



# Borough of Conshohocken

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Francis J. Marabella

May 15, 2010

To: Mr. David L. Adams, P.E. PennDot

From:

Paul McConnell  
President, Conshohocken Borough Council

Bob Frost  
Mayor, Conshohocken Borough

Re: Rush hour traffic on Matsonford Bridge

As any commuter who crosses the bridge daily will tell you, the congestion during rush hour coming over the Schuylkill River between Conshohocken and West Conshohocken has become extreme to the point of intolerable. The bottleneck appears to be the intersection at Matsonford Rd and 23 (Front Street).

***We request that PennDot urgently modify the signals at this intersection to allow a better flow of traffic during rush hour in the most congested approaches.***

#### **A short-term solution:**

As a short term solution, we believe that modifying the signal timings at the Matsonford Rd and 23 intersections along with Crawford and Spring Garden (which causes bottleneck situations from those making left turns off the bridge) may improve both temporary and medium-term conditions.

The long term solution for this already congested intersection will no doubt involve a major road project (and the funding to complete it).

#### **The problem:**

Morning rush traffic trying to cross the bridge out of Conshohocken has become severe. The Matsonford/23 intersection is the bottleneck. Between approximately 7:30 am and 9:00 am, traffic backs up past 4<sup>th</sup> Ave on Fayette Street, and backs up on all cross streets in this area.

Evening rush backs up in all directions, in particular coming off of 76/476 and the bridge crossing leaving Conshohocken.

This congestion is:

- Hard for working people who already often spend too much time in traffic as opposed to at work or at home.
- Economically harmful to Conshohocken, West Conshohocken, and surrounding areas as the reputation of congestion worsens giving pause to businesses and residents who may be considering moving here, and negatively impacting our tax base.
- A concern to public safety (incidents of "road rage" are being witnessed daily and environmental quality with many idling cars).

**The cause:**

Historically, the Matsonford/23 intersection has always operated beyond capacity at rush hour receiving a Level of Service rating of F in both the AM and PM peak hours. We are not sure of the cause of the recent deterioration of traffic congestion, but we believe it is because:

- There appears to be a major change in traffic patterns likely due to traffic avoiding the southbound bridge construction on I-476 (the Blue Route). This construction is scheduled to continue through at least the end of 2010.
- As the economy recovers, especially in this area, more and more commuters are going to work. The bridge study conducted by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission already showed this intersection at capacity during the "recession."

Thank you for your rapid consideration. We urge you to take immediate action to pursue a remedy and request feedback on this notice as soon as practical. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss our observations.

Sincerely,

Paul McConnell  
President, Conshohocken Borough Council

Bob Frost  
Mayor, Conshohocken Borough

Cc: Senator Daylin Leach

Representative Mike Gerber

Marcene Rogovin, President West Conshohocken