



City Council Referral from Councilwoman Ellen Hodorek

Proclamation Requesting Assistance From Federal and State Elected Officials to Address Two Issues from the Modernize I-75 Project

WHEREAS, Plans for the Modernize 75 project were announced in February 2016 by then-Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, to rebuild and widen I-75, the interstate highway that runs through the City of Troy. The Michigan Department of Transportation is facilitating the completion of this project, which must comply with federal guidelines. The City of Troy does not have any authority or control over the completion of this project; and

WHEREAS, the I-75 highway rebuild required the removal of what was essentially a natural sound barrier of trees and brush to allow for the additional space for the construction work; and

WHEREAS, while it is understood the project includes plans for new landscape plantings, it will take years for those plantings to mature, and it is also unknown if the approved project landscaping will be effective in reducing the sound emanating from the I-75 traffic to the levels experienced prior to the commencement of the I-75 rebuild project; and

WHEREAS, the Troy City Engineer has pursued and exhausted any options available to the City of Troy on behalf of its affected property owners, including but not limited to sound testing through the Michigan Department of Transportation. However, there are timing and density requirements in federal regulations that result in the denial of requests to replace and install the type of noise abatement that is logically required to ensure the modernization effort does not result in the deterioration of quality of life in the affected residential area; and

WHEREAS, many residents have rightfully sounded the alarm about this issue impacting a significant section of Troy found adjacent to I-75 from approximately Crooks to Coolidge to Beach to Adams, where the noise reverberation increased after the installation of a wall on the other side of the highway, which was the first phase of the I-75 widening project; and

WHEREAS, in addition to addressing substantial noise complaints from residents, the Troy City Council has also received a number of complaints from Troy business owners, who have been detrimentally impacted by significant delays in completion of the diverging diamond interchange at Big Beaver Road, adding months to the Big Beaver lane closures and difficulties for the businesses located in that area. This has created an additional key area requiring attention; and

WHEREAS, Michigan State Senator Mallory McMorrow and Michigan House Representative Padma Kuppa have also been approached about these issues and are

also striving to address them, with a clear understanding of the impact to Troy residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Troy City Council URGES Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to join Senator McMorrow and Representative Kuppa as they work with us on behalf of the Troy constituents to address the two aforementioned areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Troy City Council CALLS UPON all of our elected officials, (including U.S. Senator Gary Peters, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, and U.S. Congresswoman Haley Stevens) to support our effort and to know we stand ready to work with you to seek solutions to these unintended consequences of the Modernize I-75 project and rectify them as soon as possible, which is in the best interest of the City of Troy and its impacted residents and businesses.