



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
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www.rochesterhills.org

Legislative File No: 2009-0203

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: James Rosen

DATE: May 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Review of the City's past policy decisions regarding road improvements of 3-lane and 4-lane residential boulevards, or 5-lane roads

At the May 4, 2009, City Council Meeting I requested an agenda item to review the City's past policy decisions regarding road improvements of 3-lane and 4-lane residential boulevards, or 5-lane roads. At the time and subsequently, I asked for minutes and packets from those earlier discussions be included for Council's review. A large amount of past documentation is included and probably covers most (though maybe not all) of the Council's discussion.

The formal discussions of the Council began in 1986, nearly 25 years ago; however there were reports of earlier discussion by the Planning Commission and Township. Discussions by the Council re-occurred in 1992 and again 2001. It appears that the original policy from 1986 cited the City's opposition to 5-lane road improvements in favor of 3-lane roads or 4-lane boulevards. That policy was modified in 1992 to support the concept of 4-lane boulevards and continued opposition to 5-lane boulevards except as a last resort. In 2001 the Council rescinded the 1992 policy in order to consider all road projects on a case-by-case basis.

Review of all the past Council discussion and public input clearly demonstrates the type of road and its design are central to the character of the City as a whole and in particular to the specific corridors of the City. This entire discussion is about the character of the City of Rochester Hills! The discussion is really about whether we can continue to thrive as a City of 70,000 residents while maintaining the semi-rural "feel" of a Township. Our Master Land Use Plans and Master Thoroughfare Plans are designed to accomplish that intent. (I have included my detailed comments on these issues.)

This Council discussion started because of concerns of residents raised by the Road Commission for Oakland County's public meeting to discuss potential plans for Tienken Road to be a 4-lane boulevard or a 5-lane road from west of Livernois Road to Sheldon Road. The 2008 City of Rochester Hills Thoroughfare Plan Update clearly shows Tienken Road planned for a 3-lane road along this same area (except for the existing intersection at Rochester Road). Whether to improve Tienken to 3, 4 or 5 lanes is not a transportation or engineering question, it is decision about the character of that portion of the City of Rochester Hills.

I have included a resolution for Council's consideration that would affirm the City's Master Thoroughfare Plan's designation of Tienken Road roadway section of 3-lanes between Livernois and Sheldon as the desired design for any road improvement for this area.



Rochester Hills

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Roads: RES0195-2009

File Number: 2009-0203

Enactment Number: RES0195-2009

Recommendation to the Road Commission for Oakland County to support a three-lane cross-section as the City's preferred alternative for improving Tienken Road from west of Livernois Road to Sheldon Road

Whereas, the Road Commission for Oakland County is developing the Environmental Assessment for the widening and reconstruction of Tienken Road from west of Livernois Road to Sheldon Road in Rochester Hills; and

Whereas, the Road Commission for Oakland County has narrowed the considerations to a preferred alternative of a 5-lane undivided road cross-section along with a 3-lane road cross-section developed in consultation with residents and the City; and

Whereas, the Master Thoroughfare Plan for the City of Rochester Hills and its most recent update in 2008 planned a 3-lane cross-section for this same segment of roadway, except for the existing improvements at the intersection of Rochester Road; and

Whereas, the Rochester Hills City Council has a policy to consider road widening on a case-by-case basis; and

Whereas, the Rochester Hills City Council has considered the alternatives for improving Tienken Road between Livernois and Sheldon Roads on a case-by-case basis and concludes that it be a 3-lane cross-section with the existing intersection improvements because of the improvement in traffic flow and the reduction in congestion such construction would have without significant undesirable effects on the surrounding community; and

Whereas, the Road Commission for Oakland County is required to submit its preferred alternate to the FHWA for review along with any reasonable non-preferred alternatives

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that Rochester Hills City Council recommends to the Road Commission for Oakland County that improvement to Tienken Road between Livernois and Sheldon Roads be a 3-lane cross-section segment of roadway, except for the existing improvements at the intersection of Rochester Road; and

Now Be It Further Resolved, that Rochester Hills City Council requests the Road Commission for Oakland County include the 3-lane cross-section labeled as the City of Rochester Hills' preferred alternative in its Environmental Assessment for this portion of Tienken Road; and

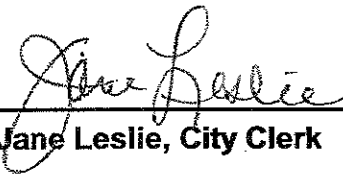
Now Be It Finally Resolved, that once the Environmental Assessment is submitted to the FHWA, the City of Rochester Hills will continue its efforts and contact the FHWA in the appropriate manner to support its conclusions regarding its preferred alternative 3-lane cross-section with intersection improvements.

I, Jane Leslie, City Clerk, certify that this is a true copy of RES0195-2009 passed at the Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on 7/27/2009 by the following vote:

Moved by James Rosen, Seconded by Erik Ambrozaitis

Aye: Ambrozaitis, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Abstain: Brennan


Jane Leslie, City Clerk

August 7, 2009
Date Certified

