

# State of the Township



Council President Craig Bowen  
Bristol Township  
January 21, 2016

## Welcome

Good evening, members of Township Council, residents, staff, friends and family. Thank you for joining us tonight. Last year as we kicked off 2015, the late Council President Bob Lewis sat before you and promised to continue the great momentum we've gained over the past few years. Tonight, thanks to the leadership and hard work of my fellow Council members, we look forward to bringing that same energy into this year.

First I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Amber Longhitano and Joe Glasson for being reelected to Council as well as Howard Allen and Patrick Antonello on their being newly elected to serve on Council.

When a new Township Council took office four years ago, our township was on the brink of financial ruin. However, an energized Council laid out a promising vision for the Township – a vision to make Bristol Township relevant again, improve the quality of life, and invest in Bristol Township first!

Working together, we've made significant progress in not only fighting off bankruptcy, but have also worked diligently to achieve our goals of building a better Bristol Township!

As the President of Council, I look forward to working closely with all of you, as one team, to build a better and brighter future!

In presenting my remarks this evening, I want to briefly recap some of the key accomplishments from 2015 and highlight some key areas of focus for 2016.

## SO HOW DID WE DO IN 2015?

By all accounts and any measure, 2015 was another highly successful year for Bristol Township! All you need to do is look around you in the new Council Chambers to see the positive changes made last year.



## LIVING WITHIN OUR FINANCIAL MEANS

Looking at our Township finances, Council continues to take pride in its efforts to prudently manage expenses. We've worked hard to hold the line or reduce taxes. And this past year, we actually decreased tax millage by .03% and adopted another balanced budget!

## IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

Looking at our township's roads, it wasn't too long ago that they were in such bad shape they actually had grass growing on them! Many of the original Levittown roads constructed by William Levitt had never even been resurfaced.

Due to an unprecedented \$13.4 million investment, Council has kept its promise and surpassed the original goal set in 2012 to pave 88 miles of neglected township highways



within five years. In fact, we've paved 102 miles of roadways in four years without ever raising taxes! Our children can now feel safe riding their bikes and drivers no longer have to worry about damaging their cars on a patchwork of potholes.

Take a look at this photo (see map on page 6) showing the roads that have been repaved from 2012-2015. **And now, there is no doubt that**

**Bristol Township has the best Milling & Paving Program in Bucks County!**

Looking at our once dilapidated municipal building, the restoration of the 67 year old Township Building to its former glory is nearly complete. Residents finally have a Municipal Building that they can be proud to have as the Township's place of business.

Modern amenities like LED accent lighting, remodeled offices and restrooms, an updated Council chambers, a new police sally port and salt shed, and an improved HVAC system will help to ensure the Bristol Township Municipal Building is poised for the future and will continue to be a valued community gem for years to come.

Council implemented a new state of the art trash and recycling contract in 2014. In an effort to emphasize recycling, the Township moved from twice weekly trash collection to once a week. Residents responded by increasing the amount of waste recycled by a whopping 47.16%. So how did we do in 2015? Our residents increased recycling by 12.23% over 2014! You, the citizens of Bristol Township, have increased recycling by 63.81% in just two years!

In addition, this past year we've also made significant progress toward upgrading traffic signals and increasing accessibility at intersections throughout the Township. As a matter of fact, we've just recently completed the upgrade work at three major intersections.

We also completed the conversion of all the outdated lights at the township's municipal complex and at community parks to environmentally-friendly LED technology in 2015. This will reduce energy consumption and decrease maintenance expenses.

Most importantly, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which has remained under a consent decree by the U.S. EPA has remained in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations for three years in a row! This is a major accomplishment and one in which we should all be proud.

We will continue to build Bristol Township's reputation as a "green" community. In an



effort to prevent illegal dumping of electronic items, the Township continues to recycle TV's, computers, and monitors at its free electronics drop off site at the municipal building. Bristol Township now operates the only permanent electronics collection site in Bucks County!

In an ongoing effort to beautify and cleanup Bristol, The Township also offers free scheduled cleanup events where residents can drop off household trash and other junk. Please mark your calendar for the next free spring cleanup on the weekend on May 14-May 15.

## **ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE JOBS AND GROW THE TAX BASE**

Encouraging businesses to locate in Bristol Township and creating jobs continues to be the highest priority for Council! Our successes include the opening of AAMCO Transmission, McDonalds Restaurant, ALDI Markets, and numerous other businesses that have generated hundreds of new jobs and brought new tax revenues to Bristol Township. This success has come from strong partnerships among the Township, Bucks County Redevelopment Authority and our businesses, and the hard work of many individuals throughout the community! With the completion of the PA Turnpike-I-95 Interconnection and Route 13 reconstruction, the Township has already seen an increase in interest by developers in Bristol Township. U-Haul has acquired the Bristol Plaza and there have been several inquiries to redevelop properties on Route 413.

## WHAT IS AHEAD FOR 2016?

Looking forward to 2016, we will continue to make public safety a top priority. The police department will install in-car video cameras in its fleet of patrol vehicles and will seek professional accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The 2016 Budget calls for hiring an additional two full-time police officers and allows for the replacement of several police vehicles. On the fire safety front, we again allocated \$100,000 in “Glasson Grants” for the Township’s five volunteer fire companies. This commitment will ensure that our fire departments have the state-of-the-art equipment they need to ensure our residents remain safe.



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In November, Council announced a major \$1 million initiative to fight blight in our neighborhoods and clean up Bristol Township. As part of the program, Bristol Township will blight vacant properties and acquire them through a partnership with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority. Tonight, we are moving forward and will begin the process of condemning 11 dilapidated properties in our neighborhoods. Working together, we can bring new life to neighborhoods throughout Bristol Township!

We will continue to transform the aging infrastructure of Bristol Township by making beautification improvements to the exterior of the municipal building complex as well as make upgrades to the parking lot and walkways. For more than 67 years, the Township building and complex has held a special place in the heart of the Bristol Township



community. The restoration of this municipal complex will ensure its ongoing importance as a community gathering space and for welcoming visitors and prospective investors to the community.

Looking toward 2016, Council will continue to invest in our roads- Another \$1.5 million is budgeted to rebuild or pave another 10 miles of Bristol Township highways!

Thanks to a \$300,000 Bucks County Redevelopment Authority grant that the Township received last year, The Township will also update and improve two additional aging traffic signals to ensure our roads are safer for pedestrians and motorists!

The vision that the Council brought to the Township four years ago remains unchanged. The goals that we set are sound even though not yet fully realized. 2016 will very likely offer new challenges and opportunities, but with our collective ability, creativity and brainstorming we cannot fail. We must stay focused on our task and work together as a team, if we are to stay on this charted course and continue to be successful!

I wish to acknowledge our entire township staff for their efforts. Led by our dedicated Township Manager, Bill McCauley, they perform in a dedicated and professional manner every day.

It would also be remiss of me to not thank our Township Solicitors Randy Flager and Ed Zanine, Township Engineer Kurt Schroeder as well as the many volunteers serving on our Boards and Commissions.

As we kick off 2016, our community continues to be blessed with many dedicated residents. It is an honor and privilege to serve you and our community. On behalf of Council, I thank you for all your efforts and support. God Bless all of you and Bristol Township.

Since 2012 all roads in pink, green, blue, and purple have been re-surfaced.

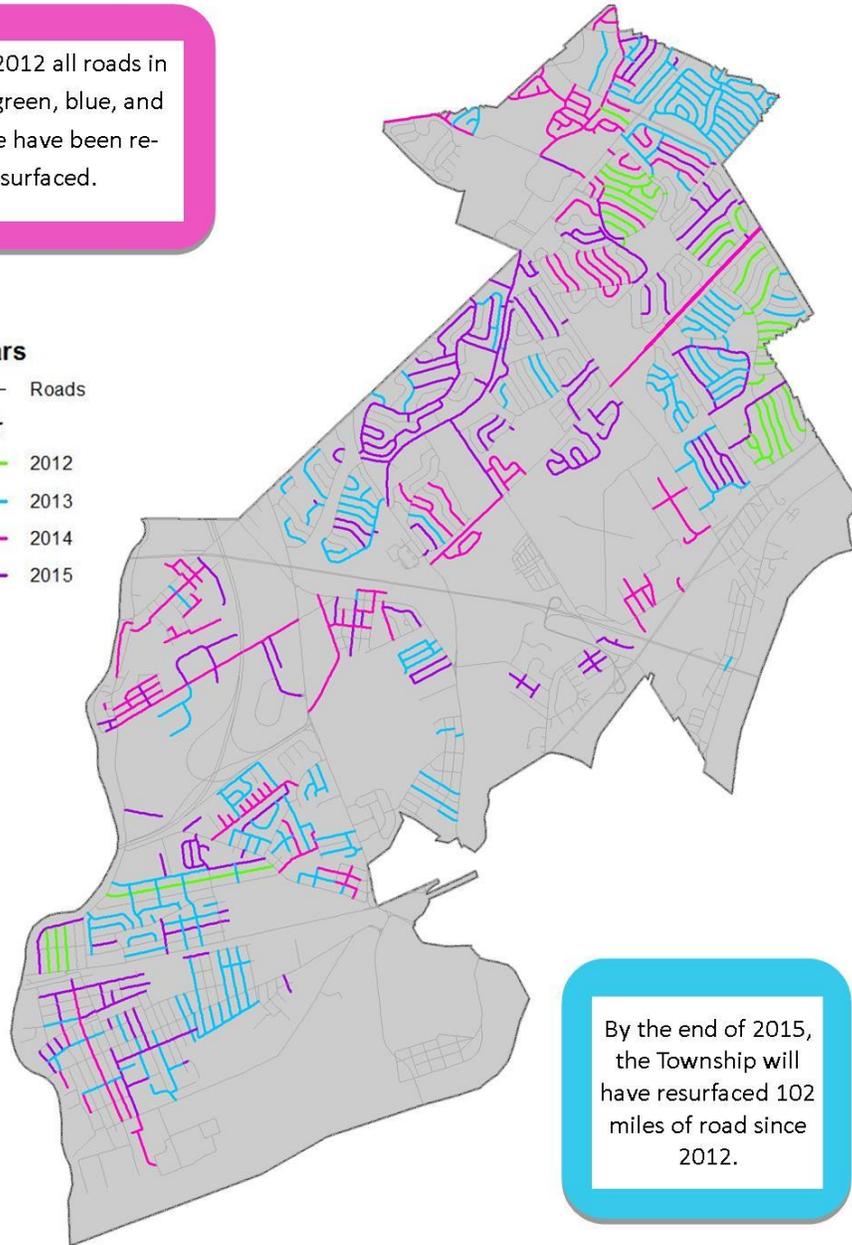
**Legend**

**Paving Years**

— Roads

**Paving Year**

-  2012
-  2013
-  2014
-  2015



By the end of 2015, the Township will have resurfaced 102 miles of road since 2012.



**Road Resurfacing Project**