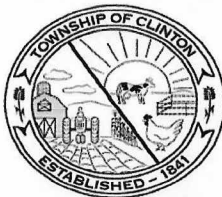


**TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY**



Brian Mullay
Mayor

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Township Administrator

July 21, 2022

New Jersey Water Supply Authority
1851 NJ 31
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The Township received your June 10, 2022 request for a letter of support in advance of your formal request to the County of Hunterdon for permanent closure of a portion of County Route 629. At this point, the Township Council does not have sufficient information to take a formal position either supporting or opposing your request.

This request was discussed publicly at two separate Council meetings on June 22 and July 13, 2022. The second meeting drew a crowd of approximately 60 interested residents, predominantly from the area of Old Mountain Road. The public sentiment was almost unanimously opposed to the road closure. The public asked a number of appropriate questions to which neither I, nor the Council, had adequate answers. In the absence of relevant information, the Council was not comfortable making a recommendation on the proposed permanent closure.

As you will be able to tell from the audio of the July 13th meeting, which was forwarded separately, most of the residents sought additional details on the proposal. Our suggestion is that the Water Authority and the County of Hunterdon review the audio from that meeting to get a sense of the residents' concerns and subsequently schedule a well-advertised public hearing to review the proposal in greater detail. It would be beneficial to have representatives from the relevant agencies present at the public meeting, in addition to representatives from the County and Authority. We believe it would also be helpful to the public to have written materials to review in advance of any public hearing.

Below is a summary of topics about which our residents had questions and that should be addressed in a public forum:

1. Project description

- Detailed description of exactly what change is being proposed.
- Exact locations where barriers would be erected.
- How pedestrian and bicycle traffic would be granted access, including adequate parking.
- Details from any traffic studies regarding impacts to nearby roads. e.g., the single lane railroad underpass on Cherry Street, and the intersection of Railroad Ave and Mountain Rd. for traffic heading toward County Route 523.
- Any other options that were considered. e.g., prohibiting truck traffic, but still permitting passenger cars.

2. Benefits

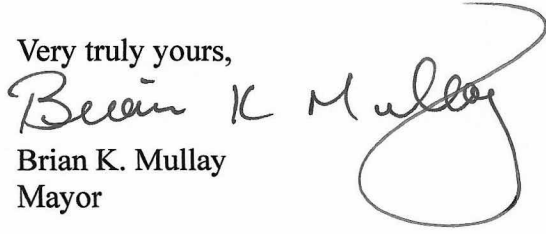
- To the extent permissible, describe the risks this closure intends to address.
- Review the identity and credentials of the organization that completed the risk assessment.
- Describe what a dike failure would look like.
- Review any quantitative estimates of the likelihood of various risk scenarios.
- Review the extent to which the closure reduces the risk. e.g., reduces the risk by 95%
- Describe any other benefits from the proposal. e.g., cost reduction, extended dike life, reduced traffic volume on local roads, etc..

3. Impacts

- Review the negative impacts of a road closure to nearby residents.
- Number of people likely to be impacted.
- Estimate of how many vehicle trips would have been taken over the road if it were not closed and how that volume is projected to grow over time.
- Makeup of the traffic – commercial vs personal vs other.
- An estimate of the average additional driving time by taking alternate routes versus 629. e.g., if driving from Old Mountain Road to Hunterdon Medical Center

Clinton Township is willing to help facilitate a public hearing at the appropriate time, as we expect most of the concerned public will be residents of the Township as well as Lebanon Borough.

Very truly yours,


Brian K. Mullay
Mayor

cc: Township of Clinton Council (via email)
County of Hunterdon (via email)