

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
FOR GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Scott Wilds, Co-chair
Commission Conference Room, 1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
25 September 2000**

Present

Scott Wilds, Co-chair, Assistant Director, Office of Housing and Community Development
Janet Potter, Philadelphia Historic Northwest Coalition
Steve Bartlett, City Planner, City Planning Commission
Robert M. Wright, Engineering Manager, Department of Streets

Elizabeth Harvey, Historic Preservation Planner
Diane M. Hughes, Executive Secretary
Richard Tyler, Historic Preservation Officer

Also

Tony Bohara, SEPTA

Scott Wilds, Co-chair, called the meeting of the Special Committee for Germantown Avenue to order at 10:10 a.m.

Germantown Avenue, 3700-4000 blocks

City of Philadelphia, Owner
Robert Wright, Applicant
PROPOSAL: Concrete crosswalks

This proposal involves repaving the crosswalks at the intersections of Germantown Avenue with Broad Street, Butler Street, Luzerne/Lycoming Streets, Pike Street and Hunting Park Avenue. This proposal will preserve the granite block paving in shoulder/parking areas with finished concrete in the track area (traffic lanes). The Commission at the 14 January 2000 meeting approved the replacement of the granite block with concrete between the trolley tracks.

When asked a series of questions about the proposal, Mr. Wright stressed the importance of the type of material used to comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA.). ADA stipulations preclude the use of a rough surface material such as granite block for crosswalks. He gave examples of alternatives such as street print and the reason for their elimination such as poor durability and slipperiness.

Mr. Wilds stated that using a material that mimics brick is not historic and the proposed material should conform to past practices.

Mr. Tyler recommended that SEPTA begin investigating methods to use T-rail in a non-concrete setting. On behalf of the Northwest Coalition Ms. Potter noted its opposition to the use of T-rail with concrete.

Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve concrete crosswalks. Ms. Potter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Hughes
Executive Secretary