



# AGENDA ITEM REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2021

**Staff Contact:** Jim Budny, Trustee

**Department:** Administration

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**Subject: Toll Bridge Frequency of Closings Resolution**

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**Recommendation(s):**

Resolved by the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees the request to the United States Coast Guard to prohibit the non-emergency opening and closing of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge during the reconstruction period of the Wayne County Public Bridge.

**History, Purpose & Explanation:**

As we approach summer and have more traffic on and off the Toll Bridge, we believe there should be less openings than is recommended by the Coast Guard. The Grosse Ile Bridge Company requested an exemption from the regular schedule of openings during the rush hour periods of the day and was given short time reliefs.

This resolution is to support the proposition that longer relief is necessary to provide the needed safety for the Island and surrounding communities.

**Attachments:**

[Resolution regarding Toll Bridge](#)

**RESOLUTION  
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Whereas, the Township of Grosse Ile is an Island Community in the County of Wayne with two access points; and

Whereas, the Township of Grosse Ile has been informed by Wayne County that the public bridge located on the southern side of the Island will continue to be closed until the Fall of 2021 for the purposes of reconstruction thereby leaving the 10,000 residents of Grosse Ile with only one method of access via the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge; and

Whereas, the United States Coast Guard regulates the Greatlakes waterway that includes the Trenton Channel; and

Whereas, the Trenton Channel is traversed by the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge; and

Whereas, the opening and closing of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge will severely impede the flow of traffic for the residents of Grosse Ile; and

Whereas, impeded traffic flow will have a negative impact on the public safety, specifically the general health and welfare, of the community; and

Whereas, the Grosse Ile Fire Department makes on average 2.1 emergency runs off island per day; and

Whereas, emergency call volume and rescues increase during the Summer months as people become more active and the number of trauma cases rise further exacerbating the magnitude of the problem; and

Whereas, during emergency ambulance runs when the toll bridge opens it can add 15-40 minutes more transport time; and

Whereas, the medical profession refers to the first hour of a cardiac event as the “Golden Hour” when treatment is vital to avoid death or permanent damage; and

Whereas, the opening and closing of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge during the construction period of the Wayne County public bridge will be detrimental to the residents of the Township of Grosse Ile; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees request that the United States Coast Guard prohibit the non-emergency opening and

closing of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge during the reconstruction period of the Wayne County public bridge during the weekday hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily; and

Whereas; the requested time to prohibit the opening and closing of the Grosse Ile Toll bridge during the weekday hours represents 51% of daily traffic and only 29% of the day's length; and

NOW, THEREFORE FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees request that the United States Coast Guard prohibit the non-emergency opening and closing of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge during the reconstruction period of the Wayne County public bridge during the weekend hours of 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and

Whereas; the requested time to prohibit the opening and closing of the Grosse Ile Toll bridge during the weekend hours represents 31% of daily traffic and only 13% of the day's length; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Grosse Ile Township Board supports eliminating non-emergency openings of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and a solicitation of support shall be forward to the Unites States Coast Guard, United States Senator Debbie Stabenow, United States Senator, Gary Peters, United States Representative Debbie Dingell, State Senator, Stephanie Chang, State Representative, Darrin Camilleri, Wayne County Executive, Warren C. Evans, Wayne County Emergency Management Director, Executive, Tadarial Sturdivant, Wayne County Commissioner, Joseph Palamara, Wayne County Director of Roads, Beverly Watts, City of Trenton Mayor, Steven Rzeppa, City of Riverview Mayor, Andrew Swift and Grosse Ile Toll Bridge, Paul Smoke.

Adopted by the Grosse Ile Township Board on \_\_\_\_\_

Yeas \_\_\_\_\_

Nays \_\_\_\_\_

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James C. Budny  
Township Supervisor