

RESOLUTION NO. 61-2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF DYNAMIC TRAFFIC TO IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE "A" ESTABLISHING A ONE-WAY OUT ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC ALONG A PORTION OF FOREST WAY TO A NEW CUL-DE-SAC TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE AMERICAN ROAD IN THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS

WHEREAS, with the construction of new multi-family housing and retail commercial development in municipalities contiguous to Hanover Township, the possibility exists that the township will experience an increase in traffic volume especially during the morning and evening rush hours; and

WHEREAS, the Trailwood and Countrywood neighborhoods in the Cedar Knolls section of the Township could be impacted with additional vehicles using Forest Way and other surrounding streets as a cut-through to major arteries such as Ridgedale avenue and Malapardis Road; and

WHEREAS, in June, 2019, the Township mailed a non-binding survey/poll to three hundred seventy-eight (378) homeowners in parts of the Trailwood and Countrywood neighborhoods seeking their input on the possible implementation of one of three options, or do nothing until all the development takes place; and

WHEREAS, of the one hundred forty-seven responses, a majority of the respondents felt that creating a dead-end on Forest Way prohibiting the flow of traffic in and out of Forest Way was the best option at this time; and

WHEREAS, between the time of the Study and the fall of 2021, the Township Committee discussed with the Township Attorney the legal ramifications that might develop should the Township decide on any of the options described in the 2019 survey; and

WHEREAS, the governing body was especially concerned about what it dubbed as "cut through" traffic activity through the Trailwood and Countrywood

neighborhoods that would increase with residential and commercial development already taking place, and, in particular on The American Road in the Borough of Morris Plains; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney opined that the Legislature granted municipalities broad power to regulate their streets and other public facilities, to assure the safety and convenience of citizens, but there is no “hard and fast rule” regarding the appropriate creation or elimination of a roadway, the result each case, is reached upon by consideration of intention, and the particular circumstances involved, including among other things, all conditions, such as physical, economic and social; and

WHEREAS, in September, 2021, the Township Committee decided that in order to make an informed decision on what it should do, if anything, that it was contingent upon the Township to authorize a traffic study and report that would evaluate the current traffic situation, and set forth the positives, negatives and potential impacts associated with each of the three alternative (3) scenarios described in the 2019 survey; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the Township, in October, 2021 authorized Dynamic Traffic and its principal, Andy Jafolla, PE, PTOE, to prepare a traffic evaluation of key intersections in Cedar Knolls that would include, but not be limited to traffic volume recordings, a field inspection to obtain an inventory of existing roadway geometry, roadway characteristics and features, and estimates of traffic to be generated by several nearby developments; and

WHEREAS, at various Township Committee meetings during the fall, residents offered their comments and observations about current traffic conditions and their suggestions about how to handle the potential additional volume; and

WHEREAS, during its open, public conference work session on January 27, 2022, the governing body announced that it would convene a public information/public hearing session on February 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM at which time, Mr. Jafolla would present Traffic Dynamic's "Cut-Through Traffic Evaluation" Study and, following the presentation members of the public would be given an opportunity to comment or ask questions about the findings and determinations;

WHEREAS, notice of the meeting appeared on the Township's website and published as a legal ad in the February 4, 2022 and February 14th issues of the Daily Record; and

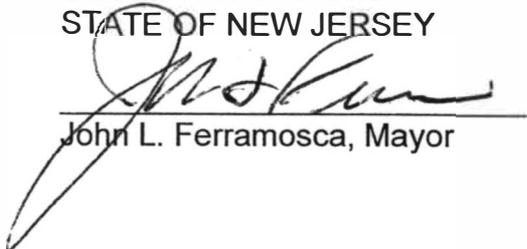
WHEREAS, subsequently, on March 10, 2022, Mr. Jafolla again appeared at the open, public conference meeting of the Township Committee and reiterated his opinion, based on the findings of the "Cut-Through Traffic Evaluation" that Alternative "A", a one-way out of Forest Way to a new cul-de-sac to be built on The American Road in the Borough of Morris Plains would appear to provide the maximum benefit to residents, balancing the need for access to the surrounding streets, while also reducing existing and potential future cut-through traffic volumes through Trailwood and Countrywood; and

WHEREAS, based on the results of the "Cut-Through Traffic Evaluation" Study prepared by Dynamic Traffic and Andy Jafolla, PE, PTOE, the Township Committee accepts the findings and determinations that the advantages of Alternative "A" far outweigh the disadvantages by having vehicular traffic flow out only along a portion of Forest Way to a proposed cul-de-sac in the Borough of Morris Plains.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Hanover in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey as follows:

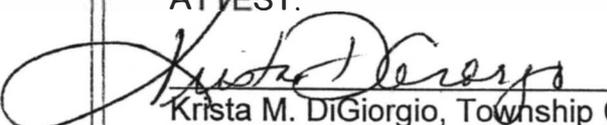
1. The March 3, 2022 Traffic Study for "Township of Hanover Cut-Through Traffic Evaluation prepared by Dynamic Traffic and presented to the governing body and public by Andy Jafolla, PE, PTOE, a principal of the Firm, is hereby accepted and approved.
2. The Study took into account major considerations such as existing traffic patterns, current and projected traffic volume, emergency services, access to Township schools and the impact of modifications under Alternatives "A", "B" and "C". The analyses concluded that Alternative "A" was the best, realistic option in reducing potential new development traffic, the reduction of existing cut-through traffic and the impact to other nearby streets in the Trailwood and Countrywood neighborhoods. Therefore, based on the findings and determinations of the Study, the Township Committee authorizes the implementation of Alternative "A".
3. The Township Engineer and Chief of Police are hereby authorized and directed to collaborate with the Morris Plains Borough Engineer in preparing a plan that will effectuate and implement Alternative "A" including any traffic ordinance that might be required and the posting of warning and advisory signage as prescribed in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
4. That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Township Engineer, the Chief of Police, the Mayor of the Borough of Morris Plains, The Morris Plains Borough Engineer, JMF-Morris Plains, LLC and the Hanover Township Attorney for reference and information purposes.
5. This resolution shall be published in the Daily Record and on the Township's website including the March 3, 2022 Traffic Study.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER
COUNTY OF MORRIS
STATE OF NEW JERSEY


John L. Ferramosca, Mayor

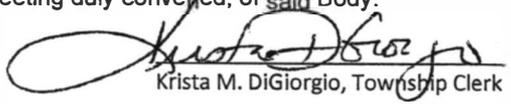
DATED: MARCH 24, 2022

ATTEST:


Krista M. DiGiorgio, Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Krista M. DiGiorgio, Township Clerk of the Township of Hanover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of said Township on the 24th day of March, 2022, at a meeting duly convened, of said Body.


Krista M. DiGiorgio, Township Clerk