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Exeter Township supervisors concerned Amity business park would increase traffic, development

EXETER TWP.

Business park proposal worries supervisors

The Exeter Township supervisors are worried that a proposal to attract high-tech businesses to Amity Township will increase traffic and residential development in Exeter.

On Monday the supervisors approved a letter highlighting their concerns about traffic from a proposed business district of more than 400 acres in Amity. They also expressed concerns about the effect the rezoning would have on farming in Exeter.

The supervisors predict that the business park would put at least 500 more rush-hour vehicles on roads in Exeter that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation considers substandard.

The township planning commission has identified four substandard bridges on three roads connecting the site to Route 562: Weavertown, Old Tulpehocken and Boone.

Exeter officials also are concerned that new development in Amity could endanger the adjacent agricultural preservation zone in Exeter.

"We took the time to make sure our zones didn't clash with theirs, to make sure a residential district wasn't next to an industrial," Supervisor Donald R. Wilson said."

The townships and St. Lawrence entered into a joint comprehensive plan in 2005. Exeter has no authority over zoning in Amity, but it can challenge Amity's interpretation of the comprehensive plan.

Amity announced plans last year to rezone more than 400 acres for a light industrial/office park to attract high-tech businesses. The land is zoned rural conservation and mobile home park.

- By Chris Reber