

PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR PHASING PLAN NEWSLETTER NO. 1 MARCH 2008

CORRIDOR PHASING PLAN STUDY

The City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Transportation and Engineering, has selected *L. Robert Kimball & Associates* (Kimball) to provide consultant services in formulating a Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan which will advise the City in programming transportation improvements along Penn Avenue from 34th Street to Negley Avenue.

The scope of the Phasing Plan consists of an assessment of Penn Avenue infrastructure needs and the development of prioritized improvements for construction. This project will “revitalize” the Penn Avenue Corridor with transportation improvements that may range from new traffic and pedestrian signals to street paving and reconstruction. The Plan will take into account the corridor’s needs, community priorities, and available funding while seeking to create an inviting and sustainable street that promotes community ownership, pride, and maintenance of the street and related public spaces.

PROJECT NEED

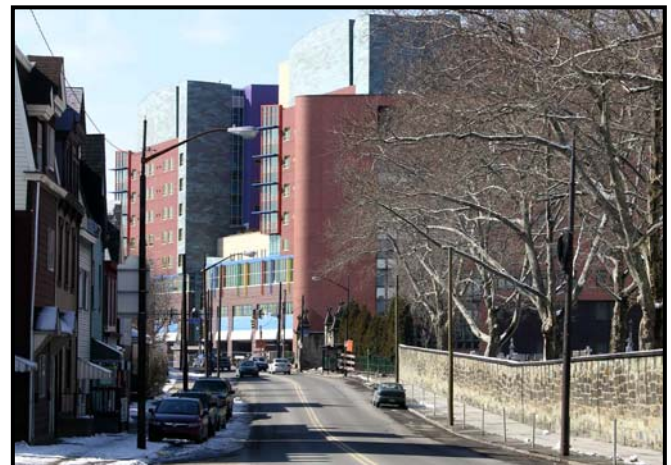
Penn Avenue is an eclectic street running from downtown Pittsburgh through the Strip District, and the Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, and East Liberty neighborhoods, before merging with State Route 8 and continuing beyond the City. It functions as a commuter route for city workers and an address for adjacent businesses, residents and institutions.

Over the past few years a number of development projects have been initiated or completed along Penn Avenue as it traverses the East End including Red Star Ironworks, Edge Studios offices, the Quiet Storm, Pittsburgh Glass Center, and two major institutional developments – UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Children’s Home. This section of Penn Avenue is also becoming a focal point for abutting neighborhoods serving as a main street for surrounding communities.

The City has programmed federal transportation funds to address the deteriorated street conditions along Penn Avenue in the East End. These funds are available to address safety, congestion, and physical problems on the Penn Avenue corridor. Penn Avenue experiences daily congestion with an awkward and often unsafe mix of traffic and pedestrians. In addition, the infrastructure within the corridor has exceeded its useful life. In response, community leaders are advocating for a more pedestrian friendly and inviting street to complement ongoing development activity and enhance Penn Avenue’s main street role and function.

PROJECT LIMITS

The project extends along Penn Avenue for approximately 2 miles from 34th Street to Negley Avenue. The project includes 31 intersections, 14 of which are signalized. In order to address safety, congestion, and infrastructure needs, the intent is to consider the entire street from building line to building line including the cartway, sidewalks, streetscapes, and utilities. The project limits include the neighborhoods of Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Garfield, Friendship, and East Liberty.



The New UPMC Children’s Hospital

PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR PHASING PLAN NEWSLETTER NO. 1 MARCH 2008

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING

The total estimated cost for completely reconstructing Penn Avenue from building line to building line, 34th to Negley Avenue is in excess of \$35 million. Existing budgets and city-wide need preclude allocating sufficient federal and city matching funds to cover these costs. Under the advise of the Federal Highway Administration and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the City, in cooperation with the community, has been instructed to formulate a *Corridor Phasing Plan* for the City to use as a guide in programming and advancing transportation improvements along Penn Avenue given the corridor's needs, community's priorities, and available funding.

Federal and local monies have been programmed for this project to cover engineering and construction costs of the first phase of improvements. Additional funds will be programmed for future improvement projects.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

Project elements will address congestion, safety, and deteriorated conditions through a number of street, traffic, and streetscape improvements. These improvements may include:

- new traffic and pedestrian signals
- new crosswalks and sidewalks
- new street lighting
- street paving and reconstruction
- new sidewalks
- new utility lines
- new signing and pavement markings
- transit/cycling accommodations
- street trees and furniture
- other associated physical improvements



The Plan will take into account the corridor's needs, community priorities, and available funding to create of

a safe and sustainable urban street corridor that promotes community ownership, pride, and stewardship.

PROJECT TEAM

The project team includes:

- Federal Highway Administration
- PA Department of Transportation
- City of Pittsburgh
- L Robert Kimball & Associates
- Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan Committee (PACPPC)

The PACPPC is an ad hoc group consisting of community representatives from the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Friendship Development Associates, Garfield-Jubilee Association, Friendship Preservation Group, Lawrenceville United, and Lawrenceville Corporation as well as local and state public official representatives.



Penn Avenue – Old and New

PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

There will be two public meetings for this project: The first meeting will be held in early March to introduce the scope of project to the community and

**PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR PHASING PLAN
 NEWSLETTER NO. 1
 MARCH 2008**

begin a dialogue regarding the community's use of Penn Avenue and related needs and desires. The second meeting will be held in the fall/winter of 2008 and will provide recommendations for physical improvements along Penn Avenue. In addition, there are monthly PACPPC Status Meetings held at the Bloomfield-Garfield Community Center on North Pacific Avenue. These meetings serve to coordinate ongoing planning and engineering tasks with community stakeholders.



Penn Avenue and South Millvale Avenue

**CORRIDOR PHASING PLAN
SCOPE OF WORK**

Kimball's scope of work for the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan includes the following components:

- *Background Drawings/Information*
- *Preliminary Right-of-Way Investigation*
- *Existing Utility Coordination*
- *Pavement Condition Survey*
- *Existing Sidewalk Investigation*
- *Street Lighting Photometrics*
- *Traffic Analysis*
 - *Level of Service / Capacity Analysis*
 - *Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis*
 - *Accident Data and Analysis*

- *Intelligent Transportation Systems*
- *Transit Operations*
- *Pedestrian Safety*
- *On-Street Parking Analysis*
- *Origin and Destination Study*
- *Cycling Safety and Facilities*
- *Needs Analysis*
 - *Physical Condition of Infrastructure*
 - *Community plans*
 - *Transportation Demand and Use*
 - *Safety*
 - *Contribution to the Corridor's Quality of Life/Business*
- *Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Cost*
- *Corridor Phasing Plan*

Kimball will provide five (5) color booklets, one (1) black and white original (for photocopy purposes) one (1) PDF File, and five (5) CD's of the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan to the City and present the results to the community. The following information will be presented in the final plan:

- *Overview of the Corridor Phasing Plan*
- *Corridor-Wide Background / Base Maps*
- *Community Plans Overview*
- *Corridor-Wide Needs / Community Needs*
- *Public and Community Involvement*
- *Transportation Analysis / Findings*
- *Right-of-Way and Utility Impacts*
- *Pavement, Sidewalk, and Curb Conditions*
- *Vault and Bike Rack Locations*
- *Transit / Parking / Cycling Needs*
- *Traffic Study Results*
- *Infrastructure Projects*
- *Project Costs and Priorities*
- *Corridor Phasing Plan – Implementation*

PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

In 2006, four community development corporations including Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, East Liberty Development Inc, Friendship Development Associates, and the Lawrenceville Corporation received a grant

**PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR PHASING PLAN
NEWSLETTER NO. 1
MARCH 2008**

from the Surdna Foundation to create a Penn Avenue Master Plan from Doughboy Square to Penn Circle West. The Master Plan is to include a market study for the corridor, a community vision statement, design guidelines for Penn Avenue, and a development plan with project priorities. This Plan will provide important planning, urban design, community, and real estate development information for the Penn Avenue Corridor Phasing Plan.



Penn Avenue and 34th Street (Doughboy Square)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Corridor Phasing Plan – Jan '09 Completion
 - Community Meeting #1 – March '08
 - Community Meeting #2 – Dec '08
- Project #1 Design – April '10 Completion
- Construction – March '11 Completion
- Project #2 Design – Dec '11 Completion
- Construction – Dec '12 Completion



Public Art (The Bride) along Penn Avenue

For more information on this project, please contact:

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