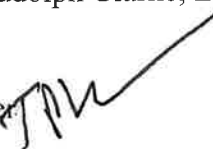




MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Weiss, Manager – Plymouth Township
Michael Clarke, Esq., Township Solicitor – Rudolph Clarke, LLC
Plymouth Township Council

From: Timothy P. Woodrow, P.E. – Township Engineer 

Date: September 26, 2024

Reference: West Elm Street – Pedestrian Connection

At Council's direction, I have once again returned to the West Elm Street Pedestrian Corridor. I have taken the time to stop, reinvestigate, reimagine, seek opinions from my staff and draw a final opinion and conclusion regarding the viability of installing pedestrian sidewalks along West Elm Street. I have reassessed two alignments:

North Side –

1. The need to protect whatever parking may be available to the neighborhood is a critical component of consideration. The everyday parking experience of our neighbors prevents any sidewalk from being constructed.
2. Easements and construction of public improvements on private property further exacerbate this opportunity.

South Side –

1. The need to negotiate an easement with the steel company cannot be diminished.
2. The safety concerns regarding the conflict between heavy truck traffic at the steel company driveway versus pedestrians crossing a very wide and uncontrolled driveway cannot be minimized.
3. The need for a very significant retaining wall running the full length of construction between the steel company driveway and a potential Old Elm Street crossing creates an insurmountable hurdle.
4. The need for additional guide rail further exacerbates both engineering costs and safety concerns.

The proximity to heavy traffic with corresponding safety concerns does not suggest this area to be a candidate for traditional sidewalks. Therefore, I have once again concluded that there is no fiscally nor physically responsible way to make a pedestrian connection along West Elm Street that is both safe and convenient for our neighbors.