



**Route 117 Parking & Pedestrian
Safety Review**

What is being reviewed?

Mount Gretna Borough Council is evaluating on-street parking conditions along Route 117 within the Borough. The review considers pedestrian safety, emergency vehicle access, bicycle travel, and the impact of seasonal event demand during the summer season. No decision has been made. The purpose of this review is to ensure that any future action is informed by field conditions, safety considerations, and public discussion.

What area of Route 117 is included?

The review focuses on the stretch of Route 117 where on-street parallel parking currently occurs throughout summer months — from Gettysburg Avenue west to the dry fire hydrant/canoe storage near the tennis courts. This is the segment where seasonal pedestrian activity, event traffic, and emergency access considerations are most concentrated.

Off-street parking areas — including the Soldiers Field lot and Chautauqua-controlled parking areas and parking on grass on each side of the street at or across from the Chautauqua parking lot — are *not* subject to this review.

What parking scenarios are under consideration?

Borough Council is considering the full range of options, including:

- Maintain existing on-street parking on both sides of Route 117.
- Restrict parking on one side of Route 117.
- Restrict parking on both sides of Route 117.
- Restrict parking only in specific portions of the corridor based on site conditions.

No option has been predetermined. Council's evaluation will consider safety and corridor operations.



Photo 1: Gettysburg Avenue — eastern boundary of the review area.

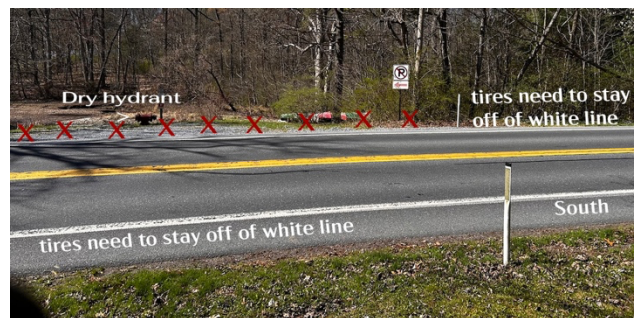


Photo 2: Dry hydrant / canoe storage near the tennis courts — western boundary of the review area.

Mount Gretna Borough provides municipal services including roadway maintenance, stormwater management, public safety coordination, and other services that support the community.



101 Chautauqua Drive
borough.mtgretna.com
717.964.3270

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What safety concerns prompted this review?

Three primary safety considerations have been raised:

Pedestrian exposure along the roadway. Individuals who park along Route 117 must walk along the road shoulder before reaching a designated crosswalk or a pathway leading into the activity areas within the Borough. This exposes pedestrians, including families with children, to moving traffic and the hazards of door openings from parked vehicles.

Emergency vehicle access. On-street parking on both sides of Route 117 may reduce available clearance for fire and EMS apparatus during peak activity periods. National fire access standards reference a minimum unobstructed width of 20 feet for fire apparatus routes. This concern relates to reliable access during the busy season.

Bicycle use. Route 117 is used by bicyclists. On-street parking can create a "door zone" risk for riders, and the available lane width affects safe passing distance. Any parking modification would be evaluated with bicycle operations in mind.

What does research say?

Federal highway and urban street design research indicates that parked vehicles along a roadway can reduce vehicle speeds by visually narrowing the road — a traffic calming effect. Removing parking may increase perceived roadway width and, without supplemental measures, could affect vehicle speeds. Council will evaluate any change to parking configuration alongside speed management strategies.

Are there other parking options in the Borough?

Pennsylvania Avenue from Lehigh Avenue west to Wesleyan Avenue has been identified as a potential source of additional parking capacity to be considered alongside any changes to on-street parking along Route 117.

Who has authority over Route 117?

Route 117 is a state highway within the PennDOT District 8-0 system. While most physical modifications within the PennDOT right-of-way — such as pavement markings and crosswalks — require PennDOT review and approval, the Borough does have authority to restrict or regulate on-street parking along Route 117. Borough Council will invite a representative of PennDOT District 8-0 to walk the corridor and offer recommendations as part of this review.

What is the process and how can I participate?

Route 117 parking will be on the agenda at the April 13th Borough Council meeting at the Mount Gretna Firehall. The meeting opens with a public comment period — residents are welcome to speak. Council will discuss the options and hear from the public before any vote is taken. A vote is anticipated at a subsequent Borough Council meeting in May or June.

This bulletin is provided for general information only and does not establish Borough policy or authorize specific parking changes.