

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. ___-19

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA OPPOSING THE ROADWAY WIDENING
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON CHURCH ROAD BETWEEN
RICES MILL ROAD INTERSECTION TO 800 FEET EAST OF
THE CHURCH ROAD AND GREENWOOD AVENUE
INTERSECTION UNLESS AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT
CONCERN CAN BE REMEDIED**

WHEREAS, representatives of the Township of Cheltenham, Montgomery County comprising of its Board of Commissioners; Staff; members of various citizen advisory boards, including the Historical Commission, Shade Tree Advisory Commission, Wyncote Historic Board of Architectural Review, and Planning Commission; adjacent Wyncote residents; the Friends of Curtis Arboretum and local Community Civic Groups have attended meetings over the past several years as interested consulting parties to the Section 106 Review process for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Roadway Widening Improvement Project on Church Road between the Rices Mill Road intersection to just below the Curtis Arboretum driveway off Church Road approximately 800 feet east of the Greenwood Avenue intersection; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes that Church Road between Rices Mill Road and the Church Road entrance of Curtis Arboretum is significantly impacted by gridlock during peak travel times and emergencies and poses many safety concerns that necessitate significant intersection and roadway improvements to remedy these concerns; and

WHEREAS, Cheltenham Township prides itself on adoption and implementation of its 2013 Sustainability Plan which seeks to reduce carbon emissions through reduced reliance on motor vehicles, the creation of an efficient transportation system, and increased opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to improve the environment and health of the community; and

WHEREAS, Cheltenham Township believes this project can be supportive of its efforts to implement its 2013 Sustainability Plan, provided PennDOT can amend the plans to reduce concerns members and officials of the community have raised about this project; and

WHEREAS, interested consulting party members expressed their concerns to PennDOT officials at the Section 106 Review meetings regarding the overall adverse impact the current design will have on the immediate and adjacent areas and neighborhoods, including vehicular and pedestrian safety and accessibility, increased traffic volume on Church Road in Wyncote, and

concerns about the double eastbound through lanes on Church Road that merge just before the Curtis Arboretum driveway; and

WHEREAS, PennDOT and its consultant team held two open houses in a community meeting format on April 4, 2019, at Glenside Hall to unveil the latest plan to the public and public officials, including roadway layout and design, which those in attendance were advised was a little more than 30% design completed; and

WHEREAS, PennDOT's goal is to have preliminary design for this project completed by the end of 2019, final design complete for letting a public bid in late 2020, with construction anticipated to start sometime in early 2021; and

WHEREAS, participants at both the public and public officials Open Houses on April 4, expressed concerns about increased traffic volume, the number of travel lanes and merge locations, and the inability of pedestrians to cross the intersection at Church Road and Greenwood Avenue to safely access the Arboretum and other local points of interest in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, residents affected by the proposed intersection improvements do not feel that they have had ample opportunity to provide comment, nor do they feel that PennDOT has provided ample consideration of the concerns expressed during the open houses; and

WHEREAS, preliminary design of the project is nearing completion, the community and the Board of Commissioners would to invite PennDOT to:

- 1) Consider an extension to the public comment period,
- 2) Attend a meeting of the Cheltenham Township Public Works Committee and make a formal presentation on the project to both the Commissioners and public,
- 3) Consider alternatives to the proposed plan to address safety and accessibility concerns, even if it reduces the performance of the intersection.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham, Montgomery County, that it opposes the current engineering design and layout of roadway improvements on Church Road between Rices Mill Road to 800 feet east of the Church Road intersection of Greenwood Avenue.

ADOPTED this 15th day of **May 2019** by the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in regular session at Curtis Hall, 1250 West Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095.

ATTEST:

**TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager and Secretary

By: _____
Daniel B. Norris, President