

NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL, BUCKS COUNTY PA, REGARDING THE NJDOT, KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP & LAMBERTVILLE/WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP ROCKFALL MITIGATION PROJECTS ALONG ROUTE 29 IN HUNTERDON COUNTY, NJ

**RESOLUTION 2023-01**

WHEREAS the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) intends to construct rockfall mitigation in Kingwood Township, NJ on cliffs adjacent to the "Devil's Tea Table Rock Formation" and a second project along Route 29 for one mile from Lambertville City, NJ into West Amwell Township, NJ and directly across the Delaware River from New Hope Borough, PA; and

WHEREAS both projects are within the Lower Delaware River segment designated a National Wild and Scenic River by Congress and President Clinton in 2000; and

WHEREAS the river bluffs and hillside faces are noted as having "remarkable scenic values" in the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River corridor; and

WHEREAS the area parallels the Delaware River Scenic Byway, a designation by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and is subject to the Delaware River Corridor Management Plan; and

WHEREAS the impacted area contains unique geologic formations and also has unique local, historical, and geological significance and holds religious significance to Native American peoples; and

WHEREAS the affected area contains several species of endangered animals and plants, and these projects will affect the flow of four stream tributaries to the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS New Hope Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania is a municipal member of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council; and

WHEREAS the New Hope Borough Council is concerned that these projects as planned may negatively affect tourism related trade, property values, traffic congestion, the environment, and the Delaware River valley viewshed of New Hope Borough; and

WHEREAS NJ Route 29 is the north-south commuting route in the area on the NJ side of the Delaware River and the proposed project will cause significant traffic delays and detours for several months or years during construction, it is likely that PA Route 32 through New Hope, which runs parallel on the PA side of the Delaware River, will take most of the traffic load, adversely impacting the residents, merchants, and visitors to the New Hope Borough community, causing the Borough to lose both parking and tax revenues, adversely affecting municipal finances, not to mention business interests; and

WHEREAS the Borough Council of New Hope Borough believes that life, health and safety are the highest priorities for any matter, and requests that an environmental review by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and less impactful options be considered by the NJDOT prior to the approval of this mitigation project; and

WHEREAS the Borough Council of New Hope Borough understands that affected neighboring municipalities have expressed concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hope Borough Council supports the position of the affected neighboring municipalities and the request of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council for further consideration of public safety, natural habitat and environmental impacts, economic impacts and traffic concerns for the NJDOT Devil's Tea Table Rockfall mitigation project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Hope Borough should request that NJDOT coordinate with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) whose Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects will be affected by the proposed TIP-financed activities and that the Borough notify DVRPC of the potential threat to the success of its proposed TIP activities in Bucks County PA and Mercer County NJ associated with the proposed projects so that the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization can have voice in shaping its transportation environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Hope Borough should notify Bucks County and Delaware River Bridge Authority officials of the potentially damaging traffic flows that would be associated with NJ Route 29 closures, especially those associated with narrow alternative bridges to the New Hope - Lambertville bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Hope Borough Council be kept informed of plans to move forward with this project and be invited to any meeting to discuss the projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to U.S. Representative Tom Malinowski; U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick; New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy; Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro; Pennsylvania State Senator Steve Santarsiero; Pennsylvania State Representative Tim Brennan; the USDOT, PADOT, NJDOT; and other relevant agencies.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED and APPROVED, on the 21<sup>ST</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2023, at a regular public meeting of the New Hope Borough Council.

ATTEST

  
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Peter Gray, Borough Manager

NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

  
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Connie Gering, President