

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township of West Orange Planning Board

FR: Gerard M. Haizel, PP, AICP, Principal 

RE: **Master Plan Consistency Review – Ordinance 2891-25 - An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 2, Subsection 61, Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange, Establishing A Complete and Green Streets Advisory Committee and Creating a Complete and Green Streets Policy.**

DT: January 29, 2025

Pursuant to The *NJ Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL)* at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26(a), the above referenced matter was referred to the Township Planning Board for review and comment to the Governing Body, regarding the proposed Ordinance's consistency with the Township's Master Plan.

For this review, the following items were reviewed:

- Township of West Orange Ordinance 2891-25
- Township of West Orange Master Plan Reexamination Report And Plan Element Amendments – 2019.

At its meeting on January 28, 2025, the West Orange Township Council introduced **Ordinance 2891-25** on first reading. This Ordinance will amend and supplement Chapter 2, Subsection 61, Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange, sstablishing a *Complete and Green Streets Advisory Committee and Creating A Complete and Green Streets Policy*.

The purpose of the proposed amendment, as stated in Ordinance 2891-25, is to utilize Complete and Green Streets as a means to provide a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options through planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities along the entire right-of-way for all roadway users of all ages and abilities.

The Ordinance proposes to incorporate Complete Streets and sustainable Green Streets design elements, such as green stormwater infrastructure, traffic calming treatments, shade trees, and the use of recycled materials, to protect and create a healthier natural and social environment, improve air and water quality, and reduce localized flooding.

Further, Complete and Green Streets implementation provides the opportunity to enhance the historic character of our communities and our understanding of our shared history in a way that promotes the economic and social vitality of our communities and should be considered in the design of infrastructure improvements.

The proposed amended and supplemented Chapter 2-61: “Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board” of the Township’s Revised General Ordinances will also include a **“Complete and Green Streets Policy”** which is made part of the Revised General Ordinance at, **Chapter 2, Subsection 61.7 – West Orange Complete and Green Streets Policy**.

Consistency with the Township of West Orange 2019 Master Plan Update

The proposed **Ordinance 2891-25** seeks to improve safety on the Township’s roadways by implementing a new policy which will integrate elements of Complete Streets with sustainable “Green” design elements. The Township’s Master Plan 2019 Update references the goal and recommendation of improving the Township’s roadway network through promotion of the Complete Streets framework.

In the Plan Element Amendments, Section V. Circulation, B. Existing Conditions, Issues and Recommendations, the Plan recommends the follow,

- *“Create a Complete Streets checklist for development applications to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.*
- *Enact a Complete Streets ordinance, which incorporates green design features.*
- *Incorporate green streets and infrastructure, in furtherance of New Jersey’s updated stormwater management rules.”*

In the Plan Element Amendments, Section VIII. Sustainability, E. Core Topics – Land Use and Mobility, the Plan further recommends the follow,

- *“Implementing the Township’s existing Complete Streets policy by adopting a complete street development checklist and/or ordinance to ensure that roads are designed for all users, not just automobiles, and connect to local destinations.*
- *Incorporate sustainability measures into Complete Streets requirements.”*

Based on my review as detailed above, in my opinion, the proposed amendment to Chapter 2-61: “Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board” of the Township’s Revised General Ordinances, is consistent with the Township’s Master Plan and furthers the goals and objectives of the same.