



innovative *by* nature

Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor

October 24, 2017

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Ms. Sandra Montes, P.E.
Michigan Department of Transportation
Oakland Transportation Service Center
800 Vanguard
Pontiac, MI 48341

Dear Ms. Montes:

Thank you for meeting with City staff to discuss the Auburn Road corridor jurisdiction and an Auburn Road reconstruction proposal between Culbertson Avenue and Dequindre Road.

The Auburn Road reconstruction project is in the early stages of development. The City commenced a review of the Auburn Road corridor in 2016 with a consultant team consisting of LSL Planning, MKSK, OHM Advisors, and the Chesapeake Group.

The consultant team focused on a section of Auburn Road between Culbertson Avenue and Dequindre Road for redevelopment. Goals of the redevelopment plan include improving pedestrian safety and accommodations, better defining the existing parking for adjacent businesses, incorporating additional landscaping items, repaving and rebuilding traffic calming elements for Auburn Road, and encouraging new development opportunities.

The Auburn Road corridor plan was adopted in January 2017. The Rochester Hills City Council then elected to proceed with contracting OHM Advisors to perform Early Preliminary Engineering (EPE) for a potential Auburn Road (Culbertson Avenue to Dequindre Road) reconstruction project. OHM is finalizing the EPE report but a question of jurisdictional transfer of Auburn Road ownership has been raised that may affect how the next step of preliminary engineering design is handled.

We discussed four road ownership alternatives at our October 6, 2017 meeting. These include:

- 1) No change in jurisdiction and design the reconstruction project with an MDOT permit review.
- 2) Rochester Hills assumes jurisdiction of approximately one half mile of Auburn Road between Culbertson Avenue and Dequindre Road (MDOT retains control of the westerly leg of Auburn Road/Culbertson Avenue and the intersection).

3) Rochester Hills assumes jurisdiction of approximately 2-miles of Auburn Road between Rochester and Dequindre Roads (MDOT retains control of approximately 4-miles of Auburn Road west of Rochester Road and the intersection of Rochester/Auburn Road).

4) Rochester Hills takes ownership of Auburn Road between the westerly and easterly corporate limits (approximately 6 miles).

It is our hope to achieve a mutually beneficial arrangement between the MDOT and Rochester Hills that will provide Rochester Hills the flexibility to control design elements of the proposed Auburn Road project while also providing the MDOT an opportunity to release itself from a long-term responsibility of owning and maintaining a section of Auburn Road.

The City's preference is Option 2, jurisdiction transfer of Auburn Road between Culbertson Avenue and Dequindre Road. We are, however, also willing to consider and further discuss the other options. Please reply and let me know what options are acceptable to the MDOT and whether any other incentives are available, financial or any other level of support.

Please call me at 248.841.2486 or e-mail davis@rochesterhills.org if you would like to review this matter in greater detail. In the meantime, we will look forward to your reply regarding the MDOT's position or conditions regarding the options for transferring the jurisdiction of Auburn Road.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Davis, P.E.
Deputy Director/City Engineer

c: Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor
Allan E. Schneck, P.E., Director; DPS
Paul G. Shumejko, P.E., PTOE, Transportation Engineer; DPS
Sara Roediger, AICP, Director; Planning & Economic Development
Kristen Kapelanski, AICP, Manager; Planning & Economic Development
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