

May 14, 2009



Mr. Greg Hooper, City Council President  
City of Rochester Hills  
1000 Rochester Hills Drive  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Dear Mr. Hooper,

As we discussed, there appears to be a good deal of confusion regarding proposed improvements to the Tienken Road Corridor. I believe this may be attributed to the fact there are three separate projects proposed for this corridor. Discussions or facts pertaining to one of these projects may have been misinterpreted to apply to one or both of the other projects. We hope this correspondence, and the attachments provided herein will clarify what is proposed and the status of each project.

Please refer first to the "Tienken Corridor Project Status" attachment. From that document you will see we recognize the bridge replacement over Stony Creek and the Washington Road paving projects will involve input from the public and the Historic District at the appropriate times. At this time we only have a scope for these improvements, both two lanes, but we do not have even conceptual plans to share yet.

Referring to both the "Corridor Status" and the attachment titled "Process for Environmental Assessment (E/A)", you will see the project for widening Tienken from Livernois to Sheldon Roads is in the early stages of the Environmental Assessment phase. The E/A phase is a requirement of the FHWA when widening is considered using Federal Funds. We are currently in the "Project Development Activities" box, still gathering facts, and assessing impacts of various alternative designs. This phase includes public input. We have met with key stakeholders such as the schools, both Cities, local businesses, etc., and we've had one meeting with the public at large. From these meetings we've taken suggestions and requests, and are gathering information to address those concerns and weight their impacts. We hope to have our next public information meeting in early July to continue this discussion and eventually arrive at a preferred alternative.

We have been made aware of several discussions regarding Tienken Road by various groups. We are happy to share in these discussions. The discussions regarding Tienken Road from Livernois to Sheldon are best held as part of the Environmental Assessment process, where all interested parties and stakeholders may hear the same information, about the same piece of Tienken Road, at the same time. Additionally, many suggestions and their impacts are investigated in the E/A process and the results can be discussed at these meetings. As we've seen, multiple conversations in multiple setting may lead to misunderstandings.

*Board of Road Commissioners*

*Gregory C. Jamian*  
Commissioner

*Richard G. Skarritt*  
Commissioner

*Eric S. Wilson*  
Commissioner

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*Brent O. Bair*  
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It's come to our attention the Rochester Hills City Council has considered taking action regarding the cross section of Tienken Road. We urge the council to allow the Environmental Assessment process to develop, investigate, and discuss the benefits and impacts of the various designs, then join us in selecting and advancing the Preferred Alternative.

We look forward to working with the Cities, Historic District, and the other stakeholders in these three Tienken Road Corridor Projects.

Please contact me if we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

Thomas G. Blust, P.E.  
Director of Engineering

cc: Bryan Barnett, Rochester Hills, Mayor  
Jaymes Vettraino, Manager, City of Rochester Hills  
Dennis G. Kolar, P.E., Deputy Managing Director/County Hwy Engineer

## **Tienken Corridor Project Status May 14, 2009**

### Three Separate Projects:

- Bridge at Stony Creek
- Washington Road Paving
- Livernois to Sheldon Roads

### Bridge at Stony Creek

Schedule: Bid fall/winter 2009 for spring 2010 construction

Funding: Local Bridge Program (F.K.A. Critical Bridge)

- MDOT/FHWA 95% of Structure
- RCOC 5% of Structure 100% approach work

### Project Description:

Replacement of two lane bridge. New bridge will be two lanes with pedestrian facility on one side. This bridge is partially in the Stony Creek Historic District. The Historic District will have input on the bridge design, including aesthetics.

### Project Status:

Type Size, and location (TS& L) plans being developed.

TS & L plans are preliminary bridge plans, which will be shared with the City and the Historic District for comment.

### Washington Road Paving:

Schedule: 2011

Funding: Surface Transportation fund:

- 80% Federal (\$3,000,000)
- 20% Local (\$750,000)

### Project Description:

Paving of Washington Road from Tienken and Sheldon to Dequindre. Pavement will be two lanes. Washington Road is in the Stony Creek and Winkler Pond Historic Districts. Context Sensitive Design will be applied to the extent possible with input from the City of Rochester Hills, City of Rochester and the Historic District, as well as other stakeholders.

### Project Status:

Funding has been identified. Design has not started

Livernois to Sheldon:

**Schedule:** Depending on the Preferred Alternative, and the resultant amount of Right-of-Way to be acquired, this project may begin construction in late 2010 or 2011.

**Funding:** Preliminary Engineering- funded 100% as a congressional High Priority Project; ROW and Construction funded in SAFETEA-LU

- \$1,200,000 Preliminary Engineering
- \$13,500,000 ROW/Construction
  - 80% Federal(\$10,800,000)
  - 20% Local Match (2,700,000)

Project Status:

This project is in the Environmental Assessment (E/A) phase. See attached E/A flow chart. Tienken Road, Livernois to Sheldon, is currently in the "Project Development Activities" box. In the E/A, alternative designs are considered and examined for their effectiveness and related impacts. Alternative designs typically may include a various number of travel lanes, alignments, intersection options, etc. These alternative designs are weighed against their impacts on traffic, the environment, society, ROW impacts, and costs. Meetings with stakeholders including the Cities, Schools, Historic District etc., and one public informational meeting have been held. Based on these meetings we have been gathering additional requested information. The next public information meeting is anticipated to take place in early July, 2009.