

RDH/KH/2008

RESOLUTION NO. 39 -2008

EXPRESSING City Council's opposition to the current proposal for the Hopple Street/I-75 Interchange in order to avoid the visual destruction of this important gateway into Uptown; URGING the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop an alternative proposal that maintains the intersection of Hopple Street and Central Parkway at-grade while enhancing traffic flow and safety; and further URGING the Ohio Department of Transportation to study the impact the proposed Hopple Street/I-75 Interchange construction will have on existing businesses and develop alternative routes to minimize that impact.

WHEREAS, the I-75 rebuild will be the most significant investment of public dollars that is scheduled to occur in the City of Cincinnati over the next several decades; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes the opportunity this investment provides to re-knit the City's urban fabric and character by restoring neighborhood patterns and street grids, consistent with historical content; and

WHEREAS, City Council chooses to utilize boulevards and other traditional urban street systems that strengthen neighborhood vitality, promote increased property values, and facilitate economic development as gateways; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Hopple Street and Central Parkway is a major gateway into Uptown, Cincinnati's second largest employment area, a shopping and entertainment destination, and home to many of the City's largest and most important institutions, including the University of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Zoo, and several of the city's largest hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Hopple Street and Central Parkway needs to be a gateway that is visually commensurate with the importance of the neighborhood it announces; and

WHEREAS, the current proposal for the Hopple Street/I-75 Interchange will create a series of ramps and bridges that will block view lines, destroy the character of the parkway, and change the visual orientation of the Hopple Street/Central Parkway Intersection from an urban crossroads to one dominated by expressway ramps; and

WHEREAS, construction of the new Hopple Street/I-75 Interchange will impact the businesses located in Uptown; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati has received a substantial federal earmark to support additional studies identified as important by the City in the area of the Mill Creek Expressway project; and

WHEREAS, these funds can be used for examination and development of additional alternatives for the Hopple Street Interchange that do not include a flyover connection to Central Parkway, but rather an at-grade connection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Council hereby expresses its opposition to the current proposal for the Hopple Street/I-75 Interchange in order to avoid the visual destruction of this important gateway into Uptown.

Section 2. That Council hereby urges the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop an alternative proposal that maintains the intersection of Hopple Street and Central Parkway at-grade while enhancing traffic flow and safety.

Section 3. That Council hereby urges the Ohio Department of Transportation to study the impact the proposed Hopple Street/I-75 Interchange construction will have on existing businesses and develop alternative routes to minimize that impact.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be sent to Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio; all members of the Cincinnati delegation of the Ohio General Assembly; Jim Beazley, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation; and Stefan Spinosa, Ohio Department of Transportation Project Manager.

Passed: June 25, 2008

Attest:

W. Johnson
Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor