

RESOLUTION

Concerning the Acquisition of Properties in the Right-of-Way of the Mon-Fayette Toll Road, October 2006

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission plans to complete the Mon-Fayette Toll Road with the 24-mile section between S.R. 51 and I-376; and

WHEREAS the proposed route for this section passes through the boroughs of Jefferson Hills, West Mifflin, Dravosburg, Duquesne, Turtle Creek, Monroeville, North Braddock, Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, and depressed areas of the neighborhoods of Hazelwood, Greenfield and Oakland in the City of Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS among these municipalities, the City of Pittsburgh and the Boroughs of Rankin, Braddock and Duquesne are currently determined to be distressed municipalities under Act 47; and

WHEREAS the current estimated budget for this section of the Mon-Fayette Toll Road is approximately \$3.65 billion; and

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has not been able to identify a source of funding to cover their current shortfall of \$3.4 billion, despite years of concerted effort; and

WHEREAS the Turnpike Commission does have sufficient funds available to initiate the acquisition of right-of-way properties, regardless of the uncertainty of future funding for construction; and

WHEREAS the municipalities and school districts in the path of the proposed toll road can ill afford to sacrifice properties from the tax rolls with no guarantee of prompt economic return to their communities; and

WHEREAS the communities in the path of this proposed toll road are hamstrung in their efforts to develop land-use plans and comprehensive strategies for economic development, while the uncertainty of the road's final design and construction persists; and

WHEREAS it is our belief that economic re-development and the formulation of sustainable transportation and land use plans in these communities are of paramount importance to the future of our region;

THEREFORE the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh resolve to call upon the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to declare a moratorium on the acquisition of right-of-way properties until the Commission has identified a guaranteed funding source to cover the remaining costs of design and construction of the S.R. 51 to I-376 section of the Mon-Fayette Toll Road; and

FURTHERMORE we urge Governor Rendell to support the moratorium on the acquisition of right-of-way properties until funding for the remaining costs of design and construction of the Mon-Fayette Toll Road have been fully committed.