

Board of Supervisors Special Work-Session Wednesday October 4, 2006

The Board of Supervisors conducted a special work-session meeting held on Wednesday October 4, 2006 commencing at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Hensel called the meeting to order. Present were Supervisors Ms. Silvernail, and Mr. Doratt, Mr. Pompo Township Solicitor, Mr. MacCombie Township Engineer, and members of the community.

Chairman Hensel stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Washington Lane Traffic Study prepared by McMahan Engineers. Mr. Hensel turned the meeting over to Marie Pantelone representing McMahan.

Ms. Pantelone stated that the purpose of the study was to identify and evaluate improvement alternatives to accommodate the current and future traffic conditions with the Sadsburyville area. Ms. Pantelone stated that in order to evaluate traffic operations within the study area manual turning movement traffic counts were completed for 13 intersections during the weekday morning peak period and the weekday afternoon peak period. The study reveals that future traffic volumes were projected utilizing an annual growth rate to account for regional traffic growth as well as accounting for the traffic generated by known area developments. The future traffic volumes were projected to the years 2010 and 2020.

Ms. Pantelone stated that currently the study shows no traffic congestion; future development coming there will be future traffic issues if left how it is right now. Ms. Pantelone discussed several alternatives by showing exhibits and explaining:

1. No build-No changes to the existing transportation network other than previously committed improvements.
2. Existing Roadway System with Improvements-Improvements within the existing roadway network at all study intersections.
3. Close Washington Lane-Close Washington Lane and associated improvements to accommodate the affected traffic patterns.
4. Close Washington Lane connect through the Bellaire Business Center-Close Washington Lane provide a new connection to the Bellaire Business Center and associated improvements to accommodate the affected traffic patterns.
5. Relocate Washington Lane-Relocate Washington Lane within Sadsbury Township and associated improvements to accommodate the affected traffic patterns.
6. Close Washington Lane-Close Washington Lane provides a new connection through Valley Township to U.S. Business Route 30 and improvements to accommodate the affected traffic patterns.

Ms. Silvernail expressed concerns with residential traffic going through an industrial park and Mr. MacCombie agreed that it is a concern. Ms. Pantelone suggested that a traffic signal be placed at Stewart Drive and Old Wilmington Road. Mr. Hensel stated why couldn't the Township place a round about instead of a traffic signal. Mr. Hensel asked Mr. MacCombie the long-term expense of placing a round about verses a traffic signal.

Mr. MacCombie stated that a traffic signal would cost approximately \$100,000. With future maintenance and a roundabout would cost approximately \$125,000? With minimum maintenance.

Ms. Silvernail stated with the expansion of Lincoln Highway for the traffic impact won't that affect the Sadsbury Village Enhancement Project. Mr. MacCombie stated that with traffic calming it is common for large trucks to take a different route and stay away.

Susan Franco asked if a roundabout would be school bus friendly? Ms. Pantelone stated that the roundabout could be structured to fit the need.

George Dalmas stated that 1.) Washington Lane cannot handle the future traffic of the future build out. 2.) Old Wilmington Road traffic signal is already a headache. 3.) He suggests traveling through AIM would help with traffic congestion.

Mr. Hensel stated that with all the future projects, Sadsbury Township would take the brunt of it all. Mr. Pompo stated that it seems the Township is not generating a future traffic constraint; the future plans of the Chester County Airport expansion are interfering. Mr. Doratt stated what if the Airport helped the Township make one of the traffic options work? Gary Hudson asked that if Washington Lane was upgraded to carry the future truck traffic wouldn't it be more expensive then going through AIM? Mr. Dalmas asked if Valley Township and Chester County Airport were going to contribute to the project?

Mr. Hensel stated to forward the traffic study onto the Township Planning Commission for review and come up with alternative traffic solution.

Mr. Doratt commented that the Chester County Airport expansion project is merely a safety issue and not about revenue.

Mr. Dave Jones an Engineer representing Chester County Airport stated that the airport is in need of the expansion for safety reasons that the pilots cannot operate fully, they are in need of a longer runway, the airport is a public use airport that remains open 24hours a day. Mr. Jones stated that some aircraft using the airport are too large. Mr. Hensel asked Mr. Jones at what point did the airport began operating unsafe? Mr. Jones stated that it has been run this way for approximately 10 to 15 years ago. Mr. Jones stated that currently pilots have to reduce their fuel loads to land or take off at the Chester County Airport. The Board questioned why the authorities are letting them run an unsafe operation at the airport. Mr. Jones replied that the pilots are aware of the situation and its up to them if they choose to land or take off from their airport unsafe. Again Mr. Jones states it's a public use airport and they cannot control the pilots. The Board stated that if the expansion happens for a longer runway what is going to stop larger aircraft from entering the airport?

Mr. Pompo stated that if the Township decides to take a recommended alternative to the traffic study to connect to Morris Lane do you have a line item in your airport budget to

pay for the operating costs and maintenance costs? Mr. Jones stated yes they are counting on grant money to help with the operating costs but no maintenance costs have been included. Mr. Pompo stated that the Township has financial limitations, so you are only going to help with funding to do this project with what you get grant money for? Mr. Hudson stated that the airport would raise funds besides grant funding with fuel sales; he added they must be self-sufficient. Mr. Pompo said if the Planning Commission does their review and comes back to the Board and said it is not feasible the costs are too high, Chester County Authority may have to be responsible and get the necessary funding to make the project work. Mr. Pompo asked Mr. Hudson if the authority still intended on making a contribution towards the Washington Lane Traffic Study as promised in a past public meeting? Mr. Hudson replied yes he agreed to pay \$3,000.

George Dalmas asked why do you want to expand now if the airport has been operating unsafe for 15 years? Mr. Dalmas stated he knew why because the Chester County Airport will be used as a distribution center for UPS.

The Board ended the meeting with concerns that the airport is operating unsafe and isn't doing anything about it.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Myers
Secretary/Treasurer