



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

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**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

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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 In 2001 the Council rescinded the 1992 policy in order to consider all road projects on a case-by-case basis.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.

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