

RESOLUTION NO. 984

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S EISENHOWER DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT INITIATIVE PLANNED AS A BYPASS TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTED COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC FROM THE HANOVER BOROUGH ALONG THE ROUTE WITH PICKUPS AT THE EXPANDED EISENHOWER DRIVE AND ROUTE 94, KNOWN AS PLAN #5C, WHICH WOULD HAVE MINIMAL TO NO IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND LIMITED IMPACT ON RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

WHEREAS, The Eisenhower Drive Extension Project is located in York and Adams Counties, involving Eisenhower Drive, SR 94 (Carlisle Street), and SR 116 (Hanover Road, West Elm Avenue, Third Street) which are main traffic corridors through McSherrystown Borough, Hanover Borough, Conewago Township and Penn Township; and

WHEREAS, The above mentioned roadways are heavily congested, do not move traffic as efficiently as needed, and experience higher-than-average crash frequency when compared to similar roadways within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, For many years the Eisenhower Drive Extension Project had been planned as a bypass to relieve the congested commercial traffic from the Hanover Borough and move it along the new route, with pickups at the expanded Eisenhower Drive and Route 94, having minimal to no impact on agricultural properties and limited impact on residential homes; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's "TSM Alternative Option" would negatively impact Hanover Borough, widen intersections, place new signal patterns, and most notably, this plan would include the public seizure of 53 vibrant properties through eminent domain, which could be considered one of the largest public seizures of commercial and residential property in the Central Pennsylvania region; and

WHEREAS, Hanover Borough has over 4,113 people per square mile and the TSM Alternative plan will displace businesses and possibly hundreds of citizens; and

WHEREAS, If the TSM Alternative Option were to be implemented, Hanover Borough will be devastated financially resulting in the loss of 53 properties and an additional unknown number of partial seizures from the tax rolls, as well as revenue from service of water, sewer and garbage collection, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, The TSM Alternative Option initiative is being considered at a time when there are major revitalization efforts in process where local commercial momentum is strong with substantial commercial investment; and

WHEREAS, Downtown Hanover is the urban center of the region and is posed to be a walkable community where people are able to shop and thrive with a level of reasonable comfort and pedestrian safety which occurs through funneling pass-through traffic away from the downtown area as prescribed in the preferred 5C Bypass Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Penn Township Board of Commissioners hereby conveys its opposition to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's TSM Alternative Option which will have maximum impact on Hanover Borough; on behalf of the citizens, Penn Township Board of Commissioners formally proposes removal of the TSM Alternative out of consideration as a planned project in our area; and do hereby support the implementation of the preferred 5C Bypass Plan for the overall benefit of all citizens in the region.

RESOLVED AND ENACTED, this 21st day of February 2022.

Board of Commissioners of Penn Township

By Michael G. Brown
Michael G. Brown, President

ATTEST:

Donna M. Sweeney
Donna M. Sweeney, Township Secretary

