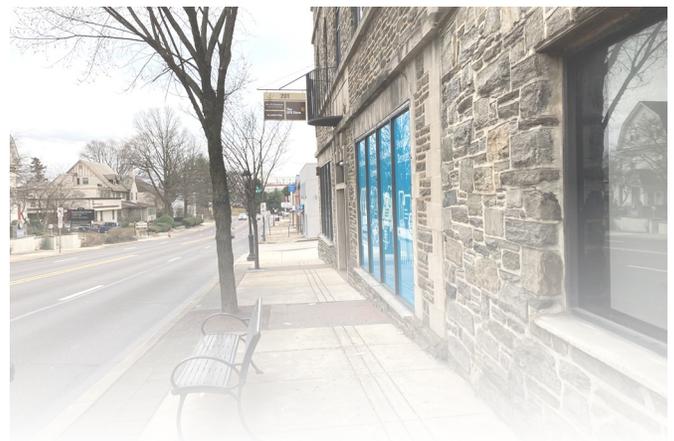


# Montco2040 Implementation Grant

## Old York Road (S.R. 0611) Traffic Calming & Walkability Plan Implementation

Jenkintown Borough, Montgomery County



Supporting Documentation  
March 2023



## SECTION 1. PROJECT NARRATIVE

Old York Road (State Route 611) through Jenkintown Borough is a critical arterial automobile route, a historically pedestrian-oriented commercial street, and an active regional bus route. This project was designed in collaboration with PennDOT as a high-impact, low-cost solution to educate and remind the motoring public of the lower speed limit and elevated pedestrian activity through downtown Jenkintown .

The most recent [pre-covid] traffic counts from PennDOT indicate that more than 36,000 vehicles pass through Jenkintown on Old York Road every day. The speed limit on York Road through Jenkintown is 25 MPH, which complements the character and scale of the downtown district; however, the speed limit on York Road on both the northern and southern approaches into Jenkintown is much higher at 40 MPH and 35 MPH, respectively. Additionally, the roadway geometry and limited speed measurement tools make police enforcement of the 25 MPH speed limit challenging, and other reckless driving issues such as running of red lights is a common concern for both the residents and business community.

In response to these constraints and multiple complaints about speeding, aggressive driving, and pedestrian access issues, the Borough proposes to implement the Old York Road Traffic Calming and Walkability Plan. Through the integrated use of both progressive and traditional traffic calming measures, the goal is to improve conditions on Old York Road for all road users.

### *This project will provide the following improvements:*

- **Transverse Rumble Strips:** Transverse rumble strip markings are a series of white transverse bars placed across the center of the lane and spaced progressively closer together. The visual of the additional pavement markings, as well as the noise and vibration effects created by driving over them, alerts drivers to slow down. These will be placed as drivers are approaching the reduced speed limit zone from either direction, and will be located away from residential areas in order to reduce any potential negative noise impacts. These have been installed in numerous locations throughout the region and are highly effective. According to PennDOT's *Traffic Calming Handbook*, each set of rumble strips can reduce approach speeds by 1 to 3 MPH.
- **Speed Reduction Signs:** The installation of speed reduction signs will function as a constant reminder of the roadway's speed limit reduction as drivers approach downtown Jenkintown and provide a wider field of vision and an opportunity to pay more attention to other road users.
- **Updated and Larger "25 MPH" Speed Limit Signs:** New, larger speed limit signs will be installed that are highly-reflective and harder for drivers to miss.
- **Speed Limit Pavement Marking Legends:** In addition to roadside speed limit signage, in-road pavement markings will be installed to increase awareness of the environment through which the person is driving and remind drivers of the speed limit and the precautions to be taken.



- **Dynamic Speed Display Signs:** Dynamic speed display signs will be installed to provide a real-time dynamic display of a driver's vehicular speed. These signs are more effective if they are moved throughout the corridor and not maintained, long-term, at a fixed location.
- **Updated Pedestrian Signs:** Fluorescent green "Pedestrian Ahead" signs will be added in advance of each signalized intersection with pedestrian crossings to remind drivers of the increased presence of pedestrian activity.
- **Retroreflective Traffic Signal Backplates:** Retroreflective backplates are now installed on all new or modernized traffic signals and are a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure (<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/backplate.cfm>) that helps improve signal visibility by framing it with a thick yellow retroreflective border. All existing signalheads within the project area will be retrofitted to have backplates equipped with retroreflective borders in order to make them more visible and conspicuous in both daytime and nighttime conditions.

#### CASE STUDY: CITY AVENUE (U.S. ROUTE 1)

*A combination of several of the traffic calming improvements proposed as part of this project were recently implemented along City Avenue (U.S. Route 1) near St. Joseph's University's campus. Rumble strips, in-road speed limit pavement markings, and dynamic speed display signs are used to encourage slower vehicular speeds and awareness of pedestrian activity, similar to what is proposed for Old York Road through downtown Jenkintown.*



## SECTION 2. CONNECTION TO MONTCO2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The proposed Traffic Calming and Walkability Plan relates to all three themes and advances several goals of the Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*.

### CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

**Improve transportation quality and expand options for County residents and workers & Support strong downtowns and community destinations.** This project supports the *Connected Communities Theme* by improving transportation quality for automobile drivers, pedestrians, and transit users along Old York Road. The proposed thoughtful combination of improvements will help to calm traffic and encourage pedestrian accessibility to destinations and amenities along the corridor including multiple SEPTA bus stops, the Jenkintown Library, churches, and commercial establishments. In addition, this project, which builds upon past successful downtown revitalization initiatives, demonstrates the Borough's continued commitment to working with partners such as PennDOT to strengthen the Borough's sense of place and community character.

### SUSTAINABLE PLACES

**Support a modern, resilient, green, and energy-efficient infrastructure network & Enhance community character and protect neighborhoods.** This project supports the *Sustainable Places Theme* by implementing a coordinated traffic calming and walkability improvement plan to make Old York Road through Jenkintown more accessible and appealing to all road users including pedestrians and transit users.

### VIBRANT ECONOMY

**Improve transportation access to businesses.** By encouraging the high volume of traffic on Old York Road to slow down through downtown Jenkintown, the Borough is advancing their economic development goal to maintain the historic Borough's walkable town character and accentuate the retail and institutional destinations along Old York Road, in keeping with the recommendations of the *Vibrant Economy Theme*.

## SECTION 3. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The proposed traffic calming and walkability improvements will address diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Jenkintown community because improving some of the poor driver behaviors routinely exhibited along this corridor will improve access to the Borough's many amenities and institutions for all roadway users, especially the most *vulnerable road users*.

A *vulnerable road user* is defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a nonmotorist, including people walking, biking, or rolling (such as using a wheelchair). In Jenkintown, several factors indicate that there may be a higher number of vulnerable road users that may need to be able to access or cross Old York Road. Nearly 10% of the households in the Borough do not own a vehicle and 18% of the population commutes to work via public transit, walking, or other non-vehicular means.



Recent guidance from FHWA emphasizes the need to prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users, such as Jenkintown proposes to do by implementing targeted traffic calming strategies to encourage reduced vehicular speeds and greater awareness of pedestrian crossings and activity, including those using mobility devices.

It is the Borough's hope that the successful implementation of this plan, that was developed through a collaborative effort with PennDOT, becomes a highly-visible model for other municipalities facing similar challenges to address traffic calming and walkability improvements in an equitable way and to ensure road users of all abilities have access to their transportation network.

#### **SECTION 4. PROJECT LOCATION**

Please see Attachment A for the Project Location Map. This project is located along Old York Road (State Route 611) from just south of Rodman Avenue (northern extent of the project) to just south of Washington Lane (southern extent of the project). Several photos of existing conditions along the project corridor are included as Attachment B.

#### **SECTION 5. PROJECT PLANS**

Please see Attachment C for the Old York Road Traffic Calming and Walkability Plan showing the locations and specifications for all proposed improvements.

#### **SECTION 6. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

The project will be implemented by Jenkintown Borough. The Borough Public Works Department will oversee the project from permitting through construction. Borough Manager George Locke will serve as the project administrator to ensure that the project is on schedule and that all grant requirements, such as status reports and payment requests, are submitted in a timely manner. The Borough Traffic Engineer will work closely with the Borough to prepare all necessary documents and permits, and to assist with oversight of the construction process, including additional coordination with PennDOT, if necessary.

#### **SECTION 7. REQUIRED PERMITS**

The proposed project was approved by PennDOT in March 2022 and is shovel ready. Please see Attachment D for more information.

#### **SECTION 8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

This project is the *result* of public outreach. PennDOT notified Jenkintown Borough in April 2021 of a customer complaint along the corridor. The Borough then began to work closely with PennDOT representatives to develop and approve this plan that utilizes both progressive and traditional traffic calming measures to encourage slower vehicular traffic speeds and enhance pedestrian comfort and accessibility. This Traffic Calming and Walkability Plan has been discussed at multiple public meetings in 2021 and 2022 and feedback has been vetted and incorporated. In addition, this project leverages the high-level of community interest in traffic calming and walkability that was generated



through the *Jenkintown2035 Comprehensive Plan* planning process. Portions of Old York Road to the north and south are located in Abington Township and township staff have been supportive of the proposed improvements. Several recent plans in Abington have also recommended improvements along the Old York Road corridor.

## SECTION 8. CONNECTION TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS

This project is consistent with and supported by several local and regional plans.

### Jenkintown2035 Comprehensive Plan, MCPC, 2018

The *Jenkintown 2035 Comprehensive Plan* is structured around four themes: Neighborhood Preservation, Economic Development, Sustainability, and Transportation. Public outreach, including a community survey with 789 responses, a public workshop with over 80 attendees, and outreach at community events such as the Jenkintown Festival of the Arts, contributed greatly to the formation of the plan.

A common transportation concern expressed by residents through the public outreach process related to Old York Road:

“Evaluate and implement strategies to protect the walkability, safety, and economic vitality of Jenkintown’s historic town center while accommodating the current traffic volumes along Old York Road.”  
- *Jenkintown2035 Recommendation*

- 67% of community survey respondents indicated that they were concerned about road safety on Old York Road
- 56% of survey respondents described traffic speed as a primary road safety concern

### *Transportation Theme*

The transportation theme encourages the use of alternative transportation modes, including biking, walking, and using public transportation, while recognizing the need to safely and adequately accommodate local and regional vehicular traffic. The Borough’s established walkable scale and access to the regional transportation network are seen as major assets for residents and employers alike. Additionally, Old York Road is an asset to the community as a major north-south connector; however, high traffic volumes and speeds and a lack of buffer for pedestrians create a significant obstacle between the east and west sides of the Borough. The comprehensive plan recognized the challenges along this important corridor and focused on options to prioritize pedestrian comfort and connectivity and provide traffic calming benefits to improve Old York Road for all roadway users.

The proposed improvements are directly supported by multiple transportation recommendations from *Jenkintown 2035*, including the recommendation to “evaluate and implement strategies to protect the walkability, safety, and economic vitality of Jenkintown’s historic town center while accommodating the current traffic volumes along Old York Road.” By implementing strategies aimed at slowing vehicular traffic through downtown Jenkintown and highlighting the Borough’s increased pedestrian and transit user activity, the Borough is advancing the recommendation to “ensure roadway infrastructure adequately and safely serves all roadway users by implementing targeted traffic calming strategies.”



### *Economic Development Theme*

One of the guiding principles of the Economic Development Theme is to “build upon the established scale and historic character of Jenkintown’s commercial areas while improving the downtown experience by enhancing the public realm, creating a pleasant strolling environment, and establishing a unique identity for the Borough’s commercial areas.” By focusing on proven traffic calming strategies that do not require altering the configuration of the roadway or demolishing buildings, the Borough is encouraging traffic calming while preserving the historic sense of place and identity that the established buildings and streetscape along Old York Road through Jenkintown create.

### Jenkintown Revitalization Master Plan, Kise, Straw & Kolodner, 2002

The Borough’s 2002 Revitalization Plan, which was also updated in 2010, includes related goals to “create a quality pedestrian environment that encourages strolling along and crossing Old York Road” and to “minimize speeding throughout [the] Borough.” The proposed improvements will advance several recommended strategies from the Revitalization Plan by implementing elements of a streetscape improvement program and traffic calming strategies. Enhancing visibility of existing, signalized pedestrian crossings through the strategic placement of signage also advances the goal to “create a walking district in Uptown that weaves the west and the east sides of Old York [Road] into the strong pedestrian environment of the Town Square area.”

## **SECTION 10. MAINTENANCE PLAN**

The Jenkintown Borough Public Works Department has a long history of maintaining pavement markings and signage and will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the proposed work. These traffic calming measures require minimal maintenance. The maintenance schedule includes monthly inspections, and prompt responses to issues and user complaints. The maintenance cost is expected to be minimal, up to \$1,000 per year, and is anticipated to be funded out of the Borough budget.

## **SECTION 11. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Education is one of the three critical components of an effective traffic calming strategy. This traffic calming plan will continually educate and inform motorists of the reduced speed limit in this pedestrian-oriented zone of Old York Road (S.R. 0611) as motorists progress through the corridor within Jenkintown Borough. Borough leadership routinely evaluates and discusses York Road traffic conditions in public meetings, and all are welcome to participate. The Borough makes participation very easy as residents are welcome to make comments at any public meeting (in person, virtually, or by submitted comment) in addition to engaging directly with their elected officials who have a long history of discussing resident feedback in public meetings.

## **SECTION 12. PROJECT BUDGET**

Please see Attachment E for an itemized budget for the project.

## **SECTION 13. MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION**

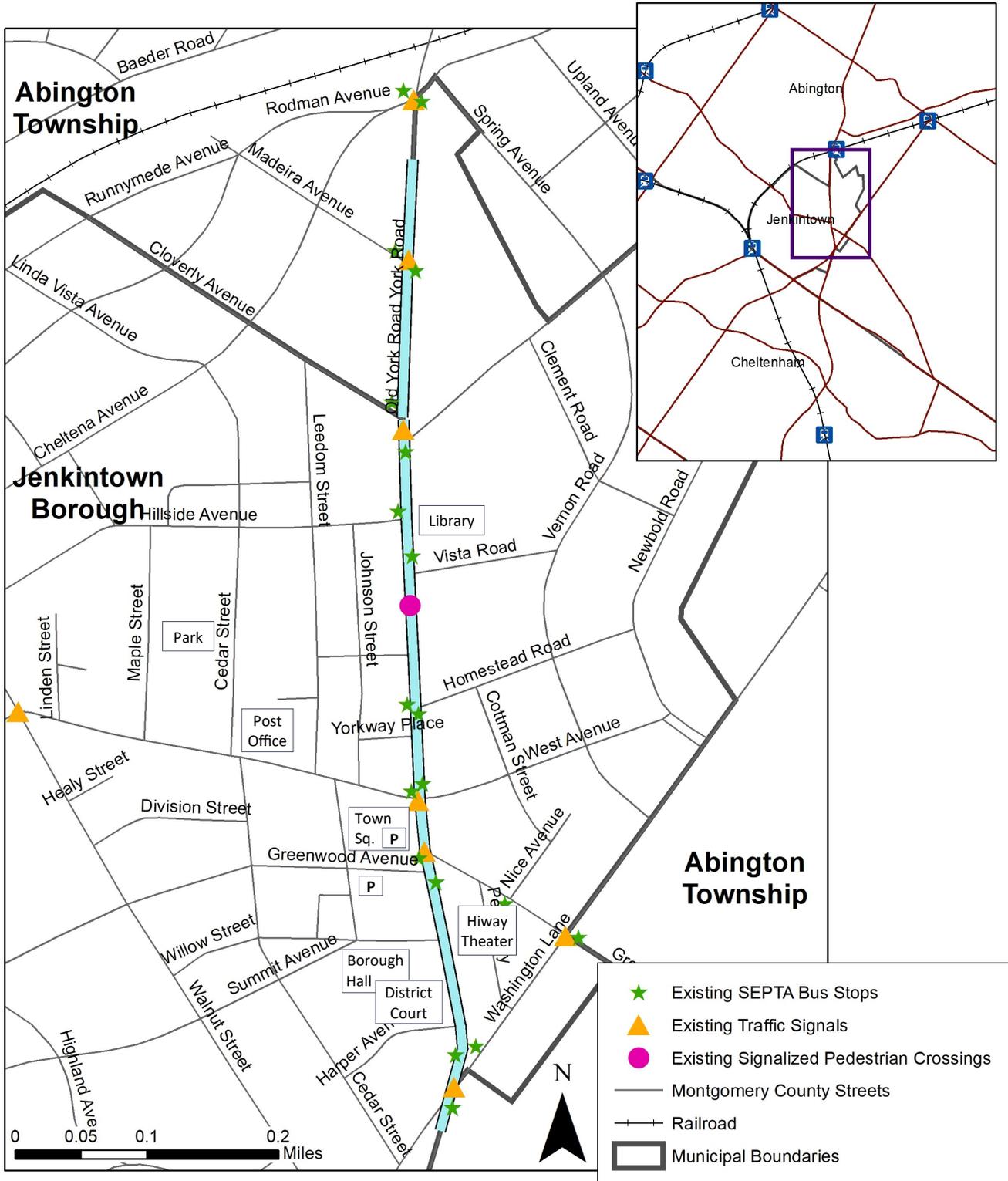
Please see Attachment F for a copy of the municipal resolution authorizing the project application .



ATTACHMENT A. PROJECT LOCATION MAP

# Old York Road (S.R. 0611) Traffic Calming & Walkability Plan

Jenkintown Borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania



ATTACHMENT B. EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS



*Intersection of Old York Road and Cloverly Avenue looking south as you enter the 25 MPH zone.*



*The existing signalized pedestrian crossing between Vista Road and Cherry Street will be updated with new signage.*



*The intersection of Old York Road and West Avenue is an important pedestrian crossing in the heart of the Borough.*



*The Borough's historic buildings, iconic signage, and distinctive streetscape design contribute to a traditional Main Street feel and sense of place.*



*Traffic volume, vehicular speed, and the lack of a buffer, such as on-street parking, makes walking along Old York Road less comfortable.*



*Intersection of Old York Road and Summit Avenue looking south as you exit the 25 MPH zone.*



## ATTACHMENT D. PENNDOT CORRESPONDENCE

**From:** Malaviya, Sharang <shmalaviya@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 11:08 AM  
**To:** Mark E. Bickerton  
**Cc:** Centofante, Donald; Oksana Bihun  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: SR 0611 - Jenkintown Boro.

Hi Mark,

I am good with the revised plan and don't have any further comments. I don't think it's necessary for me to attend the walk through but if the borough would like to have a department representative to answer any questions, I am more than happy to attend.

Thanks,

**Sharang Malaviya P.E.** | Traffic Safety Supervisor  
he/him/his  
PA Department of Transportation | Engineering District 6-0  
Operations Unit/Traffic Safety  
7000 Geerdes Blvd | King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Phone: 610.205.6924 | Fax: 610.205.6598  
[www.penndot.pa.gov](http://www.penndot.pa.gov)

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**From:** Mark E. Bickerton <MBickerton@Pennoni.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 11:43 AM  
**To:** Malaviya, Sharang <shmalaviya@pa.gov>  
**Cc:** Centofante, Donald <DOCENTOFAN@pa.gov>; Oksana Bihun <OBihun@Pennoni.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: SR 0611 - Jenkintown Boro.

Hi Sharang,

We have revised the sketch as requested. Please see attached and let us know if this is approved. When the Borough is ready to install, we will schedule a walkthrough to field spot each of these elements, would you like to be invited?

Thanks,  
Mark

**Mark E. Bickerton, PE**

**Pennoni**

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**Direct:** +1 (215) 589-6025  
[www.pennoni.com](http://www.pennoni.com) | [MBickerton@Pennoni.com](mailto:MBickerton@Pennoni.com)

ATTACHMENT E. ITEMIZED BUDGET

2/17/2022

York Road Traffic Calming  
 Jenkintown Borough  
 Jenkintown, PA

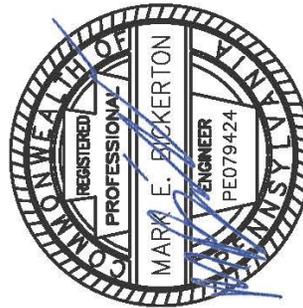
Opinion of Probable Construction Costs

Item Number	Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
0608-0001	MOBILIZATION	1	LS	2,500.00	2,500.00
0901-0001	MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION	1	LS	5,597.95	5,597.95
0931-0001	POST MOUNTED SIGNS, TYPE B	191	SF	35.00	6,667.50
0935-0001	POST MOUNTED SIGNS, TYPE F	48	SF	25.00	1,200.00
0955-5000	BACKPLATE RETROFIT	12	EACH	500.00	6,000.00
0960-0001	4" WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS	600	LF	5.50	3,300.00
0960-0005	6" WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS	600	LF	7.50	4,500.00
0960-0113	WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "MPH", 8' - 0"	18	EACH	350.00	6,300.00
0960-0302	WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "2", 8' - 0"	18	EACH	180.00	3,240.00
0960-0305	WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "5", 8' - 0"	18	EACH	180.00	3,240.00
9000-0001	SPEED RADAR SIGN	2	EACH	6,000.00	12,000.00

**SUBTOTAL = \$54,545.45**  
**CONTINGENCY (10%) = \$5,454.55**  
**TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST = \$60,000.00**  
**BIDDING, CONTRACT MANAGEMENT, & INSPECTION = \$5,000.00**

**TOTAL PROJECT COST = \$65,000.00**

**GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT = \$52,000.00**  
**MUNICIPAL MATCH (20% OF GRANT REQUEST) = \$13,000.00**



Mark E. Bickerton, PE

## ATTACHMENT F. MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

## BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

## RESOLUTION 2023-8

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2023 ROUND OF THE MONTCO 2040 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM**

The Borough Council of the Borough of Jenkintown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (the "Borough") hereby adopts the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Montgomery County has established the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program as a competitive funding program to assist municipalities in implementing the goals of the county comprehensive plan, Montco 2040: A Shared Vision; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is accepting applications for projects that advance specific goals under either of the county comprehensive plan's three themes: Connecting Communities, Sustainable Places, and a Vibrant Economy; and

**WHEREAS**, applications and projects must meet all stated requirements within the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program Guidebook; and

**WHEREAS**, Jenkintown Borough wishes to obtain \$52,000 from the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program to provide funding for the York Road Traffic Calming project; and

**WHEREAS**, Jenkintown Borough has worked cooperatively with PennDOT to develop a traffic calming plan along the York Road (SR 0611) corridor within Jenkintown Borough which implements several strategies identified in PennDOT's Traffic Calming Handbook and FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures that will further enhance the pedestrian crossings at signalized intersections and the 25 MPH speed limit throughout the corridor; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Council of Jenkintown Borough, hereby authorizes Montgomery County Planning Commission & Pennoni Associates to collaboratively submit an application for the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council of Jenkintown Borough agrees to, if selected for the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant, provide 20% of the total project cost as match in local, county, state, or private funds or documented in-kind services, for a cost not to exceed \$10,400.00.

ATTACHMENT F CONTINUED. MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

**DULY PRESENTED AND ADOPTED** at the regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Jenkintown held this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023.

**BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN**

  
Jay Connors  
Borough Council President

ATTEST:   
George K Locke  
Borough Secretary

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