



MABAS DIVISION 24

"Third District Fire Chiefs Association"

2828 Flossmoor Road

Flossmoor, Illinois 60422

708-798-3885

March 10, 2023

Dustin Anderson, Munster Town Manager
1005 Ridge Road
Munster, IN 46321

Munster Fire Chief Mark Hajduk
1007 Ridge Road
Munster, IN 46321

Dear Mr. Anderson & Chief Hajduk,

The recent public meetings to present plans for the rehabilitation of Ridge Road thru Munster unveiled three alternative plans for this project. Ridge Road is an important transportation route to two major hospitals serving the border towns in Illinois. This roadway is already overburdened with excessive traffic and the problem has been exacerbated by the recent closure of Franciscan Hammond Hospital. We find an inordinate number of ambulances being forced to use this route to your Munster facilities.

We understand one plan includes streetscape enhancements on the curb lines while alternative two includes the provision of turn lanes and thru-lanes. It is the third alternative that creates dire concern for public safety as the center planter areas will narrow the drive surface and force motorists to react to the presence of emergency vehicles in a number of ways that will jeopardize their safety, the safety of your residents as well as our personnel.

MABAS Division 24 serves 20 local area Fire Departments to provide mutual emergency response, administrative expertise, a unified Firefighter Training Program and access to unlimited resources in times of emergent need.

We urge you to consider your improvements with Public Safety in mind! Please do not place unsafe obstacles in the way of the motoring public and help us to provide a safe transportation service to our residents in need of hospitalization as well as other emergency services that may be coming to Munster to aid in your time of need.

Thank You for your consideration of this emergent issue. If you need further information or testimony, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Kevin Welsh

MABAS Division 24 President, Glenwood Fire Chief Kevin Welsh

cc: Thomas Vander Woude, Town Planning Director Ken Schoon, Ward 1 Steve Tulowitzki, Ward 4
Chuck Gardiner, Ward 3, Town Council President Lee Ann Mellon, Ward 2 Andy Koultourides, Ward 5

MABAS 24 DEPARTMENTS

Burnham	Calumet City	Country Club Hills	Dolton	East Hazel Crest	Flossmoor	Glenwood
Harvey	Hazel Crest	Homewood	Lansing	Lynwood	Markham	Munster
Oak Forest	Phoenix	Riverdale		South Holland	Thornton	Tinley Park