



*At Your Service*

Chief Kevin Welsh  
Fire Chief  
Glenwood Fire Department  
605 E. Glenwood-Lansing Road  
Glenwood, IL 60423

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

March 20, 2023

Dear Kevin,

I am in receipt of your letter sent on March 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the Town's plan to improve the Ridge Road corridor. Your letter urges the Town to consider our improvements with public safety in mind. We share your concerns and have centered our primary focus of this initiative on safety.

Between 2016 and 2020, there were over 600 vehicle collisions on Ridge Road. Of these, 81 crashes resulted in serious bodily injury to 124 people, as well as one fatality. When a roadway configuration is reduced to travel in each direction from two lanes to one – similar to this project – crashes have been reduced by 19 to 47%. This is the equivalent of potentially eliminating six crashes in Town per month.

Your point regarding the possible negative aspects of the potential installation of center planting strips is well taken. The Town will take into careful consideration the work of our design engineers for the optimal lane configuration of Ridge Road. I would not be surprised if it ends up being very similar to the improvements Homewood is going to make on 183<sup>rd</sup> Street. As in Homewood, Ridge Road in Munster will likely end up perpetuating the same street alignment that currently exists in Lansing by having two travel lanes and a continuous center turn lane.

Additionally, this project will increase sidewalk widths, remove obstacles in the sidewalk (utility poles and fire hydrants), improve curb ramps, and reduce the travel distance across Ridge Road by half. The planting of shade trees, improving signage, and other public amenities will increase the safety and comfort of non-vehicle users.

We appreciate your support as we all work together to improve our Town and the broader Chicagoland region. Please feel free to remain in contact through the design process as we appreciate your experience and expertise.

Respectfully,

Dustin Anderson

Cc: Town Council  
Town Staff  
Mayor Ronald J. Gardiner

