



SEPTA

**Norristown High Speed Line Extension DEIS
Community Working Group Agenda**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016 (7 p.m.)
Upper Merion Township Building**

- I. Welcome & Introductions**
- II. Purpose of CWG**
 - Overview of the CWG
 - CWG Goals and Expectations
 - Meeting frequency
 - General Ground rules
- III. Topics of Discussion**
 - Exercise: What makes Upper Merion Township a great place to live? What would make Upper Merion Township better?
 - Local Issues and Concerns
- IV. Project updates**
 - Project Overview
 - Status of the Draft EIS
 - Public Hearing Process
- V. Wrap-up**
 - What KOP Rail-related topics would you like to discuss at future meetings?
- VI. Next Steps/Action Items**
 - Other Comments/Questions
 - Next Meeting



Goals of CWG:

- Educate and inform representatives from the UMT community.
- Develop a constructive conversation among SEPTA, the project team, and a variety of community members.
- Discuss a variety of topics throughout the course of the project.
- **Meet on a monthly basis through the DEIS.**
- Designate a facilitator to lead discussions for the meetings.

Ground Rules:

- Feel free to express your thoughts, concerns and questions during the meetings respectfully.
- Consider all points of view. Listen carefully to other's comments and ask questions for clarification.
- Share project information with neighbors and friends. Make sure the information comes from the project website, newsletters and project team staff.
- If you hear issues or concerns from neighbors and friends, please share those with the group.
- We prefer that you do not speak to the media about Working Group discussions. If you do, remember that you do not represent SEPTA, the project or the project team.
- Let us know if you will not be able to attend a meeting so that we may make adjustments.
- Meeting notes will be provided but you may want to keep your own notes.
- If you have a lot to say, use the "rule of three": let three others speak before speaking again.
- We will try to stick to the agenda. If you want to share something unrelated to the KOP Rail project, please be brief.
- The meetings are open to invited members of the Working Group only. Please do not invite others to attend with you or on your behalf.
- Make any suggestions that will make the Working Group more effective.

How members were chosen:

The Community Working Group was formed to give residents of Upper Merion Township a platform to learn, ask questions and give feedback on the progress of the KOP Rail project in a small group setting. Goals for the committee include: educate and inform representatives from the UMT community; develop constructive conversation among SEPTA, the project team, and a variety of community members; discuss a variety of topics; and meet once a month. Members of the committee were identified based on public meeting attendance, emails received at the project email address and comment cards received.

We limited the number of participants so that members might have thoughtful conversations, the opportunity to speak with SEPTA, and ask project team members and experts questions.



How the CWG will inform the DEIS and FEIS:

Early and continuing opportunities for public involvement are essential elements and required under federal law (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 or NEPA). NEPA compliance requires SEPTA to complete a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Forming a Community Working Group is one element of an extensive public and inter-agency involvement process being conducted by SEPTA for the KOP Rail project. Members of the Community Working Group will represent a wide range of interests within the King of Prussia area. Members have knowledge of how communications occur within the KOP community; as a result, the Community Working Group will help SEPTA to increase attendance at public meetings and other public forums.

Throughout the DEIS and in the FEIS, the Community Working Group provides an opportunity for the participants to be involved in the identification of social, economic, and environmental impacts, as well as impacts associated with possible relocations. The Community Working Group also gives participants the opportunity to identify and discuss a range of possible minimization and mitigation actions which could reduce and avoid impacts. As station area plans continue to be refined, the Community Working Group can serve as a sounding board for ideas on parking, shuttle bus access, sidewalks connections, crosswalks, etc. These are just some examples of how involvement in the Community Working Group can influence the DEIS and FEIS for KOP Rail.

Throughout the planning process for the KOP Rail project, SEPTA provided a number of opportunities to discuss issues, frame solutions, and affect final decisions. Knowledge is the basis of such active participation in a planning process and the Community Working Group provides that avenue for King of Prussia community members. Through continued interaction with the Community Working Group, SEPTA enables the public to have the opportunity to shape the substance of plans and actions for the KOP Rail project.



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.