

SPECIAL MEETING BERKSHIRE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 18, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order. Roll call taken. Members present: Mike Dattilo, Rod Myers, Bill Holtry.

Purpose of the meeting was to inform residents about the upcoming open house being held by ODOT to discuss proposals for a southern interchange off I-71, south of the existing interchange at SR 36-37,

Rod Myers opened the meeting and explained agenda and rules and format of meeting.

Bill Holtry spoke regarding improvements currently being made at the existing interchange and surrounding roads. He informed the residents that there were two phases for road improvements committed to by Tanger Simon when ODOT approved the mall's plans. The first phase, known as "Opening Day" is being built now, using approximately \$16.5 million of the approximately \$33 million dollars created by the NCA and TIF. The second phase, known as "Design Year" improvements refers to the remaining \$16.5 million dollars which was earmarked in the NCA and TIF agreements for additional road improvements which would be needed within 20 years as the area around the mall continued to grow and develop. Bill made the point that the township and the mall understood monies were always intended to be used at the 36-37 interchange to improve conditions.

Mark Mann, Senior Traffic engineer with Trans Associates, gave a presentation explaining the potential improvements which are planned for the 36-37 interchange and how they will not only improve traffic but also the aesthetics of the exit.

Informal discussion and a question and answer period followed with residents asking questions about the fact that other political subdivisions have stated that the second \$16.5 million dollars will be diverted away from 36-37 to help fund the proposed southern exit which will lie outside of the township. Questions were also asked about how and where connector roads would be built. There was considerable concern that with the proposed new exit, the traffic exiting I-71 and heading east will only "dump" on to S.Wilson Road, causing massive traffic issues as they merge with mall and truck stop traffic. This was not seen as any improvement for residents heading eastbound and in fact, would worsen existing conditions. Residents also asked how they can give feedback to ODOT regarding their concerns. Information about who to contact and a request that interested residents attend the ODOT meeting on 4/28 was presented.

Motion to adjourn made by Rod Myers and the meeting was adjourned.

Shawna Burkham

Secretary