

Gentlemen,

First I want to thank you for allowing the Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens speak at the Public Works meeting last night. I hope it gave you an opportunity to begin to understand the very real issues we and many other residents have with the proposed construction at the Jenkintown - Wyncote train station and adjacent lots.

I can see that your job as Commissioner is really a difficult one. When everything is going well, people forget whom they have to thank. But they probably are very quick to make you responsible when they have a problem. And I would imagine people are often incorrect in their assumptions about what you can and can not do. As a mother, I know a little something about being in this position. However, we in these positions have chosen to be there because we usually feel that we can make things better and make a difference in people's lives. I hope you will remember that when it comes time to actually make decisions about what is proposed for the train station.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out a few items from the presentations last night which I think are important. First, SEPTA made it clear that they have not studied the impact on the increase in traffic beyond the scope of the immediate area surrounding their property. I know that this is probably appropriate for this type of project. They are held responsible for what they can control. But while it might not fall within SEPTA's scope for this project, it is always our commissioners' responsibility to think about how projects will impact those areas beyond the project boundaries. I would like you to consider those streets, Glenside Avenue and Greenwood Avenue, which will be hard hit by the increase in traffic. I hope you will think about what those streets are like with piles of leaves in the Fall and mounds of snow and sheets of ice in the winter. SEPTA may be able to redesign their internal circulation and the one intersection, but they cannot deal with the fact that those streets and our neighborhoods were never designed for this.

I would also like to remind you that it was stated several times that SEPTA was at the meeting as a property owner. We, as other property owners, would like them to be treated as such. It is not your responsibility to protect their bottom line or their ability to shorten commute times by 2 minutes just as you would not consider yourself responsible for the economic stability or performance of your residential constituents. We also know as property owners that you would consider it your duty to intercede should any of us propose to build such an invasive structure on our property and invite hundreds of additional cars to come and park there. And we think you should. SEPTA should be held to the same standards as a property owner within your township.

The Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens would truly like to work with you and SEPTA to achieve what we all feel is important, the improvement of rail service throughout the region. We have a number of viable ideas which we feel can work if people with open minds are willing to look at the possibilities. I thank you again for your time and urge you to keep on top of this issue along with us.

Sincerely,

Kristin Milley