begin at 7 p.m. Below is the schedule for the remainder of the year. Meetings will continue through 2017 and will be held on the third Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday, October 19th – Valley Forge Room
Wednesday, November 16th – Valley Forge Room
Tuesday, December 13th – Henderson Room

Meeting #1 Summary

Location: Upper Merion Township Building, Freedom Hall
Date: Wednesday, September 14th
Time: 7 – 9 p.m.

Attendees:

KOP Rail project team members-

Liz Smith, SEPTA
Fritz Ohrenschall, SEPTA
Bert Cossaboon, McCormick Taylor
Fran O'Brien, McCormick Taylor
Emily Watts, McCormick Taylor

CWG members-

Joan Grunwald
Martin Trumpler
Gary P. Russell
Mark Vondra
Craig Greenwood
Sue Groff (alternate for Pamela Hale)
Traci Ginnona
Ron Ginnona
Jacque Camp
Vivian Peikin

The goal for the first CWG meeting was to welcome and introduce members, explain the purpose of the CWG, review project updates, and find out what topics the CWG would like to know more about. The meeting began with a short survey to gauge the knowledge of the KOP Rail project and members views on the public outreach for the project.

The CWG is an informal working group assembled to discuss a wide range of issues associated with the KOP Rail project planning and Draft EIS phase of the project. Members are encouraged to represent a broad cross section of UMT residents from different neighborhoods, backgrounds and points of view.



After introductions and an overview of the purpose of the CWG, members paired up to share what they like about living in Upper Merion Township and what they would like to see changed/improve. Results of the topics discussed are provided below.

What do you like about UMT? *(Number denotes the amount of times the point was mentioned)*

- The Mall **(2)**
- Low taxes **(4)**
- Location (easy access to highways) **(3)**
- Community/neighborhood feeling **(5)**
- Low crime **(2)**
- Good schools **(2)**

What would you like to see change?

- Reduce traffic and congestion
- Better access to public transportation
- Need to get people out of cars
- Create a walkable community
- More open space
- Avoid and reduce crime from city-like changes
- Build a traditional style diner in KOP

After the report out, members were asked to identify topics, on index cards or to be emailed to Emily, related to KOP Rail or transportation in UMT in which they would like more information or explanation. These topics in addition to topics identified by the project team will be addressed in future meetings. Topics include public safety issues, who supports the project and how the Recommended LPA was chosen.

Open Discussion

All agreed that the issue of traffic in the township needs to be addressed. Other concerns include concerns of increased crime, noise, loss of privacy, vibrations, costs and who will be paying for the maintenance and construction; outreach earlier in the project was not good and the public was not well informed; the need for better public transportation in the area is critical; and this does not serve the residents.

Survey Results *(Number denotes the amount of times the answer was selected. Please note that some surveys had missing answers or multiple answers for one question.)*

1. Do you feel well informed?
 - a. Yes **(4)**
 - b. No
 - c. Somewhat **(3)**
2. Do you think the average UMT resident is well informed?
 - d. Yes **(1)**
 - e. No **(3)**
 - f. Somewhat **(3)**



3. Do you think the KOP rail public meetings, website and information program has been effective?
 - g. Yes **(3)**
 - h. No **(1)**
 - i. Somewhat **(3)**
4. What would make the project information program more effective?
 - j. More notifications sent to area residents **(3)**
 - k. Post meeting notices and project information to local boards (i.e. professional offices, grocery stores, etc.) **(3)**
 - l. Additional newspaper advertisements **(3)**
 - m. Additional project related materials handed out at public meetings or public information sessions **(3)**
 - n. Additional opportunities to talk to the project team (in person and/or online) **(3)**
 - o. Other
5. Please share any other thoughts about the project or your concerns.