

July 27, 1998

Kurt Landefeld
4066 Oak Hill Rd.
Peninsula, OH

To the Buston Twp. Trustees,

I strongly urge you to move forward on the Oak Hill Road repair project.

Given all the input we have received, this project makes sense for a number of reasons:

1) **It makes eminent financial sense.** The township's share of this repair is a small fraction of the project's overall cost. It is clear we are receiving high levels of support from the state, county and the Park Service because of the importance of the road and because of the township's overall financial condition. It would be fiscally irresponsible if further delay jeopardizes this support.

2) **It makes sound engineering sense.** While there may be better, more expensive solutions, the one presented is sound, cost-effective and can be done with some, but not major, environmental disruption.

There are no permanent solutions. But the opportunity to replace the current roadbed with a wider, stronger, safer surface is the right thing to do.

We should expect that this repair will itself need repair in the future. When that will be is anybody's guess. But that should not keep us from going forward with the best recommendations engineering science can offer at this time.

3) **It is in the best long-range interests of the township.** I hate to make this reminder, but Oak Hill is a township road. It is not maintained exclusively for the pleasure of the residents in its immediate vicinity. As such, the trustees have an elected responsibility to maintain it and all township roads in the best possible condition.

Sound investments in this basic infrastructure are important not only for ease of travel, but also for protecting our own property investments and supporting our community's quality of life.

4) **It is part of our civic responsibility to provide safe passage for all who come through our community.** A second reminder: as much as we love our relative isolation, and as much as we love our area's natural beauty with its relative peace and quiet, we have a civic responsibility to provide safe passage for everybody who comes through our community.

I speak in particular of the Environmental Education Center. It is here. It is a fact. We who opposed it fought the good fight. We lost. Now we have a responsibility to make sure that the noise and traffic this new neighbor has brought does not overly disrupt the lives of township residents.

But to oppose this road improvement because it will serve, in part, to support the Center is specious. I do not believe that we can discriminate against the Center by attempting to regulate traffic in ways that we would not impose on other township roads.

If the Center is creating a traffic problem, then that is a matter we should take up with the Park Service. It is not a reason to delay going forward with this project.

Finally, this project has generated strong opinions, pro and con, stretching back years. But I know everybody concerned has the best interests of our community at heart.

We have thoroughly debated the merits of the project.

You trustees have worked hard to secure the support needed to make it financially possible.

We are now at the decision point.

For the reasons just stated, let us move forward. Let's make this improvement. Let's make a sound investment in our future. And let's make sure once the project's completed that the rights of our residents continue to be respected.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Landefeld

Diane M. Hach
3614 Oak Hill Rd.
Peninsula, Ohio
44264
July 27, 1998

Boston Township Trustees
P.O. Box 123
Peninsula, Ohio
44264

Dear Randy, John and Ed,

Late last year I attended a trustee meeting to ask you what was to be done to the hill on Oak Hill Road. At the time I expressed my concerns about the township spending money that we didn't have. In addition, as an Ohio taxpayer, it remained unclear to me why we would be spending more tax dollars on what had quickly become a project which would continue to require expensive, repetitive funding. According to the Summit County Engineering Office, virtually all repairs of the hill will be temporary - necessitating major infusions of money every so often. (I'm not sure I understand why spending a quarter of a million dollars to a half million dollars every few years is acceptable to us as a township facing bankruptcy or to the taxpayers of the state of Ohio, for that matter.) According to Beth Isano, a Summit County engineer, the only permanent fix was to completely relocate the road which she said was cost prohibitive. I also expressed concern over the loss of trees - in particular those at the bottom of the hill which Gene Esser said were dead - yet, currently, they are all in full foliage.

I was told by all of you at that time not to worry about it; the hill would undoubtedly be left alone and that it wasn't your decision to make *anyway*, it was up to Summit County. I should have insisted on a better answer at that time, as just the previous month when I had spoken with the engineering office, I was told the decision to repair the hill was *not* up to them, it was up to you, the trustees. Naturally, I was somewhat perplexed since neither the county nor you, the trustees, were accepting or admitting responsibility, yet I trusted you, the trustees, to follow through on what you had told me. So what a surprise to find out you are indeed fixing the hill and you already have bids.

I understand many more trees will need to come down, and what remains of the hill will be anything but our special, little, country road. (How many other roads like ours exist in Boston Township?) How can the destruction of trees be environmentally appropriate, especially when it's on the way to the Environmental Center?

And why is the county being trusted to give accurate advice when they so diametrically failed at this several years ago concerning the first major repair of our hill?

Have we not yet reached the point in time when someone says, "That's enough! We've done our best. This is going to be an on-going problem and we've destroyed enough trees and spent enough good money after bad repairs that it needs to end. We cannot continue to spend tax dollars on this."

At any rate, I'm sorry you saw fit to mislead me last year. I wish you had been honest with me and just said that you appreciated my concerns, but, frankly, you would do whatever it is you chose to do.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Hach

July 19, 1998

To: Boston Township Trustees
Re: Oak Hill Road Repairs

I am writing to advise you that keeping Oak Hill Rd. open and passable 365 days a year is a very important issue to me. Along with at least two other physicians who live in our neighborhood (Oak Hill, Major and Scobie Rds.) I work long hours in Akron area hospitals. The ability to use the hill in all weather is a major time saver for the trip to Akron and to neighboring areas for all of us who travel there. Keeping the hill safe and passable for buses impacts all those in the neighborhood whose children attend Woodridge schools and allows school buses to access the ECC from the south. Having the hill open also decreases the EMS transport time for anyone in our neighborhood needing to get to Akron area hospitals.

I strongly support the timely completion of the planned repairs to the hill portion of the road. The opportunity to use state funding to help our financially strapped township with this project should not be passed up, and putting off the repairs will only make it harder and more expensive in the future. It also creates the possibility of having to close the road again, which needs to be avoided if at all possible.

I understand that some of our neighbors are concerned about the additional grading and tree cutting that are needed. I appreciate their concerns, but feel that keeping the road open and safe has to take precedence. With the known tendency of the road to slip, similar to many other roads in the township, I feel that it is very important that the hill be routed in such a way as to decrease the chance of future slips as much as possible. Also, anything that can be done to minimize the steepness of the slope will be helpful in increasing the safety and passability of the road in rainy and winter weather.

Thank you for your concern about our neighborhood and about Oak Hill Rd.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Delahanty, D.O.

July 20, 1998

TO: Boston Township Trustees

FROM: Susan Delahanty

I support the project to repair the hill on Oak Hill Road. The problems due to the composition of the soil under the road need to be handled in a way that holds the best promise of a long term solution. Failure to deal with the underlying slippage can only lead to continued settling of the road surface, and increasing problems and costs in the future.

Repairing the road NOW, with Issue 2 and National Park Service money available, is the prudent thing to do.

Many of the trees along the hill are dead or dying. While cutting trees is always unfortunate, completing the hill project so that the road will be safer and more stable needs to take precedence. All the arguments about emergency vehicles needing the shortest route to hospitals to the south are still valid and will continue to be so. Ignoring the hill problem can only have negative consequences, and it is essential to keep the hill safe and open, now and for the future.

Many of us have assumed that this project was delayed, but would be completed. Please do not confuse this assumption with the perception that we don't care whether it gets done or not. I truly hope this project will be completed. After the informational meeting held with the county engineer, I felt the majority was in favor of the decision to fix the hill. Please do not change that decision without giving us the chance to have our voices heard again.

Thank you.

BOSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BE IT HEREBY KNOWN BY ALL THOSE PRESENT THAT ON THE 29TH DAY OF JULY, 1998, THE BOSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MET IN SPECIAL SESSION, COMMENCING AT 7:05 PM IN THE BOSTON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, BOSTON TOWNSHIP, SUMMIT COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO.

JOHN PUCHALSKI presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 98-0729-03

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION RESTRICTING TRUCK AND BUS TRAFFIC ON OAK HILL ROAD OFF OF EVERETT ROAD (C.H. 47) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BOSTON, COUNTY OF SUMMIT, OHIO

WHEREAS, truck traffic, drainage problems and erosion appear to be contributing to the serious failure of OAK HILL ROAD in Boston Township; and,

WHEREAS, the roadway has failed for a distance of approximately 1200 feet, beyond the scope of repairs by the Township Road Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Boston Township Board of Trustees has requested the Summit County Engineer to prepare roadway repair and/or construction plans required to return the above roadway to a safe and passable condition; and,

WHEREAS, having examined the present condition of this road brought on by the truck traffic, drainage and erosion problems, the County of Summit Engineer, because of the resulting serious condition of this road, and to minimize further costly damage, has recommended by letter dated 6-24-98, the prohibition of all truck traffic now, and in the future, to maximize the duration of the repairs to be made as a result of the plans prepared by the Engineer's Office; and

WHEREAS, the definition of Truck as used herein is as follows: any vehicle designed to carry cargo or passengers and weighing in excess of 5 tons, including but not limited to dump truck, tractor-trailers and/or buses exceeding said weight limit; and,

WHEREAS, a copy of the County of Summit Engineer's letter dated 6-24-98 is attached to and made a part of this Resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Boston Township, County of Summit, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1

After having received the County of Summit Engineer's recommendation and in accordance with the authority vested in it in ORC 4511.07 and ORC 5571.02 the Boston Township Board of Trustees hereby determines that Oak Hill road, from its intersection with Everett Road to a point 1200 feet north and east of same, be hereby closed to truck and bus traffic.

SECTION 2

It shall be unlawful to operate upon Oak Hill Road within the limits stated in Section 1, in the Township of Boston, County of Summit, Ohio, any truck or bus; and

SECTION 3

The Boston Township Road Department is hereby directed to cause to be placed on or before the date of the Resolution and retained on Oak Hill Road, signs of substantial construction which will conspicuously indicate the prohibition of trucks and buses in excess of five (5) tons.

SECTION 4

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Boston Township as well as that of the traveling public; and,

FURTHER, this Resolution is to take effect immediately upon its approval and adoption by the Board of Trustees, Township of Boston, County of Summit, Ohio; and,

FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the County of Summit Engineer.

Motion seconded by RANDOLPH BOALDRE

Roll called: AMY ANDERSON "YES"

RANDOLPH BOALDRE "YES"

JOHN PUGHLEY "YES"

CLERK