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March 15, 2012

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West Windsor Township Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh
271 Clarksville Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Re: West Windsor Township Support for Road Diets

Dear Mayor Hsueh,

As your administration and Township Council considers safety improvements to Canal Pointe Boulevard, the WWBPA endorses a road diet, as recommended by the 2004 West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, by Orth Rogers, and studied by Urbitrans in 2006.

ADVISORY BOARD

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According to the Federal Highway Administration,¹ "A road diet involves narrowing or eliminating travel lanes on a roadway to make more room for pedestrians and bicyclists," and which has "minimal effects on vehicle capacity, because left-turning vehicles are moved into a common two-way left-turn lane," at volumes up to 20,000 average annual daily traffic (AADT). See the example drawing from the federal report on the next page. All roads in West Windsor except US-1 and parts of CR571 fall within the traffic volume guideline for road diets. Nationally, traffic volume is down since 2007, by 35.7 billion vehicle miles (-1.7%) in 2011 vs 2010.²

STUDENT ADVISORS

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Road diets offer safety benefits to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, including:

1. Reduced motorist crash rates (19 - 47% fewer crashes after implementing a road diet)³
2. Safer pedestrian crossings of 3-lane compared to 4-lane roads⁴
3. Safer bicycling due to operating on the road instead of the sidewalk⁵

Robert Kenny, Esq.,
counsel

Additional safety benefits accrue because of traffic calming, since road diets cut the number of speeders.⁶ The center turn lane can also improve emergency vehicle access.⁷

¹ Evaluation of Lane Reduction "Road Diet" Measures on Crashes, FHWA-HRT-10-053, June 2010, see:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/10053/index.cfm>

² http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/travel_monitoring/11dectvt/11dectvt.pdf

³ Evaluation of Lane Reduction "Road Diet" Measures on Crashes, FHWA-HRT-10-053, June 2010

⁴ Safety Effects of Marked vs. Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations: Executive Summary and Recommended Guidelines. FHWARD-01-075, 2001, see: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/docs/cros.pdf

⁵ Los Angeles DOT blog: <http://ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com/2011/01/05/safety-traffic-and-you-the-case-for-road-diets/>

⁶ <http://publicola.com/2010/05/24/study-shows-stone-way-road-diet-improved-traffic-safety/>

⁷ http://mtc.ca.gov/services/arterial_operations/downloads/road_diets/Road_Diets_KHA.ppt

The WWBPA has long recommended a road diet for Canal Pointe Boulevard,⁸ which will greatly increase the safety of walking and biking to the MarketFair mall and to the stores and restaurants along Rt 1.

Public support is widespread. Sherri Bobbish's letter⁹ March 5, 2010 supported safer crossing of Canal Pointe Boulevard, as did our letter¹⁰ and the Canal Pointe Condominium Association's letter.¹¹ In addition, Christian Sakowitz asked township council for bike lanes on Alexander Rd in April 2011, after a car ran over his foot at a driveway – he was biking on the sidewalk.

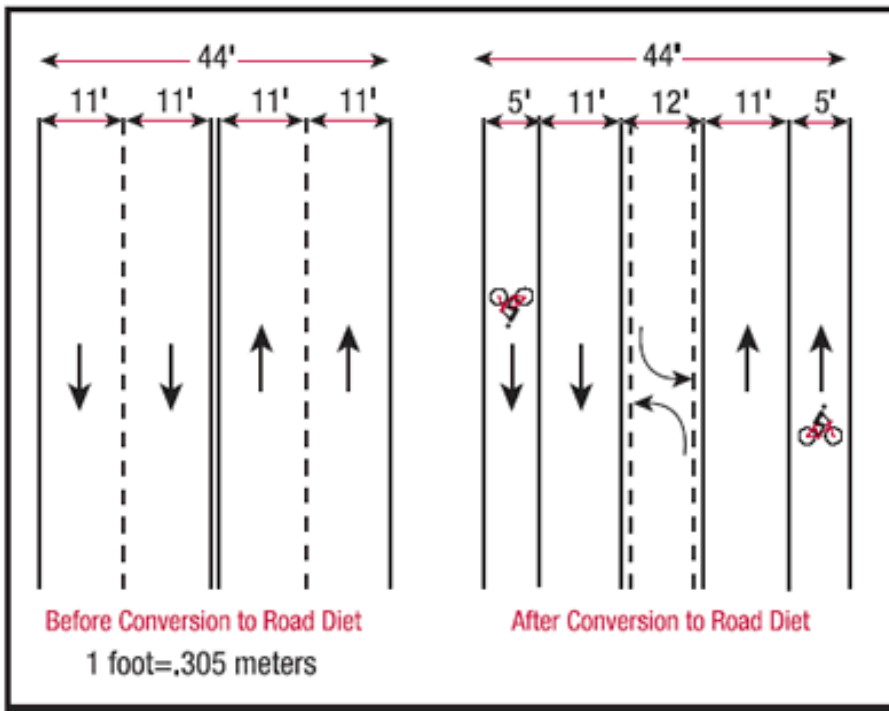
The WWBPA recommends that the township implement road diets, in particular along Canal Pointe Boulevard, but also where increased bicycle and pedestrian access to employment centers allow decreased traffic congestion. Implementing road diets will attract businesses to our more livable community. Everyone will benefit from increased health, safety, property values and less congestion.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss any questions regarding road diets.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Foster
President
West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance

cc: West Windsor Township Council, Township Administrator Bob Hary, Township Development Director Pat Ward, Township Engineer Francis Guzik



⁸ Letter to Mayor Hseuh, April 2007, see: http://wwbpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/WWwalks_Canal_Pointe_Blvd.pdf

⁹ <http://wwbpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Sherri-Bobbish-Letter-to-Mayor-re-Canal-Point-Blvd-Mar-5-2010.txt>

¹⁰ <http://wwbpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/Canal-Point-Blvd-Letter-3-11-10.pdf>

¹¹ <http://wwbpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Canal-Pt-Condo-Assoc-Supporting-Mail-05-04-2010.pdf>