

RESOLUTION #24-28:

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NC-DOT PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE HISTORIC PINEHURST TRAFFIC CIRCLE (PTC) WITH A CONTINUOUS FLOW INTERSECTION (CFI) AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO WORK WITH NCDOT TO IMPROVE THE PTC AND FIND A CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the NC-DOT has proposed a project (U-5976) that may have a negative impact on our National Historic Landmark status and the historic road system in our 129-year-old community that will totally replace the 68-year-old Traffic Circle and surrounding roads with a large complex intersection; and

WHEREAS, the CFI could remove almost all six acres of longleaf pine trees and replace them with mostly a rectangle of concrete, turn signals and traffic lights; and would authorize the state of North Carolina to take the homes of at least six of our residents through purchase of right of way or use of eminent domain; and would eliminate the iconic Midland Road entrance into Pinehurst and permanently disrupt this majestic drive for the many visitors that arrive in Pinehurst each year; and

WHEREAS, in January 2023 the Village of Pinehurst Council forwarded to NC-DOT nine recommendations to improve circulation issues around the Circle and NC-DOT adopted two of our nine recommendations: (1) install barriers to prevent crossover from slip lane to primary lane and (2) overhead signs on approaches to the Circle, advising of lane restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the NC-DOT plan for CFI does not call for construction to begin until 2030 and to finish in 2032 resulting in major disruption to those that utilize the Circle and nearby road systems; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of our residents have expressed their opposition to the CFI by collecting over 3,000 signatures requesting that the PTC be improved, not destroyed; writing numerous letters & e-mails to Village Council members, other Moore County elected officials and the Governor of North Carolina expressing opposition and approximately 1,500 community members attended 3 public meetings organized by NC-DOT expressing their concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Pines Garden Club, the Pinehurst Garden Club, and the Garden Club of the Sandhills have adopted resolutions opposing NC-DOT's CFI.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Council of the Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina in a Regular Meeting assembled this 13th day of August 2024 as follows:

SECTION 1. We, the Village Council, do hereby proclaim we oppose the NC-DOT proposed CFI intersection that would replace our 68-year-old Traffic Circle. We believe if undertaken as proposed, it would be harmful and disruptive to our residents and it would have a negative impact to the special character of our Village and the integrity of our National Historic Landmark status.

SECTION 2. We, the Village Council, are prepared to, and want to, work with NC-DOT on a regular basis to improve the traffic flow around the PTC in seeking sensible and practical solutions—with a minimum of construction disruption – that hopefully may be accomplished in the next couple of years, rather than 8 years from now. We are very encouraged by the NC-DOT statement of Wednesday, July 03rd, 2024, and the August 07th, 2024, Editorial in The Pilot, which states “NC-DOT has heard the concerns from the community and is already reviewing all concepts and looking for opportunities to minimize impacts to the area. The department plans to improve the design based on the local input received and assure traffic safety and mobility is maximized.”

SECTION 3. We, the Village Council, request NC-DOT explore other options that could improve the flow of traffic at PTC – but not destroy it, that they would refrain from taking property from any of our residents, and preserve the historic Midland Road (often referred to as “The Fifth Avenue of Golf”) access to the Circle. These could include other options discarded in the past, comments received from attendees at NC-DOT recent public meetings, as well as new options emerging from technological advances in the area of traffic management.

SECTION 4. We, the Village Council, additionally request the NC-DOT further review the remaining 7 of our 9 recommendations from our January 2023 letter and discern if any of them could also be implemented. We are thankful they adopted two of our suggestions in January 2024 and look forward to working with NC-DOT on their review of the others.

SECTION 5. We, the Village Council, intend to formally propose a joint working group consisting of VOP and NC-DOT representatives to explore and evaluate all possibilities, in lieu of CFI, that can be shared with Pinehurst residents to provide feedback once again in public meetings

THIS RESOLUTION passed and adopted this 13th day of August 2024.



Attest:

Shannon Konstantinou
Shannon Konstantinou, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF PINEHURST
VILLAGE COUNCIL

By:

Patrick Pizzella
Patrick Pizzella, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

Michael J. Newman
Michael J. Newman, Village Attorney