

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: "NO!" to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:18:37 PM

From: Lisa <laburns10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:30 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>; msandow@larkintwp.com;
lbenterrich@larkintwp.com; kmoe0427@att.net; tdraves1@gmail.com; grumps16@hotmail.com;
jkdeitsch@gmail.com; planning@larkintwp.com; chgoodmans53@gmail.com; cresys@yahoo.com;
dmcintyre712@gmail.com; migary@outlook.com; Gary.Laurenz@gmail.com; edwpu@att.net;
art@midlandroads.com
Cc: Lisa Burns <laburns10@gmail.com>
Subject: "NO!" to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road

Hello,

I am writing to voice my concern and disagreement with the possibility of an extension being made from Letts through to Waldo as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan. I request your sharing of the traffic patterns study and other pertinent information that has been collected regarding this matter.

Our family has made the Pine Hollow neighborhood and its surrounding serenity our home for several years now. We absolutely chose this area because of the Dead End at Letts and the 'seclusion' this provides. We have young children and pets and value the current traffic situation (minimal traffic, only for neighborhood use). Our property ownership is exponentially more valuable because of our location and surroundings.

With that property value comes our payment of Larkin Township taxes. All folks within these parameters *have paid their fair share and are deserving of a voice and influence in this project.*

We have anxieties that the extension will make for unsafe conditions for many of the families who live in the neighborhood, along with other worries:

- Higher speeds and A LOT more traffic on Letts Rd. and in neighborhoods as this becomes a thoroughfare
- Loss of relatively safe walking/running/biking route (many individuals and families with children use Letts Rd)
- Loss of property value
- More congestion challenges at the corner of Jefferson and Letts/Commerce
- More 'non-neighborhood' residents cruising our neighborhoods (public safety)
- Potential for making traffic worse on Jefferson (Wackerly to Joe Mann corridor)

Please let me know the plan for further communication and consideration for not moving forward with this project.

Sincerely,
Lisa Burns

2042 N. Monarch Cir
Midland, MI 48642

mobile: +1.989.529.6618

email: laburns10@gmail.com

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Do Not Support - Letts Road extension to Waldo
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:20:17 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Nash <michael.patrick.nash@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:56 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Do Not Support - Letts Road extension to Waldo

> Elected Officials,

>

> I am writing in opposition to the recent news regarding the plan to extend Letts Road to Waldo. This is an unnecessary use of tax payer's money.

>

> Monroe already runs through from Jefferson as does Joseph/Diamond Dr. Yet another road through is excessive.

>

> There are regular accidents on Letts with winter ice build up and deer crossings from the woods. Turning Letts into a drag strip will be dangerous.

>

> The woods where Letts ends now has recreational trails and is full of hunters in the Fall. Cutting through that will be disruptive of a natural environment.

>

> Lastly the residential neighborhoods off of Letts have a large number of young children and no sidewalks. Traffic will increase and it will be dangerous. The last thing we need is to have kids discouraged from spending time outside and instead spending even more time doing electronics.

>

> As an elected official myself, understanding constituent's interest is important to fulfilling your duty. I'd ask that you each consider this input as well as the other outreach. This initiative is not a prudent use of taxpayers money.

>

> Best regards,

>

> Mike Nash and Dr. Jennifer Nash

> 2285 N Rolling Ridge Dr

> Midland, MI 48642

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Future Letts Road Extension Feedback
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:20:30 PM

From: Jacob Rogers <rogersdtm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:31 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Future Letts Road Extension Feedback

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you regarding the recent discovery of the proposed plan to extend Letts Road East to Waldo.

My wife, 6 year old son and I live on Letts Road and absolutely love our neighborhood. We chose to invest in our life here due to the quiet nature of this area as we routinely walk, bike and play with many of the other young families surrounding us.

I'm very concerned about the proposed extension of our road to Waldo. This will undoubtedly increase the amount of traffic and speed of vehicles traveling on Letts Road. Unfortunately for my family, we would no longer have safe access to enjoy our neighborhood.

I have personally attended the Larkin Township meetings and presented the need to post a reduced speed limit on Letts road 2 years ago. I do appreciate the board listening to my concerns at the time. Unfortunately, the matter was outside of your control due to the state police rejecting the proposal although the board unanimously agreed it should change.

I feel that any justification for this project based on improving traffic flow is very out of reason and most definitely not worth the extremely large investment to make this possible.

Please read this message with consideration from a dedicated community member motivated by the well being of both my family and those around me.

Sincerely,
Jacob Rogers

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Rd extension Concerns
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:23:38 PM

From: Gretchen Kesler <uskeslers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:18 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Rd extension Concerns

Good morning,

It has come to my attention that the Larkin Township Board voted in support of spending \$400k on an extension of Letts Rd through to Waldo. I would like to voice my concern over this decision! I would ask that all information regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan be made available to the residents of Larkin Township with notice.

Many of the residents in the area that would be affected are concerned about the following:

- Higher speeds and A LOT more traffic on Letts Rd. and in neighborhoods as this becomes a thoroughfare
- Loss of relatively safe walking/running/biking route (many individuals and families with children use Letts Rd)
- Loss of property value
- More congestion challenges at the corner of Jefferson and Letts/Commerce
- More 'non-neighborhood' residents cruising our neighborhoods (public safety)
- Potential for making traffic worse on Jefferson (Wackerly to Joe Mann corridor)

I am concerned that neighbors will leave the area, but mostly that this will not be the quiet, peaceful country neighborhood we have all moved here for.

Having lived in this subdivision for more than a decade, I have not once thought how convenient it would be if Letts was extended. We all moved here for the low traffic, low visibility. I'm struggling to see the benefit. The money that is budgeted for this project could be used in numerous areas within the county to make transportation easier for its residents including the mall area where the traffic isn't going to visit the mall.

From the Larking Township website and the Transportation Study:

A Commerce Drive and Letts extension provides connectivity north of the Mall area. This will allow residents to travel east of Jefferson and west of Eastman if they are not traveling to the mall area. The model shows reduction in capacity utilization on the parallel road Monroe and some reduction on Eastman and Jefferson.

There are already multiple ways to get to the mall area from the Waldo Rd area.

Please take our concerns seriously!

Regards,
Gretchen Kesler
2049 N Monarch Circle
Larkin Township
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: ["Russell Inman \(russ@midlandroads.com\)"; Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Rd Extension
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:27:44 PM

From: Dawn Landis-Lapham <dawnlandislapham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Rd Extension

Hello,

My husband and I live at 2029 N. Monarch Circle in Larkin Township. We are very concerned to hear about the proposed extension from Waldo to Jefferson using Letts Rd. for several reasons. First, this would bring so much traffic on Letts. I for one love to walk with my dog on Letts Rd in the section between Pine Hollow subdivision entry and Rolling Ridge. This would become a scary proposition with more traffic on the road.

Second, why are our tax dollars being allocated for an extension of the road before we have city water in this area? After my husband and I moved into our home in 2019, a new house being built across the street caught fire. We were flabbergasted to realize that the fire trucks had to go all the way out to Jefferson to find the nearest fire hydrant! This is so very ridiculous! We would really like to know how you can justify spending a half a million dollars of our tax money on a road extension when we don't even have fire hydrants in this area.

Please don't spend the money on the extension.

Mike and Dawn Lapham

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: ["Russell Inman \(russ@midlandroads.com\)"; Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Lett's Rd extension
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:26:20 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: lindamkesler@chartermi.net <lindamkesler@chartermi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 12:11 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Lett's Rd extension

We do NOT want Lett's Road extended. We live in Pine Hollow Estates, just off Lett's Rd. We moved here to enjoy the privacy and safety this neighborhood offers. The traffic has gotten very dangerous at the intersection of Jefferson and Commerce, and we have asked to have it evaluated for 4 way stop signs or a light. That was never assessed. Now , if Lett's is extended, it will bring even more traffic to that intersection. This is a family neighborhood, with kids riding bikes, walking, playing in freedom and safety. The drivers here are aware of that, and drive accordingly. That would all be jeopardized if more traffic is diverted thru this area. We do NOT want our tax dollars to be foolishly spent in this way. Sincerely, Linda and Gary Kesler

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: ["Russell Inman \(russ@midlandroads.com\)"; Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road expansion
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:24:43 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Julia Wilkins <miexplorer2017@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 10:22 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Road expansion

Good morning,

I am writing in vehement opposition to the Letts Road expansion. This seems like an expensive project with no added benefit to our community. We are a community of young families with young children. As a family of avid runners, we use this proposed expansion area as a low traffic area to run/walk with strollers and children on bicycles. As a Larkin township homeowner and taxpayer, I would be disgusted to see this area changed into a high traffic area that would be grossly unsafe for the local families who use this area like my family does.

Our board should be allocating funds in such ways that benefits the homeowners of this community, not catering to the developers and builders who stand to profit from such a project. If you need some place to spend our taxpayer money, developing sidewalks along Jefferson would be a much better use of funds. Had there been better transparency to local residents on this topic, I'm sure that you would see that most residents would be in agreement that the expansion of Letts Road is not good for our community.

Sincerely,

Julia Wilkins,

Concerned Larkin Township homeowner

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts road expansion concern
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:24:10 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Barrett & Lynnette <bearborrousch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Cc: Larkin Resident <concernedlarkinresident@gmail.com>
Subject: Letts road expansion concern

Midland Road Council -

As a neighborhood member of Pine Hollow estates, I would like to share some of my concerns with the review board related to the considered expansion of Letts road at Waldo.

- This neighborhood along with the connecting roads to Letts are rich with families and children. The number of children and families who walk on these streets, ride scooters, and bikes on a daily basis is very high.

These neighborhoods do not have sidewalks so the roads are our only option and need to be shared. The safety of our children and encouraging outside physical activities is a priority.

-There are several existing and new homes with driveways directly on Letts road. Their front yards face serene Dow woods and farmland and likely was huge part of why they chose that location. A high traffic road at their driveway was not.

-The traffic and speed of traffic is a concern. We already experience excessive traffic on Jefferson with the Commerce junction at Letts. This is particularly a concern as traffic attempts to avoid Joe Mann blvd by using Commerce.

-This path would be even more attractive to drivers as the commerce road access is a direct path from Waldo and ultimately the expressway.

-We already know how congested this side of town is during the holiday season.

Routing that traffic through our neighborhood is unsafe.

- Letts road is a narrow road with very heavy deer and Turkey traffic. We must travel it slowly on a daily basis.

-With the heavy tree coverage on Letts it tends to be icy throughout most of the winter.

I personally would enjoy the shortcut to Waldo and access to the highway. But in this case the negative impact to the neighborhood isn't worth the convenience and threat to the safety of the families using these roads on a daily basis.

I am happy to offer any additional insights. Please take our concerns seriously as possible and come visit the neighborhood directly prior to making such a significant decision.

Lynnette Borrousch

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road Expansion to Waldo Road
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:22:35 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: B Gray <joebrad422@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 8:14 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Road Expansion to Waldo Road

Dear Midland MPO:

As a resident of Larkin Township and a homeowner in the Pine Hollow Estates subdivision, my family and I are directly and negatively impacted by any expansion of Letts Road to Waldo Road. Besides the obvious increases in unnecessary traffic, the negative impact to home values of Pine Hollow Estates, the awful increase in road noise pollution, and the increase killing of wildlife that will occur with this proposed expansion, it is extremely challenging to see why the supply/demand of additional roads for a rural community is needed. We chose to live in Larkin Township vs the city of Midland due to quiet nature of living outside of the city, the reduced road noise pollution and the quiet lifestyle that comes from living 'out of town'. I am fully against this expansion and see no reason to spend these monies when there are other, more important projects with which to spend money these days. The existing roads in Larkin Township already need more maintenance than they receive so why are we trying to add 'cut thru roads' for people who do not live in these neighborhoods? The population of those on this small dead end road of Letts do not need such a road to connect to Waldo when we have Monroe and Joseph/Diamond Drive. Those current roads are NEVER busy or overused. This proposed road will be a cut-thru with no real benefit given to those of us who live in these subdivisions. The overall traffic need to get to 'Waldo' is not great by any means and we do not need another road to connect to Waldo.

I ask that you please stop these discussion and avoid the negative impact you will have on those of us who pay very nice taxes to Larkin Township and destroy the reasons we elected to live here in the first place. Connecting Waldo to Letts Road destroys the quiet lifestyle offered by Larkin Township and brings unnecessary traffic and pollution to our neighborhood without any tangible benefits. We will only reap the negative aspects thru higher car traffic, loss of nature, loss of walking areas, loss in home values and most of all, loss of a lifestyle that we chose to have when we moved out here. The negative benefits are all I see and no direct value comes from such an expansion for those of us who live here. You will be creating just another maintenance cost for all of us, more accidents on this proposed road, more traffic lights (Letts and Jefferson), less safety for our children and greater noise pollution. There is no payback to those of us impacted negatively by this proposal. We are not asking for it and supply/demand does not justify the need for additional roads at this time. There are not traffic jams in this area.

Thank you very much for listening

Sincerely,

Jospeh Brad Gray
2108 N Harvest Circle
Midland, MI 48642
Sent from my iPad

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road Extension Proposal - Concerned Residents/Constituents
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:19:48 PM

From: Stephen Champine <steelheadsteve68@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:52 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Cc: Bridget lol Champine <bachampine@gmail.com>; Gary.Laurenz@gmail.com; art@midlandroads.com; chgoodmans53@gmail.com; cresys@yahoo.com; dmcintyre712@gmail.com; edwpu@att.net; grumps16@hotmail.com; jkdeitsch@gmail.com; kmoe0427@att.net; lbenterrich@larkintwp.com; migary@outlook.com; msandow@larkintwp.com; planning@larkintwp.com; tdraves1@gmail.com
Subject: Letts Road Extension Proposal - Concerned Residents/Constituents

To whom it may concern,

It is with great concern, for many reasons, that I write this letter this evening. I was deeply disappointed to find out last week about the decision by the Larkin Township Board to extend Letts Rd east to Waldo. I am not sure, but eager to understand, how a decision that has this type of impact on our neighborhood is made without any advance notice to the public in which it effects. Below are several concerns regarding the extension:

- Higher speeds and SIGNIFICANTLY more traffic on Letts Rd resulting in noise pollution and more importantly, multiple safety concerns.
- The neighborhood becomes a thoroughfare, not only from the Letts Extension, but from people cutting through the Pine Hollow subdivision to get to Letts to travel East and vice versa.
- Loss of relatively safe walking/running/biking route (many individuals and families with children use Letts Rd)
- Loss of property value
- Environmental impact to the wetland areas that would be destroyed by building the road.
- Environmental impact to the Blanding's Turtle, which is on the threatened species list. We have witnessed several of these magnificent creatures (and have pictures to prove it) crossing in the open area directly east of the dead end where the road extension would be built.
- Increased congestion challenges at the corner of Jefferson and Letts/Commerce. An already dangerous intersection based on the speeds people travel on Jefferson.
- More 'non-neighborhood' residents cruising our neighborhoods (public safety)

I really question the value that this road extension will have to our community in comparison to the negative impact it will have on our neighborhood as well as the ecosystem of the vacant land which it will run through. Especially considering that the description in the Long Range Transportation Plan hardly suggest that it will have any value at all. I have worked extremely hard to earn the opportunity to live in this great part of our community where we are fortunate to live near a boundary close to the city that provides nature the ability to continue to thrive. This is also a neighborhood that operates with a great sense of community including spending a lot of time outside and with each other. Something that is rare in this day and age, especially with the younger generations. Additionally, our taxes are on the high end for the county and we made the decision to move here and pay this level of taxes based on what the property and neighborhood offered.

Please also ask yourself, what value does this road extension create? At best, it saves a few people (most likely not Larkin TWP residents) a minute or two to get to a shopping district that will continue to diminish as our culture continues to shift towards online purchases. Maybe it gets people to the expressway a minute or two faster as well, but so does the proposed changes to the Waldo Road overpass in the Long Range Transportation Plan. As our local governmental leaders, In a time where we are all making more of a concentrated effort than we have in the last one hundred and fifty years as a society to protect the environment, please join us in leaving it better than we found it and strongly consider not moving this project forward,

Sincerely,

Steve and Bridget Champine
2012 N Rolling Ridge Dr.
Midland, MI 48642

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts road extension
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:21:02 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Miller <l2miller123@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:43 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts road extension

To whom it may concern. I am a Larkin township resident and I am writing to disclose that I'm not in favor of this plan for a variety of reasons. I feel that in all honesty this plan is not transparent and full disclosure should be made to the public and those that this plan will affect. We live in a beautiful community and Dow forest is loved by many including the neighborhood and wild life. It is the exact reason why I chose to live in this community.

The extension road from letts to Waldo I feel is unnecessary. Monroe and jo Mann's blvd are not heavily traveled roads that would require a tertiary outlet.

I feel that there is a hidden agenda involving land development that the public is not made aware of. No city builds roads unnecessarily due to cost. But I feel for tax revenue purposes that a home development plan is the most likely culprit to the need of this extension of letts to Waldo.

This road would decrease my home value and the loose my love for the surrounding area I live. I run on letts road 4-5 times a week. I have discussed the safety issues of letts road and the elevated speed limit (55mph) at hand with Larkin township and the dpt of transportation. There had been so many close calls as this road has no sidewalks and ditches in both sides. Drivers tend not to slow down when they see pedestrians these days. I worry for my own safety and for the safety of others including children in this community. This extension would only bring more drivers thru the quiet community and cause more risk to the highly active members of the community.

I have a few questions:

1. Where is the data that verifies the need for connecting letts road to Waldo?
2. This is a very expensive project. What gains are anticipated and what losses are expected?
3. I feel that there are other projects that are neglected to help build a community for families. Why is this money not used for creating better parks and recreation for all to enjoy. The baseball fields need some help. There are no local playgrounds for young kids nearby. ? Community swimming pool close to the township? The fire dept is in need of a new rig. Why not give them the finances to purchase equipment that is needed to protect our homes. A dog park? There's probably more homes with dogs than horses I bet. A dog park makes more sense than an equestrian park. The greater good for the community, right?
4. Why was there not much debate/discussion regarding this topic. This is a highly expensive project and to have all board members approve it in less than 15 minutes makes me wonder how much previous discussion they had and for how long had this project been known for and not made aware to the public.
5. Why is there a lack of transparency within the township. They have the means to become transparent- internet, email, monthly magazines. We the people of Larkin deserve to know what is happening with our community and not just to those that are privileged to be on the board.

I hope I am able to get some of these questions answered so that we can all understand the necessity or lack thereof for the extension of letts road.

Sincerely,
Lisa Miller, Larkin resident, not in favor of letts road extension.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: ["Russell Inman \(russ@midlandroads.com\)"; Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road project/expansion
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:25:13 PM

From: Megan Cousineau <megcousineau@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Road project/expansion

Good Morning,

I am writing in fervent opposition to the Letts Road expansion. We are a community of young families and also, personally a family of avid runners/biking and we use this proposed expansion area as a slow traffic area to run, walk, and bike with strollers and children on bicycles. As a Larkin township homeowner and taxpayer, I would be saddened to see this area changed into a high traffic area that would make it very unsafe for the local families who use it on a daily basis.

I'd like to see our board allocate these funds in a way that would benefit the homeowners and not cater to developers and builders who would profit from this project. A better use of these funds might go towards sidewalks along Jefferson to allow for safer running/walking and bike riding.

Sincerely,
Megan Cousineau
Larkin Township Resident

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Opposed to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:22:58 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Dean <pbdean@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 8:50 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Opposed to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road

This is to express my opposition to the Letts Road extension to Waldo Road. I am a resident of the Pine Hollow area.

Obviously this project will increase high speed traffic in the area which is full of families who enjoy being outdoors walking, biking, running, etc including along Letts road. It will certainly decrease property value of many homes near the road. In my opinion, it is also not needed at this time. There are many other options for drivers who want to get through the area in the e/w direction now. I just don't see why it is a priority at this time to spend our money now. I do see it is in the master plan for 2035. In the far future there certainly could be a need.

I am also disappointed that the Larkin Township Board voted to spend \$500,000 now on the project. More concerning is the clear motivation of the LTB to intentionally hide the topic in their recent published meeting agenda- despite the clear fact that it was discussed and affirmed to start to spend on the project. I certainly don't want my tax \$ spent on this project. I supposed I can at least express my disappointment in the board at my next opportunity to vote.

Thanks for your consideration of this input.

Pat

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: "NO!" to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:19:01 PM

From: Jeremiah Burns <JBurns@Avistanursingandrehab.com>

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:16 PM

To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>; msadow@larkintwp.com;
lbenterrich@larkintwp.com; kmoe0427@att.net; tdraves1@gmail.com; grumps16@hotmail.com;
jkdeitsch@gmail.com; planning@larkintwp.com; chgoodmans53@gmail.com; cresys@yahoo.com;
dmcintyre712@gmail.com; migary@outlook.com; Gary.Laurenz@gmail.com; edwpu@att.net;
art@midlandroads.com

Subject: RE: "NO!" to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road

It has come to my attention that the Larkin Township Board voted in support of spending \$400k on an extension of Letts Rd through to Waldo. I would like to voice my concern over this decision! I would ask that all information regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan be made available to the residents of Larkin Township with notice.

Many of the residents in the area that would be affected are concerned about the following:

- Higher speeds and A LOT more traffic on Letts Rd. and in neighborhoods as this becomes a thoroughfare
- Loss of relatively safe walking/running/biking route (many individuals and families with children use Letts Rd)
- Loss of property value
- More congestion challenges at the corner of Jefferson and Letts/Commerce
- More 'non-neighborhood' residents cruising our neighborhoods (public safety)
- Potential for making traffic worse on Jefferson (Wackerly to Joe Mann corridor)

I am concerned that some of our neighbors will leave the area and this will not be the quiet neighborhood that we have all come to enjoy and want.

Having lived in this area the last few years I have not once thought how convenient it would be if Letts was extended. Taking kids to the soccer facility numerous times a week and having to drive around taking Diamond Dr was not an inconvenience. I'm struggling to see the benefit. The money that is budgeted for this project could be used in numerous areas within the county to make transportation easier for its residents including the mall area where the traffic isn't going to visit the mall.

From the Larking Township website and the Transportation Study:

A Commerce Drive and Letts extension provides connectivity north of the Mall area. This will allow residents to travel east of Jefferson and west of Eastman if they are not traveling to the mall area. The model shows reduction in capacity utilization on the parallel road Monroe and some reduction on Eastman and Jefferson.

Please take our concerns seriously. I would appreciate an email back just to know that someone received it.

Thanks!

Jeremiah Burns

Director of Business Development
2901 Galaxy Dr Saginaw MI 48601
C: (517) 410-9124
P: (989) 777-5110
F: (989) 393-5998



From: Jeremiah Burns <jeremiahburnsmba@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:01 PM
To: Jeremiah Burns <JBurns@Avistanursingandrehab.com>
Subject: Fwd: "NO!" to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa** <laburns10@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 24, 2022, 10:30 AM
Subject: "NO!" to Letts Road extension to Waldo Road
To: <info@midlandmpo.com>, <msadow@larkintwp.com>, <lbenterrich@larkintwp.com>, <kmoe0427@att.net>, <tdraves1@gmail.com>, <grumps16@hotmail.com>, <jkdeutsch@gmail.com>, <planning@larkintwp.com>, <chgoodmans53@gmail.com>, <cresys@yahoo.com>, <dmcintyre712@gmail.com>, <migary@outlook.com>, <Gary.Laurenz@gmail.com>, <edwpu@att.net>, <art@midlandroads.com>
Cc: Lisa Burns <laburns10@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am writing to voice my concern and disagreement with the possibility of an extension being made from Letts through to Waldo as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan. I request your sharing of the traffic patterns study and other pertinent information that has been collected regarding this matter.

Our family has made the Pine Hollow neighborhood and its surrounding serenity our home for several years now. We absolutely chose this area because of the Dead End at Letts and the 'seclusion' this provides. We have young children and pets and value the current traffic situation (minimal traffic, only for neighborhood use). Our property ownership is exponentially more valuable because of our location and surroundings.

With that property value comes our payment of Larkin Township taxes. All folks within these parameters *have paid their fair share and are deserving of a voice and influence in this project.*

We have anxieties that the extension will make for unsafe conditions for many of the families who live in the neighborhood, along with other worries:

- Higher speeds and A LOT more traffic on Letts Rd. and in neighborhoods as this becomes a thoroughfare
- Loss of relatively safe walking/running/biking route (many individuals and families with children use Letts Rd)
- Loss of property value
- More congestion challenges at the corner of Jefferson and Letts/Commerce
- More 'non-neighborhood' residents cruising our neighborhoods (public safety)
- Potential for making traffic worse on Jefferson (Wackerly to Joe Mann corridor)

Please let me know the plan for further communication and consideration for not moving forward with this project.

Sincerely,
Lisa Burns

2042 N. Monarch Cir
Midland, MI 48642

mobile: +1.989.529.6618
email: laburns10@gmail.com

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: [Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road Extension
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:21:45 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Miller <s2miller123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6:15 AM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Road Extension

It has recently come to my attention there is a planned extension of Letts Road between Jefferson and Waldo. This is my neighborhood and I have spoken to several people in our community that do not want the extension to occur. There is already a concern with traffic speed on Letts Road because of the increasing number of people who walk their dogs, jog, ride bikes with their families, and use Letts road for their children to access the adjacent neighborhood. And now with the most recent proposal to extend Letts Road, the traffic concerns are only being magnified. This extension not only presents a safety concern, but there is a high probability of property values being negatively impacted. If I wanted to have my home near a superhighway I would have made the choice to do so. This decision is now being forced upon me.

Questions I have:

- 1) Who is driving the decision to extend Letts Road? The Larkin Township board of trustees are telling people in the community it is MPO or the County Road Commission pushing for the extension. If this is true, then why did the board vote to spend \$500,000+ of my tax dollars to fund the extension?
- 2) Has a road study been conducted? If so, where can I view it?
- 3) Why is the extension necessary and how does it benefit the township?

I would greatly appreciate it if someone can answer my above questions and please reconsider the extension of Letts Road.

Sincerely,
Scott Miller

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: ["Russell Inman \(russ@midlandroads.com\)"; Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road extension
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:25:38 PM

From: Jill Gushow <jgushow1@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:35 AM

To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>; msandow@larkintwp.com;
lbenterrich@larkintwp.com; kmoe0427@att.net; tdraves1@gmail.com; grumps16@hotmail.com;
jkdeitsch@gmail.com; planning@larkintwp.com; chgoodmans53@gmail.com; cresys@yahoo.com;
dmcintyre712@gmail.com; migary@outlook.com; Gary.Laurenz@gmail.com; edwpu@att.net;
art@midlandroads.com

Subject: Letts Road extension

In reference to the Letts Road extension proposal, I am voicing my strongest opposition to this. I live on Letts Road and can foresee this changing the dynamic of our entire neighborhood. We have not received any data at this point on why this extension is being pushed by Larkin Township, but have been informed that this is being led by Larkin Township. We moved to this neighborhood for the quality of life, as did our neighbors. To push forward with this initiative without notice or hearing our voices is egregious.

Some of the problems we could foresee this causing would be:

- higher speeds and much more traffic on Letts Rd. and in our neighborhoods as this becomes a thoroughfare;
- loss of relatively safe walking/running/biking route (many individuals and families with children use Letts Rd);
- loss of property value in a high value neighborhood;
- more congestion challenges at the corner of Jefferson and Letts/Commerce;
- more 'non-neighborhood' residents cruising our neighborhoods (public safety); and
- potential for making traffic worse on Jefferson (Wackerly to Joe Mann corridor).

Additionally, for Larkin Township to not place this item on the agenda, to discuss for less than 15 minutes, and vote to allocate \$400K of taxpayer dollars toward this road extension without input from impacted constituents is a failure of transparency deserve and misuse of power if you pursue such a plan without input from those impacted.

I am hereby requesting in writing the following from the Larkin Township Board:

1. Why is Larkin Township pushing for this extension and using what data? If you refer to the traffic projections, please provide those. Even the Road Commission only has raw data, so I'm interested in how you made any type of assessment using that data which even the Road Commission acknowledges is difficult to read and use. The Road Commission is currently trying

to put it into usable form.

2. Why are the minutes of Board and Planning meetings not up-to-date on the Larkin Township website? The Board minutes are two months behind and the Planning Commission minutes are three months behind.
3. Are there plans or discussions being had regarding development of the 150+ acres of property between Jefferson and Waldo around Letts?
4. Please confirm the zoning of the property between Jefferson and Waldo around Letts and whether there have been discussions regarding that property being rezoned.

I am also formally requesting that you hear from constituents on this issue at the next Board meeting. Please confirm.

Your Larkin constituent,

Jill Gushow

From: [Midland MPO](#)
To: ["Russell Inman \(russ@midlandroads.com\)"; Bryan Gillett](#)
Subject: FW: Letts Road extension
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:27:00 PM

From: Laura Gray <lrichgray3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Midland MPO <info@midlandmpo.com>
Subject: Letts Road extension

To the Larkin Township Board:

I was very unhappy to read that you all are in favor of using our taxpayer money to pave Letts Road through from Jefferson to Waldo Rd. One of the main reasons we purchased our home in Larkin was because of the location away from busy roads and pass through traffic. When I do need to travel to Waldo Road I can either take Monroe or Joseph/Diamond Drive, both of which are not heavily traveled and are both easily accessible. I can't imagine why another paved road for that thoroughfare is necessary. I would rather see that money go towards maintaining our current roads. The part of Letts that turns into Commerce Drive is absolutely awful. And the stretch of Letts between Jefferson and the dead end is not well maintained, especially in winter. There is much wildlife that one encounters when driving down Letts and so drivers must be cautious on that road at all times. I can't imagine if that were a pass through road the kind of accidents that may occur not only when speedy drivers encounter the frequent deer, turkeys, turtles and squirrels that inhabit that area, but also with the many families who walk or bike down that road or walk their dogs. Our neighborhood has no sidewalks so all pedestrian or bike travel is done on the roads. This neighborhood is a haven for young families who feel safe letting their children ride their bikes or scooters in the roads knowing that the only traffic they will encounter will be other residents of the neighborhood. By making Letts a pass through street this will change the dynamic of that safety and certainly negatively affect the values of our homes.

I vote NO to extending Letts Road through from Jefferson to Waldo.

Laura Gray
2108 N Harvest Circle
Midland, MI 48642