



KELVIN S. GANGES
Chief of Staff

COUNTY OF MERCER
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET
P.O. BOX 8068
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068
TELEPHONE: (609) 989-6629
Fax: (609) 396-3968
awatson@mercercounty.org

BRIAN M. HUGHES
County Executive

ANDREW A. MAIR
County Administrator

AARON T. WATSON
Director

July 25, 2013

Paul E. Pogorzelski, P.E.
Township of Hopewell
Hopewell Township Administrator/Engineer
201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560-1410

Re: Rehabilitation of River Drive Bridges #212.12 & #218.1

Dear Mr. Pogorzelski:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated July 24, 2013 requesting clarification as to the County's position regarding the rehabilitation of two structures on River Drive in Titusville. County Structure #212.12 (northern structure) was closed in March of 2011 due to severe flooding and County Structure #218.1 (southern structure) was closed as a result of damage sustained by Hurricane Sandy. It is my understanding that Hopewell Township requested the county to expedite repairs of Structure #212.12, and that there were similar requests for Structure #218.1. Mercer County subsequently awarded a contract for design services for the rehabilitation of both structures in March 2013. It is anticipated the design of the rehabilitation of both structures may take at a minimum two years due to environmental permitting and other regulatory agency reviews.

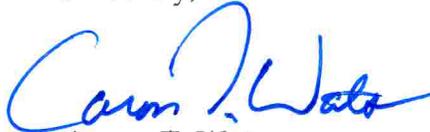
At the time the design contract was awarded, both structures were to be rehabilitated to current standards and that they were to be capable of carrying the maximum legal load of 40 tons. As such, they would no longer be deemed Structurally Deficient, which is required in order to be eligible for State funding. It is therefore the County's position that whether Hopewell Township wishes to close River Drive, which is under township jurisdiction, or have it remain open to limited traffic, both structures would be designed and rehabilitated to accommodate legal loads. Under closed conditions, River Road would still be capable accommodating emergency vehicles and

provide another means of ingress and egress under emergent conditions. Bicycle pedestrian access could also be accommodated.

In summary, rehabilitating County Structures #212.12 and 218.1 to accommodate less than legal loads or not at all jeopardizes future State funding and limits options for ingress and egress under emergent conditions and potentially limits access for other transportation modes. Further, it would eliminate the ability to re-open River Road to through traffic if there is a desire to do so in the future

I hope this information is helpful and clarifies Mercer County's position on this matter.

Sincerely,



Aaron T. Watson
Director, Department of
Transportation & Infrastructure

ATW/mgd

c: Kelvin S. Ganges, Chief of Staff
Gregory Sandusky, P.E., P.L.S., County Engineer
George Fallat, P.E., Traffic Engineer



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

MERCER COUNTY

201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410

July 25, 2013

Aaron Watson, Director, County of Mercer
Department of Transportation & Infrastructure
McDade Administration Building
640 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

Mr Watson,

On July 22, 2013 the Hopewell Township Committee held a work session as part of their regularly scheduled Township Committee Meeting to discuss the Township taking over ownership of Bear Tavern road as referenced in the letter dated June 13, 2013 from County Executive Brian Hughes. Two questions were raised, and we would appreciate your response.

1. Would the County be interested in any road swap opportunities in regards to the one mile stretch of roadway between Jacobs Creed and County Route 546, as well as other roadway sections in the Township? If so, please let us know which county roads could be used in the swap(s).
2. Would the County consider permitting the Township to provide for the maintenance of the quarter mile of roadway in front of Bear Tavern School in exchange for a reduction in the speed limit to 25 mph at that location?

In addition to the above questions, could you please provide clarification of the offer made by County Executive Hughes in his letter of June 13, 2013, more specifically, its bounds, the Township's ability to control speeds under the agreement, possibility of the County repaving the roadway prior to Township takeover and any and all other costs or conditions of this takeover.

We look forward to your response to our questions.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Sandom

Mayor, Township of Hopewell, Mercer County

Cc: Kelly Ganges, Chief of Staff
Hopewell Township Committee
Paul Pogorzelski, Township Administrator/Engineer