

ALAN BRUBAKER P.E., P.S.

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER

21-132
EXHIBIT
A

November 13, 2020

Summit County Council
Ohio Building, 7th Floor
175 S. Main Street
Akron, OH 44308

Dear Council Members,

The Summit County Engineer's Office is again requesting the vacation of Everett Road from Farmstead Road to Wheatley Road in Bath, Richfield, and Boston Townships. This stretch of Everett Road services no private homes or businesses and is currently closed. Everett Road had an average daily vehicle rate of approximately 200. In addition, landslides and road defects in the roadway will be very expensive to repair, a cost we cannot justify on a road that does not service private residents and has so few motorists on it per day.

The property owners along this stretch of Everett Road are the National Park Service and Summit Metro Parks. Both entities have previously stated they are not opposed to vacating the roadway as long we remove the existing infrastructure.

In addition, this office is requesting the vacation of Oak Hill Road on behalf of Boston Township. There is an active landslide along Oak Hill Road that made it necessary to close the facility in 2012. Oak Hill Road also serves no private homes or businesses.

The legal descriptions and vacation plats are attached to this letter. We are asking that Council set the road vacation viewing and hearing dates at the next available meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

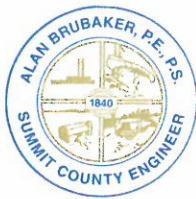
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Alan Brubaker, P.E., P.S.
Summit County Engineer

cc: Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Executive
Brian Nelsen, Chief of Staff, Summit County Executive's Office
Deborah Matz, Attorney, Summit County Executive's Office
Marvin Evans, Attorney, Summit County Prosecutor's Office
Vito Sinopoli, Administrator, Bath Township
Amy Anderson, Chairperson, Boston Township Trustees
Mindy Remec, Administrator, Richfield Township

EXHIBIT
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ALAN BRUBAKER, P.E., P.S.

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER'S REPORT
Everett Road Vacation
Request to Vacate a Portion of a County Highway
September 25, 2017
Updated November 10, 2020

Background: By copy of a letter dated August 4, 2017 the Summit County Engineer's office requested the vacation of a portion of Everett Road from Farmstead Road to Wheatley Road in Bath, Richfield, and Boston Townships. This stretch of Everett Road services no private homes or businesses and is currently a gravel road. Everett Road had an average daily vehicle rate of approximately 200. In addition, the letter noted that landslides and road defects in the roadway will be very expensive to repair, a cost we cannot justify on a road that does not service private residents and has so few motorists on it per day.

The property owners along this stretch of Everett Road are the National Park Service and Summit Metro Parks. Both entities have stated they were not opposed to vacating the roadway as long we remove the existing infrastructure. We had agreed that if the road is vacated, we will remove the existing roadway and structures, allowing the area to go back to its natural state. In addition, we met with representatives from each affected township in 2017.

In response to the August 4, 2017 letter, the Summit County Council enacted Resolution No. 2017-349. County Executive Ilene Shapiro signed the Resolution on September 22, 2017. The resolution set a date of September 15, 2017 for the Council to conduct a public viewing of the site. Approximately ten individuals attended the viewing, including representatives from the three affected townships, Boston, Bath and Richfield, along with representatives from the County Council's office staff, Summit MetroParks and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The same resolution and set September 28, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. as the date and time for the public hearing on the vacation of the portion of county highway.

Update: This portion of Everett Road has been closed since the beginning of 2018. Council took no action as they investigated other possibilities for roadway use and ownership. At this point, the Engineer's office would like to restart the process of vacating the roadway.

Issue: Everett Road is a two lane, east west facility located along the boundary between Bath Township and Richfield Township and Richfield Village that extends from the Medina County Line across the two noted townships and enters into Boston Township where it continues to an intersection with Riverview Road. The requested vacation extends for a distance of 1.71 miles. There exists an alternative route from

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Everett Road to North Revere Road to Wheatley Road to Everett road that provides a way around the vacated portion of Everett Road. The pavement on the alternative route is an asphalt pavement as opposed to the gravel roadway surface of the portion to be vacated. It will cost approximately \$3.65 million to restore the section of Everett Road we are seeking to vacate plus it will require us to cut down 5 acres of park wood lands to repair the numerous landslides that are present.

Discussion: When last counted in 2016 the portion of Everett Road under consideration had only 265 vehicles per day traveling on the road. An inspection of the small bridge on in 2017 indicates that the bridge needs repairs if it is to remain open to traffic for an extended period of time. The bridge is considered in poor condition and has a sufficiency rating of 47.6 out of 100 and by state and federal standards is considered functionally obsolete. The cost to rehabilitate the bridge and correct all deficiencies is estimated at \$1,196,000, There are three significant landslides within the vacation limits, one pending slide and several eroding ravines. To repair the slides to establish a solid road base would cost approximately \$ 1,575,000 and would require the excavation of 5 acres of forested woodlands. There is also approximately \$ 1,196,000 worth of pavement and roadway items that would also have to be improved to restore the facility to normal standards.

Funding: Everett Road is not on the list of Highways Eligible for Federal Funding through various AMATS programs. The former federal funding program (Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program) operated by the U. S. Department of the Interior ended several years ago. The current federal funding program Eastern Federal Lands grant also operated by the U.S. Department of the Interior limits projects to less a cost of less than \$300,000. The U.S. Congress has eliminated the use of "earmarks" for projects, so we cannot go to one of our favorite congressional representatives and ask for a set aside and lastly, the County Engineer's Capital Budget for the Motor Vehicle Gas Tax fund provides approximately \$2.5 million of resurfacing projects. We would have to eliminate our entire paving program for two years to re-construct this facility.

Concerns: The Summit County Engineer's office is required to maintain a safe network of roads and bridges. In the recent years, this portion of Everett Road has moved several times, cracks and movement in large sections of the former asphalt pavement made it unsafe for the motoring public to travel the facility at the posted speed limit. Previous repairs using a technique known as "soil nailing" are showing signs of erosion and soil slippage exposing sections of the pneumatically inserted rods and creating a safety hazard. To extend the usable life of the pavement we used a process known as "pulvamicing" in which we turned the roadway into a gravel facility that would not exhibit the deformation that the asphalt pavement was undergoing. The movement of the facility continues. The landslides are now undermining numerous sections of the

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guardrail and creating additional unsafe conditions. The road was closed due to safety concerns.

Recommendations:

1. The Summit County Engineer recommends the vacation of the portion of Everett Road and requests the County Council concurrence.

EXHIBIT A

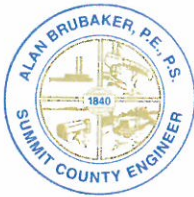
A map depicting the overall location of the proposed vacation of Everett Road.

EXHIBIT B

A Memorandum to File summarizing the various considerations including recent traffic counts identified in this request to vacate a portion of Everett Road

EXHIBIT C

1. A map highlighting the portion of Everett Road requested to be vacated.
2. A map of the region showing the traffic volumes on the various roads in the area and the year in which the count was obtained.
3. A map highlighting the portion of Everett Road;
 - a. Requested to be vacated (shown as dashed lines);
 - b. The alternate route around the portion proposed to be vacated (solid line);
 - c. The distance of each route shown in miles;
 - d. The travel time in minutes to drive the routes at the posted speed of 35 miles per hour.



ALAN BRUBAKER, P.E., P.S.

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER'S REPORT
Oak Hill Road Vacation
Request to Vacate a Portion of a Boston Township Highway
April 23, 2021

Background:

In the spring of 2012 Boston Township Trustees notified the Summit County Engineer's office that recent rains had created a safety issue between the edge of the stream known as Furnace Run and the portion of Oak Hill Road, immediately east of the Everett Road/ Everett Road Connector/ Oak Hill Road intersection. The Summit County Engineer's office reviewed the situation in the field and noted that the earthen shoulder adjacent to the Township Highway had dropped approximately 1 foot vertically. This failure was caused by the erosion of a portion of the 25-foot-tall stream bank that abuts the highway. The Summit County Engineer's maintenance staff filled the section of highway shoulder in the vicinity of the settlement. This office continued to monitor the roadway periodically through out the summer. At that time traffic was still permitted to utilize the roadway and even though there was an existing 5-ton restricted load limit sign in place, loaded school buses were observed using the facility to access Hale Farm and Village located about a mile to the south of the damaged roadway section.

During one of the routine field visits to the site, it was noted that the embankment material placed at the edge of pavement to eliminate the drop-off had settled and it was further noted that there existed vertical failure planes in the stream bank wall parallel to both the road and the stream indicating that the road was still actively, although slowly, falling into the river.

During this time, the Summit County Engineer's office had been researching funding sources the Township or County could pursue to stabilize the slope. Since the facility was federally classified as a Local road, it would not qualify for AMATS funding, and the previously funding source called Public Lands Highway Discretionary funds had been eliminated by the federal government. The only solution the Township had was to close the road for the safety of park visitors. Barriers were placed to stop motorized vehicles but allow the passage of pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians.

Based on estimates created at the time of closure, at least one million dollars-worth of work would be required to stabilize the embankment.

Issue: This section of Oak Hill Road was a two-lane facility that previously carried approximately 300 vehicles per day from the intersection at the Everett Road Connector to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. A load limit sign of 5-ton was posted prior to the County

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Engineer's involvement with the roadway section. The stream bank failure has started to encroach onto the actual paved roadway surface and the road is physically barricaded with 4 blocks of concrete barrier each piece weighing approximately 10-ton.

The barricades prevent the township maintenance forces from easily accessing the remaining portion of the highway connecting the closed area with the City of Cuyahoga Falls. To reach the island of township road east and south of the failed pavement, the township forces (police, fire, EMS and maintenance) have a 3-mile trip through the City of Cuyahoga Falls to reach the site. The only property owners within Boston Township along this section of highway are Cuyahoga Valley National Park and MetroParks.

The Township is tasked with maintaining a facility that they cannot routinely access.

Funding: Oak Hill Road is not on the list of Highways Eligible for Federal Funding through various AMATS programs. The former federal funding program (Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program) operated by the U. S. Department of the Interior ended several years ago. The current federal funding program Eastern Federal Lands grant also operated by the U.S. Department of the Interior limits projects to a cost of less than \$300,000. The U.S. Congress has eliminated the use of "earmarks" for projects, so we cannot go to one of our favorite congressional representatives and ask for a set aside and lastly, we have been informed by Boston Township that they do not have the financial resources to repair this facility without outside funding sources.

Concerns: As with all governmental agencies, Boston Township is required to maintain a safe network of roads. In the past decade, this portion of Oak Hill Road has moved several times, cracks and movement in large sections of the stream embankment have developed making it unsafe for the motoring public to travel the facility. While it is not now readily viewable, the movement of the facility continues.

Recommendation:

The Summit County Engineer endorses the Boston Township request to vacate the portion of Oak Hill Road from Everett Road Connector to the City of Cuyahoga Falls corporation limits and requests the County Council concurrence.