



COUNTY OF SUMMIT ENGINEER

GENE ESSER, RE., P.E.

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Director of Maintenance

Bryan Ford

June 24, 1998

COSE NO. 98-HI0094

Chief Deputy Engineer

Mohamed Derouich, P.E.

Director of Administration

Randy Cole

Boston Township
P.O. Box 123
Peninsula, Ohio 44264-0123

Attn.: Mr. Randolph Bergdorf, Chairman
Board of Trustees

Re: Oak Hill Road Repair Project

Dear Mr. Bergdorf:

I regret that I will be unable to attend your Trustee meeting tonight to discuss the Oak Hill Road Improvement Project. Two representatives from my office attended your trustee meeting on May 26th to explain the proposed work at the landslide area. However, I understand that the township still has some questions about the project. I offer the following information to address those concerns.

As explained at your meeting on May 26th, the most cost-effective approach to repair the section of road along the landslide is to realign the road five (5) to ten (10) feet to the east. This will move the road away from the worst area of landslide failure. However, as you know, that section of road is perched on the side of the hill. In order to move the road over, we must excavate into the hill. This will result in clearing the trees and grading the uphill side of the road.

I understand that the township is concerned about the plan to excavate and grade the upper hillside area. It is indeed unfortunate that the trees within these grading limits will be removed. However, I believe it is the only affordable solution. During the design process, our engineers investigated leaving the road where it is and constructing a "tie-back" retaining wall along the downhill side to stabilize the landslide. Although this approach could have permanently stopped the landslide, the cost was prohibitive at \$1.5 million.

Maintenance Office
(330) 843-2860

Bath Station
(330) 666-2547

Bornier Station
(330) 896-2662

Macdonia Station
(330) 833-9556

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The proposed improvements are estimated at \$234,317. The proposed improvements are not designed to permanently halt the landslide movement. However, this work should stabilize the road for a minimum of five (5) years and up to twenty (20) years. I consider this plan to be the only practical and affordable way to repair this section of road.

Although it will take time, eventually natural vegetation will be reestablished on the upper hillside. I suggest that the township petition CVNRA to perhaps create a planting program for this site.

I understand that the township also has questions about whether truck traffic can be prohibited on Oak Hill Road. It would be legal for the township to prohibit truck traffic for the first 1200' section of Oak Hill Road north of Wheatley Road. This includes the section of road along the landslide. As stated above, the proposed work is not designed to permanently correct the landslide problem. Therefore, it would be reasonable and legal to restrict truck traffic on this section to avoid aggravating the landslide condition.

However, the roadway conditions on the remainder of Oak Hill Road are no different than on any other Boston Township road. Therefore, there is no legal basis to restrict truck traffic beyond the first 1200' of the road.

If the township prohibits trucks on the south 1200' of the road, this would effectively eliminate all through truck traffic. However, all local truck traffic to the CVNRA Education Center would just be forced to travel on Major Road and the north section of Oak Hill Road.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please call if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Gene Esser, P.E., P.S.
ENGINEER
County of Summit

B/rsw

cc: R. Cole
R. Brankatelli
B. Iacano

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