



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE October 6, 2025

THE MAYOR'S 9/11 WALK AS WE REMEMBER AND WEEKEND OF UNITY:

As a follow up to Council's April, 2025 meeting, I authored a letter to PennDOT in June requesting permitted WIDE LOADS be redirected away from Baltimore Street (downtown) and stay on Route 11 from I-81 at interchanges 3 and 10. A PennDot acknowledgement letter has been received. See the Task Force statement below.

National Fire Prevention Week:

Cumberland-Franklin Counties Borough's Association Meeting / Action Planning: Last week, I chaired our regular meeting, hosted by Shippensburg Borough. Thanks to Manager Emilee Little for also attending. In April, 2025, we brainstorm our Borough members legislative initiatives that is attached along with the Pa. State Association's legislative (separate attachment).

Community activities: On September 11 I was the guest speaker at the Allison Antrim Museum where I spoke about the "burgesses" of Greencastle, from the 1800s' into the 20th century. Did you know that town council would occasionally meet at "Friedly's Hardware store?" Where was that located? The Mayor's 9/11 walk was held on Saturday, September 6, with a ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial outside of these walls. Thanks to everyone who participated by either walking or attending the brief 9/11 service as "we remember." On September 5, I joined several council members and staff as we attended the Franklin County municipal officials' breakfast followed by the Franklin County Council of Governments meeting. Information was received from the Sheriff, President Judge, District Attorney's office, Pa. State Police, Franklin County Jail, and Franklin County Planning. On September 13, I spoke at the Greencastle-Antrim Senior Center regarding "Greencastle area facts." I was honored to be a "guardian" escort Saturday, September 20, as 18 Vietnam veterans and guardians traveled to Washington, D.C. visiting eight veterans and memorial locations at part of a National "Honor Flight" program. Upon returning to Greencastle, citizens and the Harry D. Zeigler VFW post hosted a wonderful meal and program by the regional honor flight organization. This organization hopes to host two "honor flights" from Greencastle in 2026. Last week, I spoke to the Greencastle First Church senior members regarding the happenings of Greencastle.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman advises Norfolk Southern trains were briefly idling then shutting down on two occasions. With colder weather on the horizon, the report will probably change unless the engines are stationed further north. Nothing new regarding Union Pacific Railroad purchasing Norfolk Southern as has been recently in the news.

FORMATION OF THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE AMOUNT OF DOWNTOWN PASS THRU TRUCK TRAFFIC TO AND FROM I-81 EXIT 5. ALL SIGNS FOR I-81 POINT TO DOWNTOWN GREENCASTLE! See my report below. I recently met with GAHS High School Principal, Mr. McManus, who is recruiting students to assist the Task Force. I will again author another letter to PennDot regarding the small I-81 signage on SR0011 NB approaching S. Washington Street in Antrim Township and the signage at our intersection (SR0011 and SR0016) directing most truck traffic into downtown Greencastle (see attached photos).





MAYOR'S TASK FORCE TO MITIGATE THRU TRUCK TRAFFIC IN DOWNTOWN GREENCASTLE DRAFT (15 September 2025)

MISSION STATEMENT: Document, locate, and work with these trucking companies and PennDot for appropriate signage along all PA highways directing trucks to I-81 interchanges 3 and 10 to and from their destinations.

RECOMMENDED TEAM: A member of Council, a member of Greencastle Borough staff, surrounding municipalities, Franklin Co. Area Development Corporation, and students of Greencastle-Antrim High School.

GAHS STUDENT INVOLVEMENT: The Mayor has previously participated in several regional comprehensive municipal plans where university students and citizen volunteers were utilized to monitor and document intersection traffic flows. This Task Force suggests utilizing high school students to perform the following:

- Students would safely position themselves along a specific location along Baltimore Street to observe east and west-bound tractor trailers traveling on that street.
- Students would document identifying information on the truck's tractor or trailer, location, date, time, and direction of travel. (Example: ABC Transportation Company, Memphis, TN.)
- The spread sheet would be provided by Greencastle. Students may utilize paper, laptop, I-pad, or other technology to document their observations.
- Students would be off the roadway, in a designated lot, or in a vehicle. Example of one location is the future Town Hall Plaza (Intersection of E. Baltimore and S. Washington Streets).
- Students would make no contact with the vehicles or operators.
- Students and volunteers would observe in one-hour increments during daylight hours.
- A student participation log sheet would be implemented for the students' volunteer hours. Students would check in with a designated School District coordinator.

PENNDOT and ANTRIM TOWNSHIP INVOLVEMENT: Review all I-81 directional signage in Greencastle and Antrim Township and recommend larger signage so trucks may know alternative routes and avoid Baltimore Street to and from I-81 interchange 5.

SUGGESTION TO COUNCIL IN 2026: At the Franklin County Municipal Breakfast, Antrim Township announced they have some 1,500 additional building lots on the books, primarily accessing Williamsport Pike and Williamson Road, both with limited access. The Inch & Company website is advertising some 198 apartments "in Greencastle" that will intersect with E. Baltimore Street east of Spring Grove Avenue. Most of the planned residential development will be high density as water and sewer

service will serve these communities. This has a greater impact on our roads, schools, and emergency services.

- Council members, we must work with Antrim Township and the Franklin County Planning Commission to update our 15-year-old regional Comprehensive Plan and, at the very least, update our future transportation planning that we could do “in house.” Without the support of Franklin County Planning Commission, and our Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we cannot get future projects on PennDot’s “12 year plan.” The most recent plan was adopted by the MPO in 2024. We need a seat at the table for our future transportation needs.

***CUMBERLAND FRANKLIN COUNTIES BOROUGH'S ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: Session held April 22, 2025***

1. Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Law: Legislative review as we suggest county by county prevailing wage rates, not regional urban areas of the Commonwealth. A local and very reputable contractor advised he stays away from bidding prevailing wage projects as his past project costs inflated by 32%.
2. PennDot better manage tractor trailer thru traffic in boroughs that are affected by regional growth, especially from warehouses. Create greater restrictions for 53’ trucks/trailers and wide-loads that are traveling through these urban and suburban communities.
3. Offer grant programs and funding for small police departments in the Commonwealth.
4. Initiate a variety of grant programs for small boroughs (suggest 6,000 or less) for all varieties of expenditures to include funding for bicycle lanes.
5. Allow liquid fuels funds for ADA ramps.
6. See past legislative proposals regarding “Vexatious requestor” regarding right to know requests of extensive amounts received.

Association brainstorming session conducted on the above date. Also, see the PA State Association of Boroughs 2025 Legislative Priorities.

- NOTE: October ; PA Senate Local Government Committee has passed SB 194 that provides a flexible menu for legal advertising / notices. Introduced by our

Senator, Doug Mastriano, if passed, a change in the Borough Code would allow us to post our legal notices on our website and/or the Franklin County website, along with posting in the municipal building.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Thomas, Jr. - Mayor;
Cumberland-Franklin Counties Borough's Assn. President