

REPORT (MISC. #05148)

August 18, 2005

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BY: General Government Committee, William R. Patterson, Chairperson

**IN RE: MR #05148 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – SUPPORT FOR WIDENING
OF INTERSTATE 75 IN OAKLAND COUNTY**

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The General Government Committee, having reviewed Miscellaneous Resolution #05148 on August 10, 2005, reports with a recommendation that the BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph be amended, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners requests the Oakland County Clerk to forward copies of this adopted resolution to Governor Granholm, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Road Commission for Oakland County, the Oakland County Delegation to the State and Federal Legislatures, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Municipal League, the municipalities of Troy, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Auburn Hills and Bloomfield Township, *Michigan Townships Association*, and Oakland County's Legislative Lobbyists.

Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee, I move acceptance of the foregoing report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



General Government Committee Vote:

Motion carried on a roll call vote with Long, Kowall and Coulter absent.

Miscellaneous Resolution # 05148

BY: Commissioner William D. Molnar, District #13

RE: **Board of Commissioners - Support for Widening of Interstate 75 in Oakland County**

TO: Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS in Oakland County, the main corridor is Interstate 75 (I-75) between 8 Mile Road and M-59, which is vital to the transportation system in southeast Michigan and carries some of the heaviest traffic volumes in the State; and

WHEREAS SEMCOG has projected that growth in the region will increase I-75 traffic by more than 20 percent. As a major corridor for Automation Alley and "just-in-time" deliveries for manufacturers and merchandise, congestion and truck delays on I-75 translate into higher prices for consumer goods; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted Miscellaneous Resolution #03101 to strongly urge the Michigan Department of Transportation to reinstate funding for the highway and road improvement projects that are important to the continued growth and safety of Oakland County residents and the residents of southeast Michigan; and

WHEREAS the economic health and vitality of Oakland County and the State of Michigan relies heavily upon the ability of businesses in this region to grow and prosper; and

WHEREAS Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials have acknowledged that I-75, built in the 1960s, needs a major reconstruction; however, due to state and federal budget constraints, the design phase of the project has been indefinitely deferred; and

WHEREAS the estimated construction cost for widening I-75 is \$463 million, but the project is stalled until \$93 million can be found to design the project; and

WHEREAS federal lawmakers have not passed a federal highway spending bill since 2003 that provides federal dollars for state road projects; therefore, House and Senate conference committees have only acted to extend highway and transit funding to Michigan at 2003 levels; and

WHEREAS according to MDOT, had Congress passed a new bill, Michigan would have received \$700 million more in federal funds in September 2003; and

WHEREAS I-75 is the busiest and most congested highway in the state, carrying an estimated quarter of a million people each day. The widening of I-75 is essential if Oakland County is to remain the economic engine for Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hereby urges Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, the Michigan Department of Transportation and the United States House and Senate to declare the widening of Interstate 75, between 8 Mile Road and M-59, as a priority and appropriate adequate funding so that this critical project can proceed expeditiously.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners requests the Oakland County Clerk to forward copies of this adopted resolution to Governor Granholm, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Road Commission for Oakland County, the Oakland County Delegation to the State and Federal Legislatures, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Municipal League, the municipalities of Troy, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Auburn Hills and Bloomfield Township, and Oakland County's Legislative Lobbyists.

Chairperson, we move the adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

William D. Mohr
Commissioner
District # 13

Lee C. Pitt
Commissioner
District # 8

William P. Patterson
Commissioner
District # 1

Charles Palmer
Commissioner
District # 17

Bill Bullard Jr
Commissioner
District # 2

Steven J. Kowall
Commissioner
District # 6

George W. Suarez
Commissioner
District # 24

E. A. ... # 3
Commissioner
District #

Christie A. ... # 7
Commissioner
District #

[Signature]
Commissioner
District # 5

Commissioner
District #

Hugh D. Crawford
Commissioner
District #

Thomas F. Maddox
Commissioner
District #

See Douglas
Commissioner
District # 12

[Signature]
Commissioner
District # 8

Tim Melton
Commissioner
District # 11

Vincent Gregory
Commissioner
District #

Mike King
Commissioner
District # 14

Greg Jamison
Commissioner
District # 16

Commissioner
District #

Commissioner
District #

Commissioner
District #

Resolution #05148

July 28, 2005

The Chairperson referred the resolution to the General Government Committee. There were no objections.

Moved by Molnar supported by Patterson the resolution be adopted.

Moved by Molnar supported by Patterson the General Government Committee Report be accepted.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the report was accepted.

Moved by Molnar supported by Patterson the resolution be amended to coincide with the recommendation in the General Government Committee Report.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the amendment carried.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Coulter supported by Zack the resolution be amended to add a BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph, before the last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the widening of I-75 is to occur, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recommends that the Lincoln Bridge connecting Royal Oak and Madison Heights not be replaced upon completion of the project to maintain the residential character of surrounding communities, alleviate traffic congestion, and protect the commercial environment of businesses along 11 Mile Road.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Coulter withdrew the amendment and Commissioner Zack withdrew her support.

Moved by Coulter supported by Moss the resolution be amended to add a BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph, before the last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the widening of I-75 is to occur, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recommends MDOT address and mitigate the effect of additional traffic on Lincoln Road in the possible design of the Lincoln Road exit.

Discussion followed.

Vote on Coulter's amendment:

AYES: Crawford, Douglas, Gershenson, Gregory, Hatchett, Jamian, Kowall, Long, Melton, Middleton, Molnar, Moss, Nash, Patterson, Potter, Scott, Suarez, Wilson, Woodward, Zack, Bullard, Coleman, Coulter. (23)

NAYS: Palmer, Rogers. (2)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the amendment carried.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Woodward supported by Nash the resolution be amended to insert the following after the last WHEREAS paragraph:

WHEREAS the Metro Detroit Area is the only metropolitan region in the country that lacks a reliable rapid transit system, which as a result has been detrimental to our ability to attract optimal tourism to the region, get employees to places of employment, and secure economic development opportunities tied to having viable rapid transit; and

WHEREAS the computer modeling for MDOT's Final Environmental Impact Study (EIS) released April 2005 found rapid transit to be viable in portions of the Woodward Avenue Corridor and concluded such a system would offer an alternative means of travel and has merit, independent of the I-75 project; and

WHEREAS MDOT supports such transit development along Woodward Avenue; and

WHEREAS the EIS also concluded developing a rapid mass transit system along Woodward Avenue that preceded a lane addition on I-75 would provide an alternative means of travel during construction, and reduce the traffic diversions that will have to occur.

Also, to insert the following after the first NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners also expresses its strong support for the development of a rapid transit system along Woodward Avenue as an alternative means of travel in Oakland County, and urges the above mentioned to declare such development as equal a priority as widening I-75.

Discussion followed.

Vote on Woodward's amendment:

AYES: Gershenson, Gregory, Hatchett, Melton, Nash, Suarez, Woodward, Zack, Coleman, Coulter. (10)

NAYS: Douglas, Jamian, Kowall, Long, Middleton, Molnar, Moss, Palmer, Patterson, Potter, Rogers, Scott, Wilson, Bullard, Crawford. (15)

A sufficient majority not having voted in favor, the amendment failed.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Melton supported by Hatchett the resolution be amended to add a BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the widening of I-75 is to take place that the redesign of the interchange at M-59 and I-75 be included in any such plans.

Discussion followed.

Vote on Melton's amendment:

AYES: Gershenson, Gregory, Hatchett, Kowall, Long, Melton, Middleton, Molnar, Moss, Nash, Patterson, Potter, Rogers, Scott, Suarez, Wilson, Woodward, Zack, Bullard, Coleman, Coulter, Crawford. (22)

NAYS: Jamian, Palmer, Douglas. (3)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the amendment carried.

Discussion followed.

Vote on resolution, as amended:

AYES: Gregory, Hatchett, Jamian, Kowall, Long, Melton, Middleton, Molnar, Moss, Palmer, Patterson, Potter, Rogers, Scott, Suarez, Wilson, Bullard, Coleman, Crawford, Douglas. (20)

NAYS: Nash, Woodward, Zack, Coulter, Gershenson. (5)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Ruth Johnson, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on August 18, 2005 with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Oakland at Pontiac, Michigan this 18th day of August, 2005.



Ruth Johnson, County Clerk

I HEREBY APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION

