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May 17, 2007

Mr. Michael W. Culpepper, City Manager  
 City of Auburn Hills  
 1827 N. Squirrel Road  
 Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

Dear City Manager Culpepper,

At your request, the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) recently conducted a traffic speed evaluation on Tienken Road, between Squirrel Road and the Auburn Hills City Limit. The primary objective was to establish a realistic speed limit.

**SUMMARY OF SPEED DATA**

The traffic speed evaluation was conducted by placing two automatic traffic counters on the side of the road to collect the speed of every vehicle for a 48-hour period. The speeds of 11,664 vehicles were collected and recorded on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 8, 9, and 10, 2007. A summary of the results is shown in the table below (details are attached).

DIRECTION	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	AVERAGE SPEED	85 <sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE SPEED *
Eastbound	5,103	39 MPH	44 MPH
Westbound	6,561	40 MPH	45 MPH
Eastbound/Westbound	11,664	39.5 MPH	44.5 MPH

speed is the that 85 percent of the drivers are driving at, or below.

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is the basis for establishing a realistic speed limit. Tests, studies, and research have consistently shown that the risk of traffic crashes lessen when the posted speed limit is set as close as possible to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. When the speed limit is set artificially low there is a large variance in speeds. This variance in vehicular speeds contributes to sideswipe and rear-end crashes. When the speed limit is set near the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, it is more reasonable to all drivers and the compliance to the posted speed limit is much greater. This reduces crashes and road rage incidents.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the information that was collected by the automatic traffic counters, we suggest that consideration be given to adjust the posted speed limit to 40 MPH, which will provide drivers with a reasonable speed limit that will result in better speed compliance, lower speeds, and risk reduction.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Mr. Michael W. Culpepper, City Manager  
May 17, 2007

Thank you for your concern for traffic safety, and we hope that you will find this information to be useful.

Respectfully,

  
JAMES A. SANTIILLI, JR.  
Traffic Safety Specialist

  
ROBERT V. DECORTE, P.E.  
Vice President

Enclosures

CC: Mr. Marc Matich, Traffic Technician (City of Rochester Hills)  
Deputy Chief James H. Mynsberge (City of Auburn Hills)  
Chief Doreen E. Olko (City of Auburn Hills)  
Mr. Roger Rousse, Director of Public Services (City of Rochester Hills)  
Mr. Paul G. Shumejko, Traffic Engineer (City of Rochester Hills)