

RESOLUTION NO. 427

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RECONSIDER THE ELIMINATION OF VEHICULAR LANES ON BAXTER ROAD

WHEREAS, the City of Chesterfield, Missouri (the "City") supports all modes of transportation, including walking and bicycling. Such support of walking and bicycling is evidenced through projects such as the Riparian Trail, the Monarch – Chesterfield Levee Trail, and the City's current project to construct a pedestrian bridge, including bicycle accommodations, over Interstate 64 near Chesterfield Parkway East; and

WHEREAS, the Chesterfield City Council adopted a Bikeable Walkable Community Plan on March 15, 2010 via Resolution 302. The recommendations in the Bikeable Walkable Community Plan are intended to function as a tool to assist City staff and elected officials in prioritizing and selecting projects to improve conditions for cycling and walking in the City of Chesterfield. The Bikeable Walkable Plan does not call for bicycle lanes on Baxter Road; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Department of Transportation is currently constructing pavement repairs to Baxter Road from Clarkson Road to Wild Horse Creek Road, which reportedly will include a new striping plan to eliminate existing vehicular lanes in favor of new bicycle lanes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chesterfield has concerns about the impact of eliminating vehicle lanes on Baxter Road, which currently allow the safe and effective passage of vehicles to and from numerous subdivisions in western St. Louis County, as well as the Chesterfield Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chesterfield is unaware of the solicitation of any public input regarding the change in striping and elimination of vehicle lanes on Baxter Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTERFIELD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Council of the City of Chesterfield opposes the proposed striping plan on Baxter Road, as presented to the City of Chesterfield, and requests that the St. Louis County Department of Transportation reconsider its decision to reduce vehicular lanes without input from area residents and motorists who use that section of Baxter Road.

Passed and approved this 7TH day of November, 2016.

Bob Natresi
PRESIDING OFFICER

Bob Natresi
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Vickie Hass
CITY CLERK



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October 24, 2016

Nichalos D. Gardner, Ph.D, P.E.
Director
St. Louis County Department of Transportation
1050 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132

RE: Baxter Road – Clarkson Road to Wild Horse Creek Road

Dear Dr. Gardner:

The City of Chesterfield has received the attached letter from North / West Area Engineer Stefanie Voss regarding Baxter Road. The City of Chesterfield is concerned that the proposed reduction in vehicular lanes will have a negative impact to traffic flow in the area. As you know, Baxter Road is a functionally classified minor arterial roadway which provides vehicular access to / from a number of area subdivisions and conveys traffic to / from Chesterfield Valley. As such, Baxter Road is one of the primary roadways in the City of Chesterfield. The City Staff and Elected Officials are alarmed that such a substantive change to a primary roadway in the City would be accomplished with no public input and no formal communication to the City of Chesterfield.

While we acknowledge the portion of the letter within which St. Louis County indicates that the traffic flow has been modeled and that the "reduction in driving lanes will not significantly impact traffic flow," the City of Chesterfield has a number of questions regarding the modeling used and the results obtained. For example, does the model account for future growth likely to occur within Chesterfield Valley and along Wild Horse Creek Road? It is unfortunate that the City of Chesterfield was not consulted in the modeling of the roadway, and that the results of that traffic modeling were not communicated to the City of Chesterfield.

Prior to receiving the above-referenced letter, I was informally asked whether the City of Chesterfield would support the reduction of vehicular lanes and the installation of bicycle lanes on this roadway. My response was that the City was supportive of bicycle facilities, but that prior to supporting the reduction of vehicular lanes on Baxter Road the City would need to see traffic modeling results showing minimal negative impact to the roadway, as well as public involvement demonstrating support of the lane reductions. To my knowledge there has been no public input regarding this change, and none of the traffic modeling results have been shared with the City of Chesterfield.

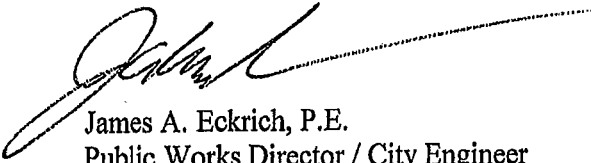
The October 19, 2016 letter has been forwarded to the City of Chesterfield City Council. It is my understanding that the City Council will consider this matter at its November 7, 2016 meeting. I would like to request that the St. Louis County Department of Transportation refrain from taking

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any further action on restriping Baxter Road until such time as the City of Chesterfield City Council can convene and determine how to proceed regarding this important roadway.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at (636) 537-4764. Otherwise, I will contact you after the City of Chesterfield City Council meeting on November 7, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Eckrich', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James A. Eckrich, P.E.
Public Works Director / City Engineer

Cc: Mayor Bob Nation
Chesterfield City Council
Michael O. Geisel, City Administrator

Steven V. Stenger
County Executive

Saint Louis
COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC WORKS

Nichalos D. Gardner, Ph.D., P.E.
Director

Stephanie Leon Streeter, P.E.
Deputy Director

October 19, 2016

Mr. James A. Eckrich, P.E.
Public Works Director / City Engineer
City of Chesterfield
690 Chesterfield Pkwy W
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-0760

RE: Baxter Road Bicycle Lanes

Dear Mr. Eckrich:

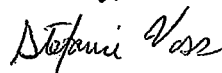
The City of Chesterfield has shown great support of multimodal opportunities for its residents as evidenced by the many biking lanes, hiking paths, and trails along roadways, levees, and green spaces within the City. These multimodal enhancements offer connectivity to Chesterfield's shops, area parks and regional attractions. These facilities are a great amenity for residents and visitors to the area.

Through Saint Louis County's Complete Streets Ordinance, passed in 2014, we strive to support all modes of transportation when designing a roadway project. Adding bike lanes along Baxter Road from Clarkson Road to Wild Horse Creek Road not only fulfills the intent of the Ordinance, but adds to an already significant system of multimodal facilities in your City.

To accommodate bicyclists, there will be one motor vehicle lane and one dedicated bike lane in each direction with a shared center 'left turn' lane for turning traffic. St. Louis County used a computer model to analyze traffic volume and peak traffic flow under this new condition and our conclusion is that the reduction of driving lanes will not significantly impact traffic flow. Therefore, we believe that Baxter Road is suitable for reconfiguring to include bike lanes. The model has shown that both bicycle traffic and vehicular traffic will function acceptably together along this route.

Thank you for your continued support of multimodal opportunities within your boundaries.

Sincerely,



Stefanie Voss, P.E.
North/West Area Engineer

Cc: Nichalos Gardner
Stephanie Leon Streeter
Ted Medler
Larry Welty

DATE: October 24, 2016
TO: Michael O. Geisel, P.E.
City Administrator



FROM: James A. Eckrich, P.E. *JAE*
Public Works Director / City Engineer

RE: Baxter Road Striping

As you know, the St. Louis County Department of Transportation is currently managing a project to construct pavement repairs on Baxter Road from Clarkson Road to Wild Horse Creek Road. That project, which includes concrete base repairs and an asphalt overlay, is scheduled to be completed later this year. On October 19, 2016, the St. Louis County Area Engineer sent me a letter indicating that, once completed, Baxter Road would be restriped to include a bicycle lane in each direction. In order to add these bicycle lanes, the existing striping will be modified such that there will be only one vehicular lane in each direction, with a left turn / center lane separating those two lanes. The result is the reduction of vehicular lanes on Baxter Road from the current configuration of four or five lanes, to three lanes.

On October 24, 2016 I sent a letter to the Director of the St. Louis County Department of Transportation. Within that letter I object to the manner in which the restriping was presented to the City of Chesterfield, including the lack of public input in the modification. As part of that letter, I indicated that the City of Chesterfield City Council would consider this matter at its November 7, 2016 meeting. Typically a matter like this would first be presented to the Planning and Public Works Committee; however, due to the timing of this letter a PPW meeting did not convene prior to the November 7, 2016 City Council meeting. Accordingly, with the approval of the Mayor, this matter can be forwarded directly to the full City Council.

Both of the two Ward 4 Councilmembers have expressed to me their opposition to the proposed striping plan, and asked what the City of Chesterfield could do to have St. Louis County reconsider this decision. In response, I have drafted the attached Resolution for Council's consideration.

Action Recommended

This matter should be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. Should Council support asking St. Louis County to reconsider the striping plan for Baxter Road, it should introduce the attached Resolution. If Council adopts this Resolution, it will be forwarded to the St. Louis County Department of Transportation as soon as practical.
