

**WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION 2022-36**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, OPPOSING THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PROPOSAL TO TOLL THE INTERSTATE 83 SOUTH BRIDGE

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has proposed to implement a project that will result in tolls being charged for use of the Interstate-83 South Bridge (the I-83 South Bridge Project); and

WHEREAS, the I-83 South Bridge spans the Susquehanna River from Dauphin to Cumberland Counties, providing a vital transportation link across the Susquehanna River; and

WHEREAS, many residents of West Hanover Township who travel to Cumberland County for employment, school, and medical appointments would be impacted daily by the imposition of a toll on the I-83 South Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the 125,000 vehicles that use the I-83 South Bridge daily that originate within, or have destinations within 15 miles of the South Bridge, will likely avoid the proposed toll by diverting to local roadways in search of alternate routes to the toll; and

WHEREAS, the traffic resulting from those motorists avoiding tolls on the I-83 South Bridge, if such a toll would be enacted, will increase flows onto other state and municipally owned roadways beyond the Bridge corridor, further burdening local transit that often does not have the level of capacity as Interstate-83; and

WHEREAS, those municipally owned roadways, which will become the new alternate routes for the majority of I-83 South Bridge motorists, traverse local commercial and residential areas that are already impacted by traffic backlogs, travel delays, and general congestion; and

WHEREAS, the I-83 South Bridge toll would equate to an unfunded mandate imposed upon local government by virtue of the large quantities of motorists who will divert to local roadways to avoid the I-83 South Bridge toll, increasing the degradation of the municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, traffic diverting to local roadways to avoid the toll on the I-83 South Bridge has the potential to cause increased congestion upon local roadways that will impair the response time of first responders and access to emergency services, which will impede life-saving assistance as well as the protection of public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, South Bridge tolling is only one of 18 options provided as part of a report released by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf on July 30, 2021, in consideration of financing mechanisms dealing with the Commonwealth's growing transportation funding deficit.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the Township of West Hanover hereby implores the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to work with the General Assembly to develop a comprehensive statewide funding solution to address the region's transportation needs in a sustainable manner, without instead attempting to impose a burdensome toll that will have devastating effects on local communities; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of West Hanover, for the reasons as described herein, is officially opposed to the tolling of the Interstate-83 South Bridge, in coordination with the I-83 South Bridge Project.

RESOLVED this 17th day of March 2022.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP


Secretary
(SEAL)


Chairman

