

### **Montgomery County Commissioners Approve \$150,000 Grant**

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners approved a substantial \$150,000 grant through the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program for use on the Montgomery Avenue Bike Path and Sidewalk Installation Project. The grant will help to subsidize a portion of this critical, off-site, student safety improvement project. The grant will cover 30% of the estimated \$500,000 project construction costs with all remaining costs funded by the Upper Perkiomen School District.

"We can't thank the County Commissioners enough – Dr. Arkoosh, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Gale – for their gracious consideration of our grant application," said Upper Hanover Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Eugene Fried. "The Township Supervisors worked hard for the inclusion of these off-site improvements in the Middle School approval due to our concerns about student safety."

"While the overall cost of the proposed improvements at first appeared daunting, the Township Supervisors pledged our support to cooperate with the School District in submitting applications for grant funding assistance," said Chairman Fried. "Pennsburg Borough agreed to partner with Upper Hanover Township on the Montco 2040 grant application. Additionally, the Upper Perkiomen School District communities of East Greenville Borough, Hereford Township, Marlborough Township, Pennsburg Borough and Red Hill Borough all provided letters of support. Our joint efforts and region-wide cooperation paid off and the County Commissioners came through big time."

Penn-Dot officially classified Montgomery Avenue as a hazardous walking route due to the absence of sidewalks along this popular school route that leads directly to the existing Upper Perkiomen High School (972 students) and the adjacent Upper Perkiomen Middle School (850 students) presently under construction. The planned bike path and sidewalk improvements is designed to augment safety conditions for students and the general walking and driving public while improving connectivity to these two major school facilities.

The bike path and sidewalk will consist of a four-foot wide bituminous bike path and a five-foot wide concrete sidewalk that will connect from the bike path and sidewalk to be constructed along the School District's frontage on Montgomery Avenue to the intersection of Eight Street and Montgomery Avenue (a distance of 670 lf) where a cross walk will be constructed. A four-foot wide concrete sidewalk on the northern side of Montgomery Avenue will provide a further connection from Eighth Street to Sixth Street ( a distanced of 650 lf) where the sidewalk will connect to existing sidewalk. Curbing will be installed along all portions of Montgomery Avenue that are improved with sidewalks. The overall length of these off-site improvements total 1,320 lf or one quarter mile.

"The funding grant assistance from the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and the commitment of the Upper Perkiomen School District toward the implementation of this important safety improvement project are commendable and greatly appreciated by our regional communities," said Township Supervisor Chairman Eugene Fried. "The Montgomery Avenue Bike Path and Sidewalk Installation Project will benefit the entire region and is vital and necessary for student safety."