



B. Lee
FYI
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
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Elaine A. Morgan
Clerk of the Board

County of Sussex

April 9, 2009

Mr. Stephen Dilts, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORTING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR THE ONE WAY
REALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 23 IN SUSSEX BOROUGH AND THE
PAPAKATING CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN
SUSSEX BOROUGH AND WANTAGE TOWNSHIP

Dear Mr. Dilts:

The above-captioned Resolution was adopted by the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders at its meeting held on April 8, 2009.

The Resolution supports this alternative plan, as detailed in the Resolution.

Enclosed please find a certified copy of the Resolution for your files. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elaine A. Morgan

Elaine A. Morgan
Clerk of the Board
/eam

cc: ✓ Deborah Hirt, NJDOT
Honorable Steven V. Oroho, NJ Senator
Honorable Gary R. Chiusano, NJ Assemblyman
Honorable Alison Littell McHose, NJ Assemblywoman
Mary K. Murphy, Exec. Dir., NJTPA
Sussex Borough
Wantage Township
Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Integration Effort Comm.
John Risko, Assistant County Engineer
Eric Snyder, Director, Division of Planning
Thomas Drabic, Transportation Planner

RECEIVED
APR 27 2009

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORTING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR THE ONE WAY REALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 23 IN SUSSEX BOROUGH AND THE PAKATING CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN SUSSEX BOROUGH AND WANTAGE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, traffic congestion along State Route 23 in the Borough of Sussex continues to have a negative impact on the quality of life of Sussex Borough residents and the many travelers who use Route 23 in Sussex Borough on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address the issue of traffic congestion and safety along Route 23 in the Borough of Sussex, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) had proposed certain improvements a number of years ago; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT had proposed improvements to Route 23 that included a realignment of the highway in the Borough [North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) DBNUM: 9044]; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvement included the construction of a new roadway that would have connected the intersection of Lower Unionville Road and the existing Route 23, utilizing existing Walling Avenue and improvement of the intersection of Walling Avenue and Loomis Avenue and transition into the intersection of Bank Street and Newton Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the new, realigned roadway would have consisted of one 12 foot travel lane in each direction and one 10 foot shoulder in each direction; and

WHEREAS, the Route 23 Realignment and Papakating Creek Bridge Replacement Project, as listed in the NJTPA FY 2008 to 2011 TIP, had increased to an estimated total project cost of \$48.47 million; and

WHEREAS, in the NJDOT's proposed FY-2009 Capital Construction Program, the Route 23 Sussex Borough Realignment and Papakating Creek Bridge Replacement Project was NOT included and was unfunded due to fiscal constraints; and

WHEREAS, the potential loss of this project was of great concern to both municipal and County officials due to the negative impacts on congestion, safety and future economic development potential; and

WHEREAS, through a significant effort on the part of the Mayor and Council members of the Borough of Sussex and the County's NJTPA Board Member and Chairman, the NJDOT was persuaded to re-examine the recommendation to drop the project, which already had a considerable amount of time, effort and resources spent on the preliminary design work; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT Project Development Staff agreed to do a "Smart Solution" review of the project to see if there was a more cost effective alternative that could be developed that would still meet most of the objectives of the original project; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT agreed to send the project back into the FY-2009 Project Development Work Program (PDWP) for a re-evaluation and re-examination; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT Project Development Staff was able to come up with a feasible alternative that was able to meet most of the objectives of the original project; and

WHEREAS, this re-design of the project entailed a one-way street concept that would use both the existing Route 23 alignment and a new street along the existing Walling Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the new alternative would have the existing Route 23 alignment used for one-way northbound traffic from approximately the Lower Unionville Road intersection to the Loomis Avenue intersection (CR-639) and a new one-way southbound highway constructed from the Loomis Avenue intersection, along the existing Walling Avenue to a new connection back to Route 23 at the new Lower Unionville Road intersection; and

WHEREAS, this new alternative would include a proposed 12 foot lane, 12 foot shoulder and a 6 foot bike lane northbound and a 12 foot lane, 10 foot shoulder and a 6 foot bike lane southbound; and

WHEREAS, this new proposal would meet the most important objectives of the original project which are reduced congestion and improved safety; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant benefit of the new alternative which has increased economic development potential due to the fact that the existing Route 23 alignment will be utilized for northbound traffic rather than being turned into a local street as proposed in the original plan; and

WHEREAS, there is a very significant cost reduction and savings realized in the new alternative, which makes this project more viable and feasible; and

WHEREAS, the project cost has been reduced from an estimated total project cost of \$48.47 million in the FY-2008 TIP, to a revised total cost of \$15.0 million, which is a savings of over \$33.47 million; and

WHEREAS, consideration needs to be given to ongoing and continuing transportation funding problems that both the State and Federal governments are experiencing at this time; and

WHEREAS, the re-designed project is much more financially feasible and still meets most of the objectives of the original project, and will result in improved traffic flow and safety in the Borough as well as an improved quality of life for the residents and travelers along this important regional highway corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders that it fully supports the New Jersey Department of Transportation's re-designed one way alternative for the Route 23 Sussex Borough Realignment and Papakating Creek Bridge Replacement Project in the Borough of Sussex and Wantage Township, and urges the NJDOT to move deliberately and expeditiously to final design and construction of this important regional highway system improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders commends the NJDOT for its willingness to work cooperatively and collaboratively with the Municipalities and the County in developing an alternative to the original project that will enable the project to be constructed in a more effective and efficient manor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor and Council of Sussex Borough, Sussex Borough Municipal Building, 2 Main Street, Sussex, NJ 07461; and Wantage Township, Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23 South, Wantage NJ 07461; Stephen Dilts, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625-0600; the Honorable Steven V. Oroho, District 24, NJ State Senator, 115 Demarest Road, Suite 2B, Sparta, NJ 07871; the Honorable Alison McHose, District 24, NJ State Assemblywoman, 115 Demarest Road, Suite 2B, Sparta, NJ 07871; the Honorable Gary R. Chiusano, District 24, NJ State Assemblyman, 115 Demarest Road, Suite 2B, Sparta, NJ 07871; Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, One Newark Center, 17th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102; the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce, Transportation Integration Effort Committee, 120 Hampton House Road, Newton, NJ 07860; John Risko, Director, Division of Engineering; Eric Snyder, Sussex County Planning Director; and Thomas Drabic, Sussex County Transportation Planner.

Certified as a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders on the 8th day of April, 2009.

Elaine A. Morgan

Elaine A. Morgan, Clerk
Board of Chosen Freeholders
County of Sussex

RECORD OF VOTE						
FREEHOLDER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	ABS	MOVE	SEC
Crabb	✓					✓
Parrott	✓					
Vetrano	✓					
Wirths	✓					
Zellman	✓				✓	

N.V. - Not Voting
MOVE - Resolution Moved
SEC - Resolution Seconded
ABS - Absent