RESOLUTION __ -2018

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAIDENCREEK, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR WIDENING RT. 222 TO FOUR LANES AND CONCERNS THAT THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS FAILED TO ADEQUATELY CONSIDER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY ISSUES IN ITS PLANNING OF THE PROPOSED ROUNDABOUTS AT ROUTE 222 AND TAMARACK BOULEVARD / GENESIS DRIVE AND ROUTE 222 AND SCHAEFFER ROAD WHICH WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES OF THE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, Penn DOT has proposed widening Rt. 222 to four lanes from Park Rd to Evansville Rd , in addition to the construction of two roundabouts on Rt. 222; and

WHEREAS, Maidencreek Township has spent considerable time and resources over the past thirty-five years to develop Zoning and Land Use Regulations in the Township; and

WHEREAS, Maidencreek Township, Richmond Township and Fleetwood Borough have entered into a Joint Comprehensive Plan at the urging of the Berks County Planning Commission and County of Berks which have defined the goals of the municipalities, provided for all land uses as required in the Municipalities Planning Code and planned for the future development of the municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Route 222 corridor is designated in the Joint Comprehensive Plan and in past Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances as the single largest area of future regional commercial growth in Maidencreek Township; and

WHEREAS, the two roundabouts proposed by Penn DOT District 5 and supported by the Berks County Commissioners and the members of the Reading Area Transportation Study has not taken the impact of future Berks County and Lehigh County development on traffic into consideration; and

WHEREAS installation of the proposed roundabouts will severely impede commercial development of the Route 222 Corridor in Maidencreek Township; and

WHEREAS existing businesses will suffer from restricted ingress and egress and thereby impair their ongoing viability; and

WHEREAS, failure to account for future development in the Route 222 North Corridor will result in wasting tax payer money for construction of a road system that will fail to achieve its goals to control congestion, as well as compromise the safety of motorist, bicyclists, horse and buggies and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the proposed roundabouts do not have shoulders or bicycle lanes to safely accommodate bicyclists and horse and buggies; and

WHEREAS, residents have expressed concerns about the anticipated long delays while attempting to enter the roundabouts when heavy Rt. 222 traffic fails to yield to low volume traffic entering from township streets; and

WHEREAS, the residents that live in Ontelaunee Heights development of 164 homes do not have another street access to/from their homes if there was a major incident in the roundabout that blocked Tamarack Rd; and

WHEREAS, Penn DOT expects Maidencreek Township to maintain the two roundabouts; and

WHEREAS, the property owners and business owners along the Route 222 corridor have the right to the use and enjoyment of their property and benefit from that use and have petitioned the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors to stop the roundabouts or lose valuable businesses; and

WHEREAS, property owners did due diligence in locating their businesses along Route 222 to assure their businesses were compatible with the community's demographics, zoning and future plans for the region; and, despite their conscientious care and planning, these same property owners are likely to be harmed in the use, value and enjoyment of their property by changes to Route 222 that are not clearly likely to accomplish the goals of these changes.

WHEREAS, commercial development is vital to the economic well being of the residents and property owners of the Township of Maidencreek in the form of employment, providing of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, commercial development benefits the Municipality, School District and County by providing revenue through a stronger tax base and has a much lower ratio for the cost of providing services than a residential development.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Maidencreek, Berks County, Pennsylvania, resolves that:

1. the Township of Maidencreek, County of Berks, supports the widening of Rt. 222 to four lanes from Park Rd to Evansville Rd and retaining the existing traffic signals; and
2. that the Township of Maidencreek, County of Berks, opposes both roundabouts on Route 222 in Maidencreek Township until such time as future growth , safety of all motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, horse and buggies and the specific impact to existing and proposed commercial establishments are adequately addressed and planned for; and
3. that Penn DOT undertake a study that takes into consideration the zoning of the land along the Route 222 North Corridor and develop a long-term traffic plan that addresses the current and future growth and congestion , including the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, horse and buggies in the corridor.
4. that Penn DOT should maintain their proposed roundabouts using Penn DOT personnel and resources.

RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Maidencreek in lawful session duly assembled this 12th day of April, 2018 A.D.

Board of Supervisors
Maidencreek Township

Berks County, Pennsylvania

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Claude Beaver

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Joseph Rudderow III

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Heidi Fiedler

Attest:

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Diane Hollenbach