Nomination for ASHE 2024 National Project of the Year Award and Harrisburg Section Awards Under \$20 Million

North Second Street Two-Way Multimodal Project

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



Submitted By: Wallace Montgomery 4999 Louise Drive, Suite 104 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS

National Project of the Year Award

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

AWARD CATEGORY (Check One):

Under \$20 Million

□ Over \$20 Million

SPONSORING REGION (Check One):

- X Northeast
- □ Mid-Atlantic
- □ Southeast

Great LakesNorth CentralSouth Central

- □ Northwest
- □ Rocky Mountain
- □ Southwest

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SUBMITTING REGION:

Contact Name: Robert J. Hudson, PE ASHE Region Position: Member Phone (Office): 410.828.3814 Phone (Mobile): 443.326.3055 E-Mail Address: rhudson@wallacemontgomery.com 717.590.1414

PROJECT INFORMATION:

ENTERING AGENCY/COMPANY'S NAME: Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP PROJECT NAME: North Second Street Two-Way Multimodal Project TYPE: Roadway PROJECT LOCATION: Harrisburg, PA CITY: Harrisburg COUNTY: Dauphin STATE: PA FINAL CONSTRUCTION COST: \$5,307,546.49 BUDGETED CONSTRUCTION COST: \$5,171,284.44 PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: 12/13/2022 Paul McNamee PROJECT ASHE SECTION: Harrisburg ASHE SECTION CONTACT NAME: PHONE (OFFICE): 410.316.7800 PHONE (MOBILE): E-MAIL: Paul.McNamee@kci.com **PROJECT TEAM:** City of Harrisburg PROJECT OWNER: MLK Jr. City Government Center 10 N. 2nd St STREET ADDRESS: 17101 CITY: Harrisburg PA ZIĐ STATE: 717.255.3185 or 717.315.4255 CONTACT PERSON:Dan Snow, PE, City EngineerPHONE: E-MAIL ADDRESS: dsnow@harrisburgpa.gov PROJECT DESIGN FIRM: Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP 10150 York Road, Suite 200 STREET ADDRESS: CITY: Hunt Valley STATE: MD ZIP: 21030 CONTACT PERSON: Robert J. Hudson PE PHONE: 410.828.3814 (MD); 717.590.1414 (PA) E-MAIL ADDRESS: rhudson@wallacemontgomerv.com JVI Group, Inc. PRIME CONTRACTOR: 8210C Carlisle Pike STREET ADDRESS: STATE: PA ZIP: 17372 CITY: York Springs PHONE: 717.629.2086 CONTACT PERSON: <u>Steve Bomberger</u> sbomberger@jvigroupinc.com E-MAIL ADDRESS: Entry Form Completed By: Robert J. Hudson, PE Date: 1/12/2023



Wanda Williams Mayor

City of Harrisburg

Office of the City Engineer 1002 N Seventh Street Harrisburg, PA 17102 Contact Patty Kessler 717 480 9249

January 11, 2023

Robert Hudson, PE Senior Vice President Wallace, Montgomery, & Associates, LLP 10150 York Road Hunt Valley, MD, 21030 410.494.9093

RE: NORTH SECOND STREET TWO WAY MULTIMODAL PROJECT HARRISBURG, PA

Dear Robert Hudson:

The City of Harrisburg selected Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP to provide planning and design services along with additional support services for converting North Second Street from one-way to two-way operations.

Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP's design met the City's multimodal improvement goals while staying with the grant budget. The result was an attractive multimodal corridor that met the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and motorists.

The Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP design team was critical to the success of this \$5.3 million multimodal project. Their ability to work with the City and PennDOT while balancing the needs of the various stakeholders and accommodating utilities, adjacent property owners and all users including pedestrians, bike and transit sets Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP apart from traditional highway engineers. The City of Harrisburg was so pleased with Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP's ability, and look forward to continuing the standing relationship.

We, at the City of Harrisburg, are highly satisfied with the project that we received when we chose Wallace, Montgomery & Associates, LLP. The project team continually adhered to and focused on delivering the City of Harrisburg's project goals. I hereby confirm the North Second Street Two-Way Multimodal Project was substantially complete on November 23, 2022 and open to the public, and endorse the project to be entered into the ASHE 2023 National Project of the Year award competition.

Sincerely,

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Percy R. Bullock, Project Manager City of Harrisburg 717.433.4833; Prbullock@harrisburgpa.gov

NORTH SECOND STREET TWO-WAY MULTIMODAL PROJECT HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Date: 1/11/2024 Contact: Robert Hudson, PE Telephone: 410.494.9093

INTRODUCTION

Wallace Montgomery (WM) designed and prepared the construction documents for the North Second Street Two-Way Multimodal Project (Project) in the City of Harrisburg, PA (City), which included the following improvements:

• Converting from one-way to two-way operations

WALLACE

MONTGOMERY

- Removal of traffic signals at four intersections and replacing them with three mini-roundabouts and one two-way stop control intersection with a raised crosswalk
- Milling and resurfacing
- 190 ADA ramps and 39 crosswalks crossing North Second Street
- Traffic calming elements including median islands, raised crosswalks, and speed cushions
- Traffic signal rebuilds, signal modifications, and roadway lighting

WHY THIS PROJECT?

In 1950 Harrisburg, PA reached a peak population of 90,000 and to manage traffic congestion various streets were converted to one-way operations. North Second Street was converted to three northbound travel lanes with parallel parking. This configuration resulted in higher speeds, which negatively impacted comfort, safety, and quality of life. By 1956, residents began complaining about the "Second Street Speedway" as the configuration did not align with the corridor's residential land use and the roadway cut off connection to Riverfront Park. Over the next six decades attempts were made to convert Second Street back to two-way operations, while the City's population steadily declined to approximately 50,000. Speed studies of the corridor showed that 93% of drivers were exceeding the posted speed limit of 25 mph, with 85% exceeding 38 mph. The City turned to **WM** to develop innovative designs that would calm traffic, convert the roadway back to two-way operations, and mitigate any degradation of capacity to the roadway network. This Project was an urgent priority for the community and **WM** had to deliver an innovative and context-sensitive design.

The Team led by **WM** completed an areawide traffic analysis to evaluate impacts associated with potential changes to the street network in different build and no build scenarios. Critical intersections were analyzed, and Intersection Control Evaluations were completed for major intersections along the corridor to compare different intersection control types including traffic signals, stop control, and mini-roundabouts. Concept plans were developed in conjunction with multiple public meetings and design workshops attended by hundreds of city residents. Environmental clearances and permits were obtained. Construction on utilities and ADA ramps began while final design was still ongoing to meet an aggressive project schedule. On October 13, 2022, after six decades of a "Speedway", North Second Street opened to two-way traffic with lowered speeds and pedestrian friendly crossings.

PROJECT TEAM

WM served as lead design firm, responsible for preparing the final contract documents (construction plans, specifications, engineer's estimate, and approvals/permits) used to advertise the Project for construction. **WM** was also tasked with environmental clearances, obtaining the NPDES permit for the Project, and traffic-related project elements: signal removal plans, roadway lighting plans, and traffic signal plans.

Kittelson & Associates, Inc., a subconsultant to **WM**, provided traffic design support. Dawood Engineering, Inc., a subconsultant to **WM**, completed the survey and performed the pavement design. Urban Engineers, Inc. provided onsite representation as construction manager/inspector. JVI Group, Inc. was the prime construction contractor.

COMPLEXITY

Public consensus was utilized to maintain parking, calm traffic, and improve pedestrian accommodations along this 2-mile stretch. To minimize traffic detours and parking restrictions during construction, the Project was staged over three construction seasons with utility rehabilitation and relocation occurring in year one and roadway construction occurring in year two and



three. Construction of ADA ramps was spread out over three years by bidding out the construction of 26 ramps before final design was completed. Project complexity was amplified by the challenging urban environment with aging infrastructure, numerous known and unknown underground utilities, historical buildings, and the need to balance the design of the roadway to improve pedestrian accommodations while maintaining access to motor vehicles. The design mitigated and minimized impacts to the corridor's land uses by working within the existing right-of-way.

NEW APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNIQUES/ORIGINALITY/INNOVATION

Innovative design solutions included mini-roundabouts and speed cushions. Mini-roundabouts are small roundabouts used in low-speed urban environments. Various intersection control types were investigated. At three intersections that utilized traffic signals, mini-roundabouts were selected because the net present value of costs (sum of costs associated with construction, post-opening costs, auto passenger delay, truck delay, and safety) was estimated to be lower for the mini-roundabout compared to the other alternatives.

In roundabout design it is important that the vehicle speeds be consistent throughout the roundabout (entry, circular roadway, and exit). Designers typically use horizontal defections (curves) to maintain consistent speeds. For this Project, adding horizontal deflection to the design was not possible due to the right-of-way impacts. Instead, **WM** designers utilized vertical deflection to maintain consistent speeds by incorporating raised pedestrian crosswalks on the major approaches and speed cushions on the minor street approaches. Speed cushions are similar to speed humps, except the speed cushions are constructed with gaps or wheel cutouts to allow large vehicles to pass unaffected by the vertical delineation. The gaps also helped manage the budget by eliminating the need for additional inlets and trench drains since the gaps allow water to flow along the gutter lines.

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The primary goal of the Project was to make the community more livable. That was accomplished based upon the before and after speed studies and positive feedback from the community. In addition, the total annual reported crimes along the corridor declined from 114 to 85, driven mostly by a decline in theft, vandalism, and other property crimes.

Further, the network traffic study indicated that between 50% and 70% of the PM peak hour northbound traffic on Second Street will divert to parallel facilities including North Third Street, North Sixth Street and North Seventh Street. Since these parallel corridors are underutilized and surrounded by underdeveloped retail and commercial land, the traffic diversion has the potential to bolster Harrisburg's tax base as potential developers seek to capitalize on commuter traffic. Harrisburg is just beginning to see this capitalization as developers are submitting plans to develop those corridors. Most notably, on June 9, 2023, construction began on a 48-unit apartment building with a 6,000 square-foot commercial space on the 1500 block of North Sixth Street; and on May 22, 2023, the JMB Gardens Land Development Plan was approved to consolidate 28 parcels on the 2200 and 2300 blocks of North Sixth Street to construct 41 dwelling units and a community center. While it will take years for the community to fully realize all the benefits of this Project, early indications are that this Project will play a big part in reversing the negative impact of converting this street to one-way traffic that was made in the 1950s.

SAFETY

Traffic safety was a significant concern, with the biggest problem being high vehicular speeds.

Studies clearly show that higher speeds result in greater impact at the time of a crash which leads to more severe injuries and fatalities. This is particularly true for vulnerable road users. A High Injury Network (HIN) analysis of all crashes within the City limits over a five-year period revealed that 66% of all traffic deaths and severe injuries involving people walking, biking, and motor biking occurred on just 6.7 miles of Harrisburg streets. This Project addresses two miles (or nearly a third) of the HIN. Various FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures were integrated into the Project preconstruction and post construction speed studies were completed at the following three locations along the project corridor. The post construction speed study confirmed a consistent drop of five miles per hour at all three study locations. During the post construction speed study, no vehicles were observed exceeding 5 mph over the posted speed limit and the calculated 85% percentile speed was 26 mph.

Prior to the Project, there were 37 crashes and four serious injury crashes over a three-year period within the project limits based upon available information through PennDOT's Crash Information Tool (PCIT). Currently, information is only available through December 2022; but over that three-month post construction period, there was only one reported crash within the



project limits. If this trend continues, the crashes along the corridor will have decreased by over 67% and serious injuries and fatalities eliminated.

AESTHETICS AND SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

The Project removed overhead wires and utility poles associated with four traffic signals removed. Eleven overhead LED streetlights were installed that match the historic streetlights used throughout the City. A total of 15 dead/damaged trees were removed and 24 trees were planted. The roundabouts center islands were constructed with stamped/stained concrete to mimic the granite Belgium block historically used throughout the City.

MEETING AND EXCEEDING OWNER'S/CLIENT'S NEEDS

This Project has been the City's highest transportation priority since at least 1977 when the City attempted to convert North Second Street back to two-way by executive order, but quickly reconsidered when PennDOT threatened to withhold federal transportation dollars. Over the next several decades the City and PennDOT delivered various projects to mitigate any negative consequences of a future two-way conversion. This Project is the culmination of those efforts.



INDEX OF DRAWINGS

SHEET NO.	DWG. NO.	DESCRIPTION
SHEET NU. 1 2 & 3 4 - 6 - 7 - 9 - 10 - 12 - 13 - 30 - 31 - 42 - 43 - 67 - 68 - 70 - 71 - 91 - 92 & 93 - 94 - 106 - 107 - 108 - 119 - 120 - 137	DWG. NO. - GN-01 & GN-02 TS-01 - TS-03 DE-01 - DE-03 RC-01 - RC-03 PS-01 - PS-18 DS-01 - DS-12 SP-01 - SP-25 ST-01 - ST-03 ES-01 - ES-20 TSS-01 & TSS-02 TSP-01 - TSP-13 ICP-01 LT-01 - LT-12	DESCRIPTION TITLE SHEET GENERAL NOTES TYPICAL SECTIONS DETAIL SHEETS REFERENCE CIRCLES ROADWAY PLAN SHEETS INTERSECTION DETAIL SHEETS SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKING PLANS STORWWATER PLANS AND DETAILS EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM PLAN TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS INTERCONNECTION PLANS TABLU ATION OF QUANTITIES
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CITY OF HARRISBURG 10 NORTH SECOND STREET HARRISBURG, PA 17101



DETAILS FOR NORTH SECOND STREET MULTIMODAL PROJECT

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NOVEMBER 2020

WM PROJECT NO. 217032.0012



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