



RESOLUTION NO. 11-23-15-1

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXTENSION OF ROUTE 53 THROUGH THE VILLAGE  
OF HAWTHORN WOODS

WHEREAS, the Village of Hawthorn Woods is a municipality in Lake County that would be severely impacted by the proposed Route 53 extension directly through its corporate boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Village of Hawthorn Woods withdrew its support of the Route 53 expansion by passing Resolution #1-8-90-3. At that time, the Environmental Impact Study ("EIS") produced for the Illinois Tollway Authority conclusively reported that such an infrastructure project would create devastation to the environment; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this environmental impact study recommendation, the alignment of Route 53 was moved to the preferred alternate alignment; and

WHEREAS, recently the flawed Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee report ("BRAC") illustrates the Route 53 extension switched back to the original alignment in direct conflict with all documentation from the Illinois Tollway, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies. The BRAC alignment illustrates portions of the extension elevated on pylons for long segments above rail and county highway crossings contrary to all recorded agreements, which will cause severe impact to the residents of the Village of Hawthorn Woods; and

WHEREAS, the BRAC was formed without the Village of Hawthorn Woods or a single member of the Route 53 corridor communities being appointed to the BRAC, a violation of state statute as defined in the enabling legislation; and

WHEREAS, the BRAC report is flawed not only because of the stakeholders in the corridor were omitted from membership, but because the preferred alignment through the Village of Hawthorn Woods was erroneously re-aligned to a route in conflict with the EIS recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Tollway has publicly stated that they would not proceed with a new Toll Road Extension without clear consensus from the stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, any perceived consensus is non-existent, with all environmental groups and the five municipalities in the path of Route 53 objecting to numerous issues with the Corridor Land Use Strategy (Plan) or Finance Plan; and

WHEREAS, no factual consensus can be fabricated from verified referendum numbers or a telephone survey concluding that only 16% of the Lake County population supports Route 53; and

WHEREAS, the entire process of trying to build consensus has been encumbered with violations of the Open Meetings Act and unlawful compositions of committee members in order to find a majority vote; and

WHEREAS, the cost to constitute a world-class boulevard with two lanes at a 45 mph speed limit as a model roadway for the nation has an estimated multi-billion dollar price tag, which cannot be financially supported by the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, a controversial financing plan will divert new revenue from critical service agencies whose location is in the corridor of the planned Route 53, including police, fire,

schools, libraries and all taxing bodies that need new construction dollars to provide critical life-saving and educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hawthorn Woods has publicly brought to the attention of IDOT and the Tollway Authority the numerous legal deficiencies of the BRAC process and the CMAP Lake County round tables, whose membership was hand-selected; and

WHEREAS, According to Resolution #1-8-90-3, the Village of Hawthorn Woods reaffirms the following facts to be sufficient justification that the extension of FAP 342, otherwise known as State Route 53, should not and must not be constructed through the corporate limits of the Village of Hawthorn Woods, Lake County, Illinois, and that:

1. The proposed extension of Route 53 will damage the values of residential properties along the right-of-way without providing adequate relief to the homeowners within the Village of Hawthorn Woods. Noise pollution, salt pollution, light pollution, private well and septic system infiltration will render homes in the corridor irrevocably damaged. Homes and businesses will be destroyed in the new BRAC alignment, as the Village has grown around the eastern preferred corridor alignment as posted by the FAP highway sign locations.
2. The BRAC location of the proposed extension will divide the Village into two distinct and distinguishable sections by an elevated highway conflicting with EPA recommendations.
3. Extending Route 53 will add to traffic congestion problems on arterial roads, such as IL Route 22 and Old McHenry Road in the Long Grove/Hawthorn Woods environs, specifically as two proposed interchanges are in the vicinity of the Village of Hawthorn Woods.

4. The construction of any extension of Route 53 would divert funds that may be available for improvements currently needed for arterial roads and non-motorized modern alternative modes of transportation in Lake County.

NOW LET IT HEREBY BE RESOLVED THAT because the alignment is incorrect in the BRAC report, there is no stakeholder consensus, the project's minimum \$2.6 billion price tag is irresponsible when the fiscal health of State of Illinois is in a multi-year budget crisis, and with known specific environmental concerns that will cause severe impact to the residents of Hawthorn Woods, the Village of Hawthorn Woods requests this new initiative be suspended, with no additional dollars spent on yet another Environmental Impact Study; and

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT the Village of Hawthorn Woods will take all lawful steps necessary to prevent the construction of any extension through the corporate limits of the Village of Hawthorn Woods; and

The corporate board of the Village of Hawthorn Woods directs the Village Clerk to communicate this Resolution to: The Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Tollway Authority, the Office of the Governor of the State of Illinois, and to any other parties making inquiry to the Village of Hawthorn Woods regarding the extension of Route 53 now and in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS, THAT THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS STRONGLY OPPOSES THE EXTENSION OF ROUTE 53 AND THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Porzio, Russo, Merga, DiMaggio, David

NAYS: 0

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Corrigan

APPROVED: Joseph Mancino  
Joseph Mancino, Mayor

ATTEST: Donna Lobaito  
Donna Lobaito, Village Clerk

ADOPTED: November 23, 2015

APPROVED: November 23, 2015