

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD STUDY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE SUBDIVISION ROAD DESIGN AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDING THAT THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED BY THE REPORT GUIDE THE ADOPTION OF FLEXIBLE STANDARDS FOR SUBDIVISION ROADS IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 4, 2000

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Road Study Committee has published its Report on Sustainable Subdivision Road Design (herein after referred to as the Report); and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is experiencing significant growth, especially in residential development, and rapidly becoming more and more urban; and

WHEREAS, such development increases the imperviousness of the land which, even at levels of 10 to 20%, begins to negatively affect the health of a watershed; and

WHEREAS, roads and parking lots comprise a substantial percentage of impervious surfaces and are usually directly connected to storm drain systems in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, this results in reduced groundwater recharge, increased temperature of waterways, chemical alteration and/or poisoning of waterway ecology, contamination of drinking water supplies, and erosion of stream banks and scouring of stream beds during floods; and

WHEREAS, such environmental damage is costly to mitigate; and

WHEREAS, it is well-known in the traffic safety industry that the width of a road has a significant influence on the speed at which a driver travels regardless of the speed limit; and

WHEREAS, increased speed in residential areas, coupled with children playing and on-street parking, can be a deadly combination resulting in the need and expense for additional speed limit enforcement and traffic calming programs; and

WHEREAS, the width of roads are directly related to the costs of housing, road salt, snow plowing, and road maintenance and replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission staff noted that the Report is relevant well beyond Washtenaw County and offers a consolidated resource to help educate citizens, community leaders, and developers about these issues and some suggested solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the Report of the Washtenaw County Road Study Committee on Sustainable Subdivision Road Design

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners accepts the Report and strongly recommends that the principles outlined therein guide the Washtenaw County Road Commission in the adoption of flexible standards for subdivision roads to improve public safety, lessen the impact on the environment, and reduce associated housing and transportation costs, as attached hereto and made a part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and the Report be sent to the supervisors of every township and the chairs of each planning commission in Washtenaw County, the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Urban Area Transportation Study, the Office of the Drain Commissioner, the Home Builders Association, and each Michigan State senator and representative representing any portion of Washtenaw County.