

BERKSHIRE TOWNSHIP

Delaware County, Ohio

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www.BerkshireTwp.org

Dear Berkshire Township Resident,

On July 11, 2016 your township Trustees issued a letter to ODOT explaining our position on documents received regarding the ODOT/TRAC application **2016-DO6-05**, Project Name **DEL-71-7.91 I-71 US 36/SR37 Interchange Improvements**. Those documents are regarding an application made to ODOT for a proposal to build a southern exit on I-71, on land annexed to Sunbury, just south of the existing exit.

The ODOT/TRAC application indicates there would be multiple phases to the project, with completion estimated to be 2035 or beyond. In addition, the application proposes that part of the initial funding for this new exit come from the \$16.5 million dollars generated in Berkshire Township by the Tanger Outlet Mall.

The Trustees firmly believe the \$16.5 million was created to be used for improvements at the existing interchange, specifically onto I-71 southbound, both from the east and from the west. In part, those improvements were referred to as "Design Year Improvements" in the original agreement between Berkshire Township, Delaware County, the mall and ODOT when the fund for those monies was originally created. We feel strongly that to use those monies anywhere else violates the spirit of that agreement. (Please see excerpt from that agreement on the reverse side of this letter)

While it seems that ODOT has decided the southern option is the best to pursue, the township has concerns with regards to funding this enormous project. There is still no viable plan to verify funding for: A) fully funding all phases of construction, and B) provide specifics as to how connector roads to the east and west will impact Berkshire Township and surrounding communities, and more importantly, when they will actually be built.

Berkshire Township strongly disagrees with the use of that money for anything other than to improve the existing interchange, as we believe the residents of the entire area will benefit from such improvements. **We propose that ODOT look more fully into widening the bridge over I-71 and add additional turn lanes onto southbound I-71 which will immediately improve the traffic flow and have a positive impact on the lives of the people who travel that route on a daily basis.**

The need to improve the existing interchange is evident now. The businesses at that exit as well as the residents who travel through that interchange deserve help now – not many years in the future, if ever. It is our understanding that IF the southern exit moves forward there will be no improvements made to the current interchange at all. We believe this is unacceptable.

Therefore, the Berkshire Township Trustees cannot support the current TRAC application for the southern interchange as submitted, as it is not fully funded and is trying to utilize monies already earmarked for the existing exit. The trustees passed a Resolution number 16-7-2 and letter dated July 11, 2016 stating their position.

What can you do to have YOUR voice heard?

A hearing regarding this TRAC application will occur on October 13, 2016. We've been told by ODOT that we may present any input received from our residents prior to that date, and that input will definitely be considered as the ODOT/TRAC

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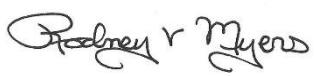
committee moves through the review and “grading” process. There is no public participation at this hearing, however, the township will attend.

If you agree with the township’s position on this issue, we are asking you to **please sign the enclosed postage-paid STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT postcard**, stating that as a resident of Berkshire Township, you would like to see ODOT use the \$16.5 million dollars to make improvements at the existing interchange, before taking it away to be used for another exit. Please mail this postcard back to the township so that it is in our hands on **or before Monday October 10th, 2016**.

Time is of the essence in this matter and we ask your help if you are in agreement with the Township’s position.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Rod Myers, Trustee



Bill Holtry, Trustee



Mike Dattilo, Trustee

* Excerpt from ODOT Agreement No. 18798, Addendum A, p.2, item 1.7 which states:

“After discussions with the Company and Berkshire Township (the “Township”), the County and ODOT understand that the Company, ODOT, the County, and Township work together to fully fund the Opening Day Traffic Improvements and to secure in part the future funding of the Design Year Traffic Improvements (the Opening Day Traffic Improvements and the Design Year Traffic Improvements are collectively referred to herein as the “Tanger/Simon Traffic Improvements”), and, to the extent possible, funding the future improvements at the present interchange of US36/SR37 and I-71 PID90200 and subsequent related projects (such improvements, together with the Tanger/Simon Traffic Improvements are referred to herein as “the Project”).

**in the above excerpt, the Company” refers to the Tanger/Simon Outlet Mall*

If you’d like to email additional comments to ODOT directly, please do so **before** October 13th. Send to:

Jim Gates, Major New Program Manager - TRAC Coordinator,
ODOT - Systems Planning & Program Management
james.gates@dot.ohio.gov

Please remember to visit our website homepage at www.BerkshireTwp.org and sign up with your email to receive important news and information regarding your township via e-mail.