

ZZZPROP17

October 12, 2017

John Jacobs, Chairman
West Vincent Township
729 St. Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

**RE: Traffic Engineering Evaluation
Chester Springs Road
West Vincent Townships, Chester County, PA**

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

As requested, Pennoni Associates Inc. (Pennoni) has evaluated and summarized the traffic access, mobility, and vehicle maneuverability issues associated with the current configuration of Chester Springs Road between Eagle Farms Road and Conestoga Road (SR 0401).

Existing Conditions

Chester Springs Road is a Township-owned public roadway with a posted speed limit of 25 mph. The existing width of the road ranges generally between 16-22', and no pavement markings exist on the roadway except for a 'Stop' bar marking at the southern end of the roadway, adjacent to Eagle Farms Road. Major intersections along the roadway include St. Matthews Road and Veronica Drive. Land use in the area is rural residential and the road would be classified as either a 'Minor Collector' or 'Local Access' roadway in accordance with the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). Just north of Eagle Farms Road, a gate spans Chester Springs Road that prevents through traffic from traveling between Eagle Farms Road and Conestoga Road (SR 0401).

Findings

Based upon our review of the situation regarding the presence of the gate across Chester Springs Road, we offer the following for your consideration:

- A. Prior to the installation of the existing gate, the roadway was open to through traffic.
- B. The West Vincent Township SALDO defines 'Local Access' roadways as the lowest classification of roadway within the ordinance, and indicates that these 'Roads are designed to provide access to all abutting lots. Not intended for through trips, although may be used as such, particularly in rural areas. Includes cul-de-sacs and single access streets'.
- C. The West Vincent Township SALDO indicates that single access streets shall not have more than one-thousand (1,000) linear feet of cartway. The dimension along Chester Springs Road, between Veronica Drive and the existing gate measures approximately 2,450'.

- D. The West Vincent Township SALDO prohibits dead-end streets unless designed as permanent cul-de-sac streets with a turnaround area that provides a minimum 40' radius, and an eased area for snow removal and stockpiling.
- E. PennDOT Publication 383 indicates that "Any road closure, whether by erection of a mobile barrier or gate, restriction of use to local traffic only, or otherwise, can serve to deprive the road of its public character by limiting its use, rendering the road ineligible for assistance from the Liquid Fuels fund. See 72 P.S. §2615.4(1) (providing that Liquid Fuels allocations may be used for public roads or streets)."
- F. PennDOT Publication 70 (Design Guide for Local Roads and Streets) indicates that a municipality may adopt a road or street with a cul-de-sac as a public highway. For the roadway to be eligible for Liquid Fuel Funds, the municipality is to follow the Department's Publication 9, Liquid Fuels Handbook. The Liquid Fuels Handbook states that all dead-end roads must be provided with a cul-de-sac having a radius of at least 40 ft."
- G. Passenger vehicles, emergency vehicles (fire, police, ambulance), school buses and service vehicles (trash, delivery) destined to/from areas on Chester Spring Road must utilize alternate routes that result in additional time and/or distance traveled. Those vehicles that unknowingly reach the gate must turn around by reversing along the roadway, and either using a private driveway or multiple forward/reverse movements within the public roadway.

Recommendations

If Chester Springs Road is to remain a publicly-owned roadway, the gate should be removed. The presence of the gate presents safety concerns as it limits emergency access to a single location, increases emergency response times, could be a fixed hazard for drivers at night, could inhibit winter maintenance operations, and could create a hazardous situation for vehicles attempting to turn around in the area of the gate.

If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC.



Brian R. Keaveney, PE, PTOE
Transportation Division

BRK:mg
Enclosure

cc: Eric Batdorf, Township Manager
Joseph McGrory, Esq., Township Solicitor