

EXHIBIT 1



TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

25 LAKESIDE AVENUE, WEST ORANGE, N.J. 07052

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

SUSAN McCARTNEY

Mayor

Tel/Fax: (973) 325-4160

ZAYIBETH CARBALLO

Director, Municipal Engineer

Email: Engineering@westorange.org

February 29, 2024

VIA MAIL DELIVERY

Francis K. O'Connor, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

**Re: Pedestrian Safety I-280 Ramps
Township of West Orange, Essex County
I-280 East Ramp at Pleasant Valley Way (CR 636)**

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

On behalf of the Township of West Orange, our Engineering Department would like to request pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of the I-280 eastbound ramp and Pleasant Valley Way (CR 636).

- There are no pedestrian crosswalk heads installed at the traffic signals.
- There are sidewalks that do not lead to crosswalks.
- There are crosswalks that do not have ADA compliant curb cuts or detectable warning systems, particularly on the islands.
- The concrete curbs, especially on the ramp center island show erosion from salt and should be replaced.

On the opposite side of the highway (westbound ramps) there are pedestrian crosswalk heads installed. All other issues are addressed, except for the lack of detectable warning systems at the crossings.

Pedestrians regularly cross these intersections on the way to school or worship and have contacted the Township for a resolution to this issue. Attached is a letter from NJDOT to Township resident Robert Daniel dated February 12, 2019 (Exhibit A), and Township concerned

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resident Robert Daniel correspondence to NJDOT with some photos of the area dated November 16, 2018 (Exhibit B).

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter with the proper official, and to see what the Township would need to contribute for 25% of the costs associated with request for pedestrian signal heads and operationally based electrical construction projects as mentioned in letter dated February 12, 2019 to the Township to ensure its completion.

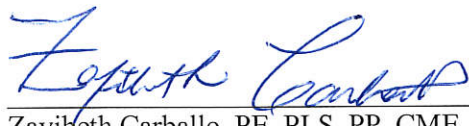
Previous calls and letters from the Township and local constituents have yielded a contact from the Office of Community and Constituent Relations and a promise to be contacted by a representative of Traffic Engineering. So far, we have not been contacted.

The Township has committed resources to the *Vision Zero Action Plan (2023-2030)* that NJDOT finalized in December 2023 and endorsed the Safe Streets near Schools program as well. As a community, West Orange is proactive in efforts to ensure pedestrian safety and established the Pedestrian safety Advisory Board as a volunteer committee in May 2015. Attached is a copy of NJDOT Finalized Township's *Vision Zero Action Plan (2023-2030)* as Exhibit C. Please refer to pages 24-25, 51-52, 102 and 138-147 with area of concern identified on maps and text.

We look forward to working together with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in a collaborative effort to improve and address pedestrian safety concerns for all residents of the Township of West Orange and non-residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Our offices are open M-F 8:30-4:30. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Zayibeth Carballo, PE, PLS, PP, CME, CFM, CFS
Municipal Engineer/Director of Engineering

ZYC/gmc

[filename: 1_njdot pvw ramps-sw]

Enclosures

cc: Susan McCartney, Mayor
James Abbott, Chief of Police/Interim BA
John Gross Chief of Staff/CFO
Pete Smeraldo, Assistant BA
Jerry Guarino, PSAB
Sanjeev Varghese, County Engineer

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EXHIBIT A



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

February 12, 2019

Robert S. Daniel, PhD
2-B Buckingham Road
West Orange, NJ 07052-1184

Dear Dr. Daniel:

Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti has asked me to respond to your letter requesting the installation of pedestrian traffic signal heads and intersection improvements on Route 280 eastbound ramps at Pleasant Valley Way. On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), I appreciate the opportunity to assist you.

As you may be aware, there are certain municipal requirements associated with the vast majority of state highway projects undertaken by NJDOT, such as sharing in costs or providing resolutions of support. With respect to your request for pedestrian signal heads, as per NJDOT Policy 346, West Orange Township must commit to pay 25% of the costs associated with operationally-based electrical construction projects. I have taken this opportunity to forward your concerns to the attention of West Orange Mayor Robert D. Parisi. Should municipal officials concur with your thoughts, upon receipt of the cost-sharing commitment, NJDOT's Traffic Engineering representatives will be happy to initiate this investigation.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Meredith Hammond, Office of Community and Constituent Relations, at (609) 963-1982.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Jimenez", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Jay Jimenez
Chief of Staff

c: Robert D. Parisi
Mayor, West Orange Township (w/encl.)

EXHIBIT B

Robert S. Daniel, PhD
2-B Buckingham Road
West Orange, NJ 07052-1184

November 16, 2018

Ms. Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation
PO Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

Dear Ms. Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Subject: Pedestrian signals, crosswalks and ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps
Intersection in West Orange of I-280 Eastbound Ramps at Pleasant Valley Way

Could one of your staff members kindly examine the status of this intersection's compliance with the NJDOT's overall program of compliance with American Disability Act, Title II (Section 504)?

It is quite evident that minimal pedestrian aids are missing at this location.

- There are no pedestrian crosswalk heads on the traffic signals.
- There are sidewalks which do not lead to crosswalks.
- There are crosswalks which do not have the ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps particularly in the center islands.

Perhaps this intersection is scheduled for review in 2019, or 2020? Or should have been upgraded years ago....all of this in the overall context of available resources, project prioritizations and the Department's Transition Plan and self-evaluation (2015)

I can be reached by phone at 201.303.3554 or by e-mail at robertdaniel1921@gmail.com

Thanking you in advance.



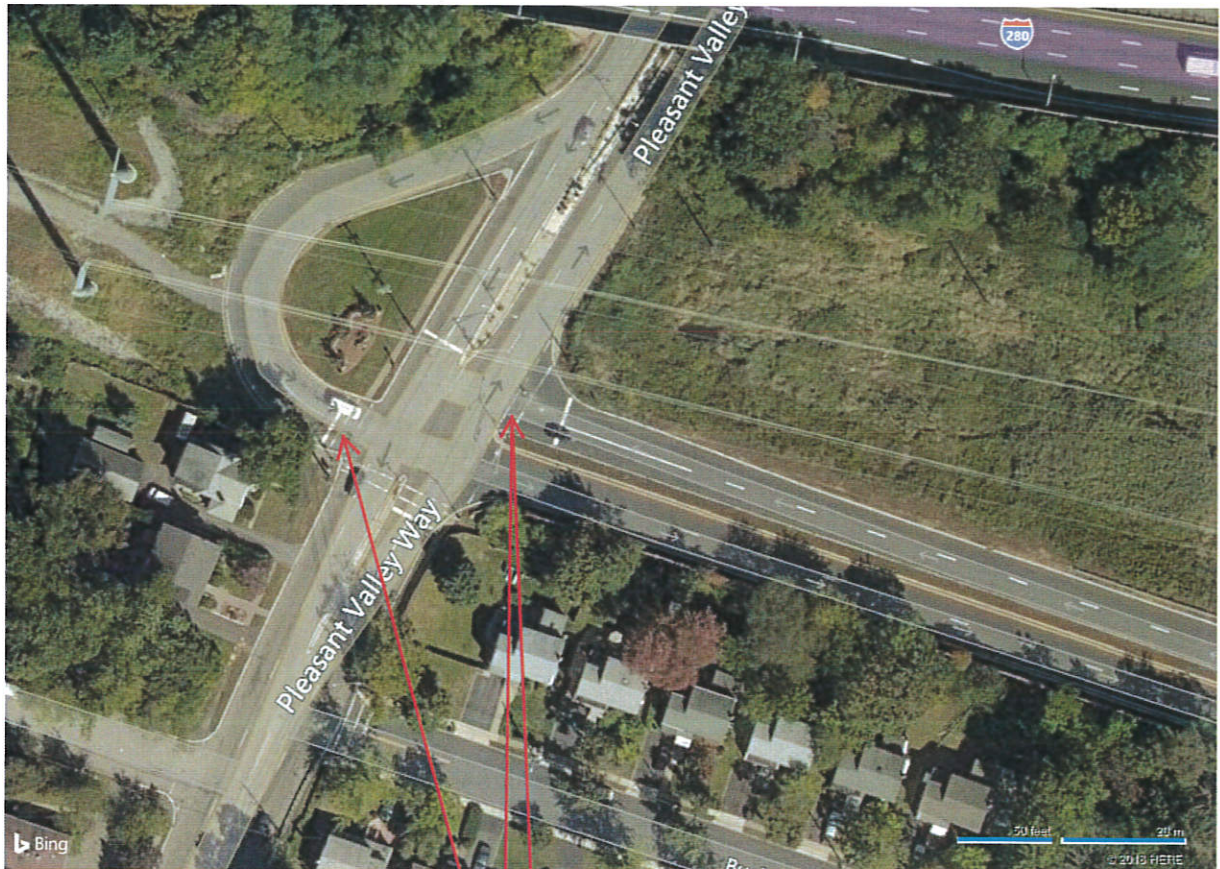
Rob Daniel

Attached:
Map and photo

bing maps

Notes

Intersection of ramps to and from I-280
East and Pleasant Valley Way in West
Orange (County Road 636).
November 16, 2018



Curb cuts and
pedestrian
heads missing

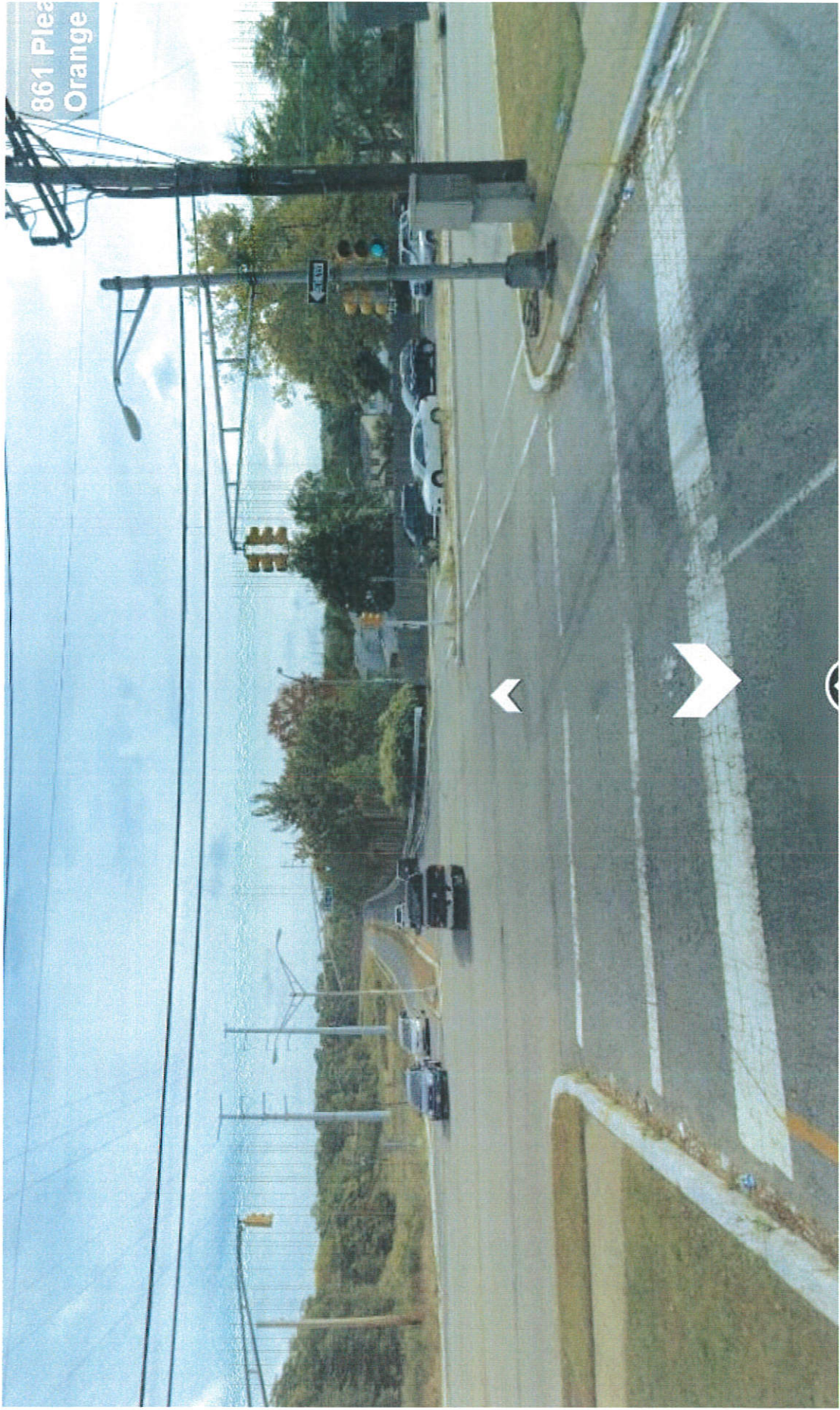


EXHIBIT C

Figure 1. All Crashes Map (2015-2021)



Figure 2. Severe and Fatal Injury (KSI) Crash Map (2015-2021)

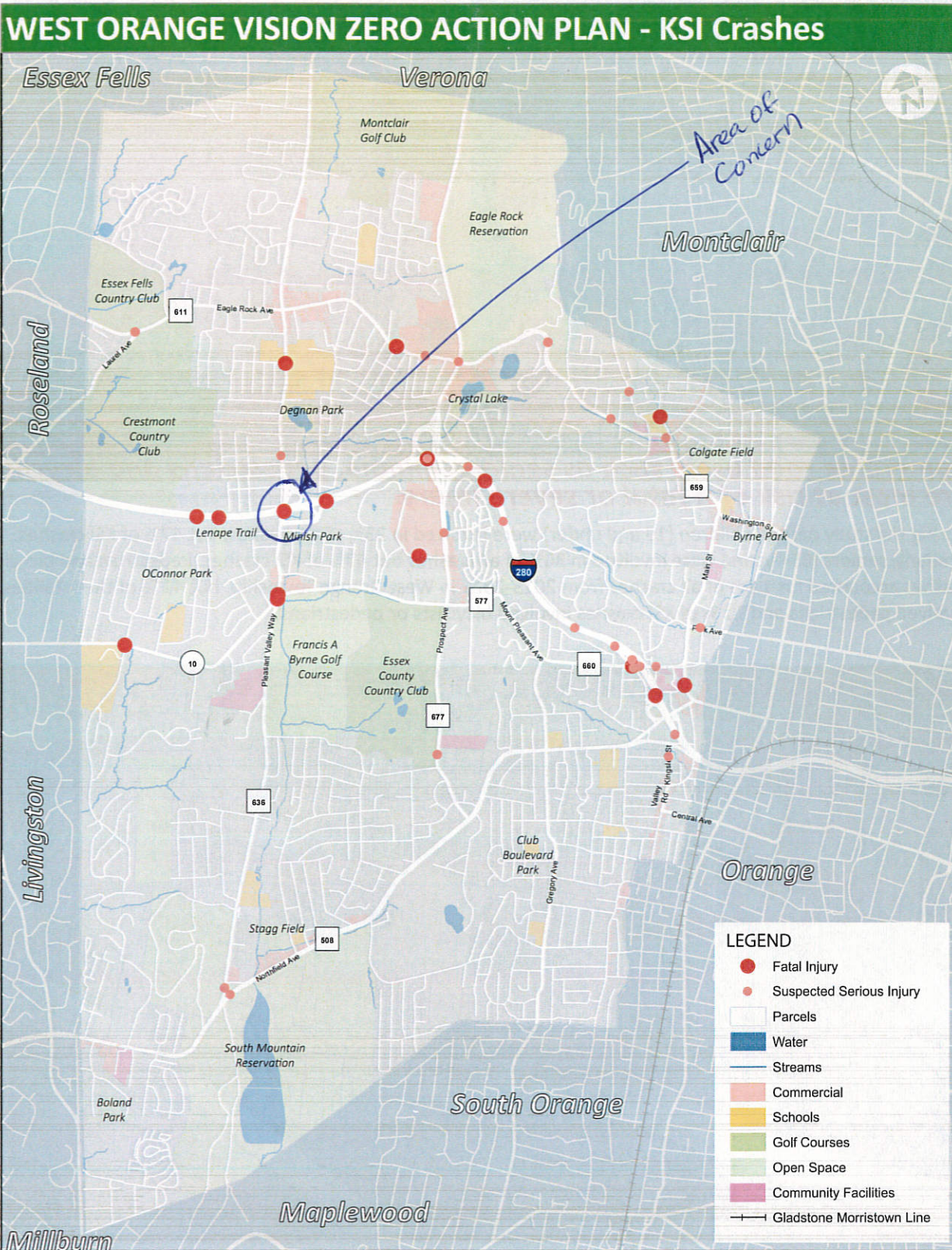
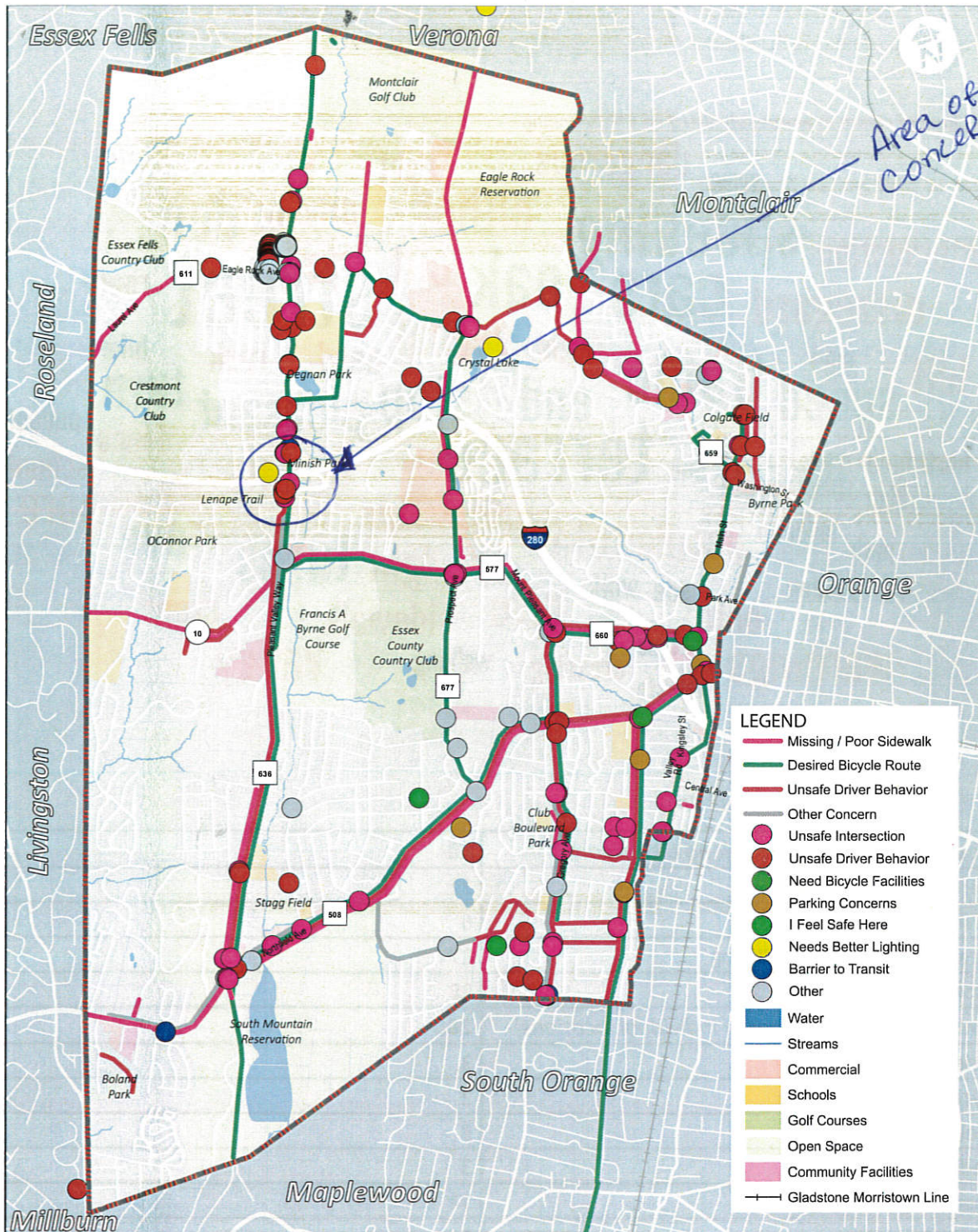


Figure 11. Wikimapping input: points and lines



**SAFETY MAP for the
WEST ORANGE VISION
ZERO ACTION PLAN**
MAPA DE SEGURIDAD
PARA PLAN DE ACCIÓN
DE VISIÓN CERO DEL
MUNICIPIO DE WEST
ORANGE

**INSTRUCTIONS
INSTRUCCIONES**

CLICK → SELECT → ADD → UPLOAD
"ADD THE POINT OR LINE TYPE TO THE POINT OR LINE" BELOW
HACER → SELECCIONAR EL TIPO DE PUNTO O LINEA QUE SE QUIERE AÑADIR
ABAJA

ADD A COMMENT TO THE POINT OR LINE (OPTIONAL)
AÑADIR UN COMENTARIO AL PUNTO O LA LINEA (OPCIONAL)
SUBIR UNA FOTO AL PUNTO O LA LINEA (OPCIONAL)

**USER COMMENTS
COMENTARIOS DEL USUARIO**

Add Points / Añadir Puntos
Safe Pedestrian Crossing Needed / Paso de peatones seguro necesario
Unsafe Location for Bicyclists / Ubicación insegura para ciclistas
Unsafe Driver Behavior / Comportamiento inseguro del conductor
Lighting improvement Needed / Se necesita mejorar la iluminación

Parking Concerns / Problemas de estacionamiento
Barriers To Transit / Barreras al tránsito
Other Traffic or Travel Concerns / Otras inquietudes de tránsito o viaje
I feel safe traveling here / Me siento segura viajando aquí

Add Lines / Añadir Líneas
Sidewalk improvement or Missing / Mejora de la acera o faltante
Desired Biking Routes / Ruta ciclista deseada
Unsafe Driver Behavior / Comportamiento inseguro del conductor
Other Traffic or Travel Concerns / Otras inquietudes de tránsito o viaje
I feel safe traveling here / Me siento segura viajando aquí

Many points and lines included comments which were translated into a word cloud as shown. It can be seen that common concerns include speeding, texting, disregard of other road users, and dangerous behavior. The comments were then grouped by category to identify recurring issues and recommendations.

The options for line drawing were to identify: desired routes for a bicycle network, sidewalk gaps/deteriorated sidewalks, corridors of unsafe driving, and any other concerns.

Table 5. Roads of Concern by Category

Category of Concern	Roads Identified (Bold indicates the entire distance of the road)
Missing / Poor Sidewalk	Northfield Avenue, Laurel Avenue, Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Forest Avenue, Pleasant Valley Way, Prospect Avenue, Mountain Avenue/ Undercliff Road, Fairmount Terrace, Valley Way, Rollinson Street, Undercliff Terrace, Burnett Terrace
Desired Bicycle Route	Pleasant Valley Way, Northfield Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Main Street, Eagle Rock Avenue, Hooper Avenue/ Conforti Avenue, Valley Road, Rollinson Street, Gregory Avenue, Franklin Avenue
Unsafe Driver Behavior	Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Pleasant Valley Way, Northfield Avenue, Gregory Avenue, Rollinson Street, Eagle Rock Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Whittlesey Avenue, Walker Road, Lawrence Avenue, Forest Hill Road, Burnett Terrace, Dogwood Drive, Phyllis Road
Other	Pleasant Valley Way, Northfield Avenue, Gregory Avenue, Walker Road, Standish Avenue

The lines categorized as "other" included complaints about road striping on Northfield Avenue near Pleasant Valley Way, dissatisfaction with speed humps on Walker Road, poor road quality on Standish Avenue, and the width of Pleasant Valley Way.

The options for point placement were to identify: unsafe intersections, unsafe driver behavior, need for bicycle facilities, parking concerns, need for lighting improvement, barriers to transit, and other concerns as well as places people feel safe. Points identified across West Orange were well-mixed, with concentrations of points identifying the various topics scattered across the municipality. Below is a list of some common themes for each.

- Unsafe Intersections

- Many intersections were marked as unsafe across West Orange. Common areas include:

- Eagle Rock Avenue and Pleasant Valley Way and the intersections nearby
- Pleasant Valley Way and the Interstate 280 ramps, Eagle Rock Avenue and Prospect Avenue

- Northfield Avenue and Pleasant Valley Way and the nearby intersections on Northfield Avenue
- Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Prospect Avenue
- Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Gregory Avenue
- Junctions surrounding the Essex Green Mall
- Main Street and both Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Northfield Avenue
- Eagle Rock Avenue and both Harrison Avenue and Mountain Avenue
- Northfield Avenue and the Interstate 280 ramps
- Several intersections along Gregory Avenue and Rollinson Street in the southeastern portion of the municipality

- Unsafe Driver Behavior
 - Unsafe Driver Behavior was identified across the municipality, including concentrated areas of reporting along Pleasant Valley Way, Eagle Rock Avenue, Northfield Avenue, Main Street and Gregory Avenue.
 - Other areas include:
 - neighborhoods off of the eastern portion of Eagle Rock Avenue
 - neighborhoods surrounding Gregory Avenue
 - the area surrounding the intersection of Eagle Rock Avenue and Pleasant Valley Way
- Need Bicycle Facilities
 - While this concern was primarily addressed through line-based submissions, the WikiMap contained points where bicycle facilities are needed, identified at the intersection of Main Street and Mt. Pleasant Avenue and at the intersection of Northfield Avenue and Rollinson Street.
- Parking Concerns
 - Parking Concerns were centered around the areas closer to Downtown West Orange, with points placed along Rollinson Street, Main Street, Northfield Avenue, Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Eagle Rock Avenue, all of which were located in the eastern portion of the municipality.
 - Comments about this issue were largely related to illegal parking or parking in ways that block visibility, but others were concerned about parking availability for those without personal driveways and equitable parking enforcement.
- Need Lighting Improvement
 - Of the two points placed within the West Orange boundary, one was related to lighting along the path at Crystal Lake Park and the other requests better lighting near the intersection of Pleasant Valley Way and Interstate 280 due to reports of criminal activity in the area.
- Barrier to Transit
 - Multiple comments involved buses. People noted difficulty reaching buses at both the intersection of Interstate 280 and Pleasant Valley Way and at the intersection of Woods End Road and Northfield Avenue, both of which were due to a lack of sidewalk access to the bus stop. Another difficulty was reaching the school bus along Gregory Avenue.
- I feel safe here
 - Three points were placed where people felt safe: the intersection of Mountain Way and Sylvan Place, the intersection of Benvenue Avenue and Ridgeway Avenue, and the intersection of Valley Road and Freeman Street.

HIN CORRIDOR FACT SHEETS

CORRIDOR G: PLEASANT VALLEY WAY

Represents 3% of HIN miles

KEY CRASH FACTS

#	%
 303 Crashes	3.5% of all West Orange Crashes
 17 Fatal, Severe & Minor Injury Crashes	3.8% of all Fatal, Severe & Minor Injury Crashes
 1 Pedestrian Crash	1.2% of all Pedestrian Crashes
 1 Bicyclist Crash	3.2% of all Bicyclist Crashes

OVERREPRESENTED CRASH TYPES



TOP CRASH FACTORS



INTERSECTION CRASHES



112 Crashes
5.6% of all Intersection Crashes



COUNTY ROUTE 636
1 MILE
40' - 60' WIDTH / 4 LANES
NO SHOULDERS
NO PARKING PERMITTED

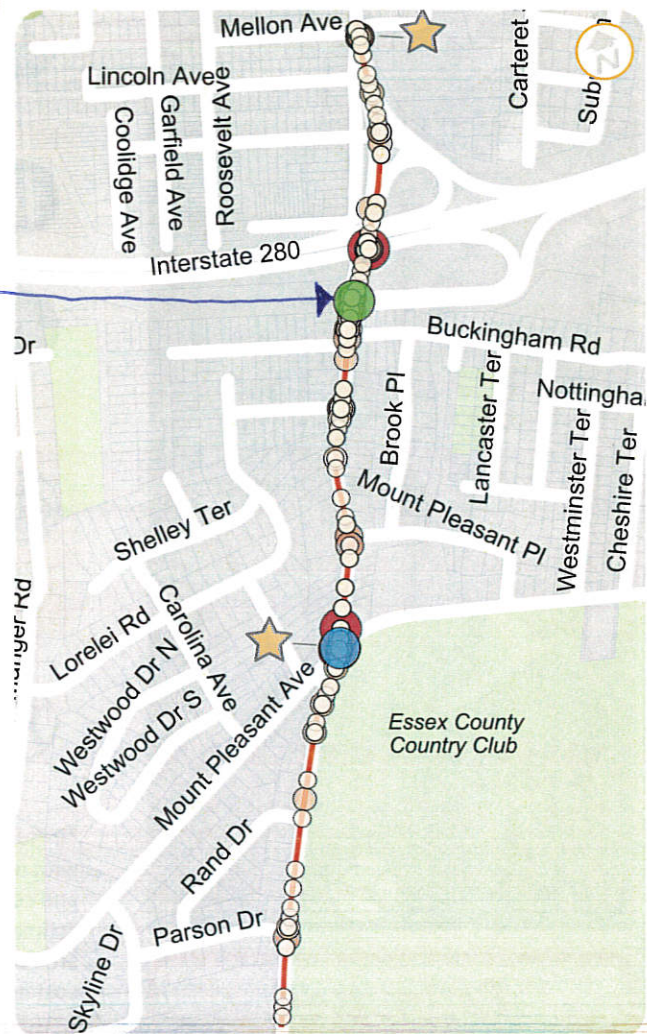
SPEED
LIMIT
40

HIN SCORE

15

EQUITY + HIN SCORE

23



intersections, signals and ramps with I-280 are NJDOT jurisdiction and will be subject to coordination and review with NJDOT.

intersections and signals with Route 10/Mt. Pleasant Avenue are NJDOT jurisdiction and will be subject to coordination review with NJDOT.

WEST ORANGE TOWNSHIP: VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN