



Brodheadsville's Rt. 209 Traffic Bottleneck Can and Must Be Fixed

By J.J. Publius

Chuck Gould and his Chestnuthill Supervisors have failed to fix the Brodheadsville traffic jam for 12 years. It's time for a change!

The Brodheadsville Bottleneck

Have you ever driven through Brodheadsville, Pennsylvania along Route 209 from about 7:00 a.m. to about 7:00 p.m.? If so, you likely have had the horrible experience of the infamous ***Brodheadsville Bottleneck*** and traffic jams in Chestnuthill Township.

The peak ***Brodheadsville Bottleneck*** periods during the week are from about 10:00 a.m. to about 6:00 p.m. And when it comes to Saturday morning and midday, forget it. You don't want to be there.

If you have to run the Brodheadsville Bottleneck gauntlet, you know it is wasting your valuable time, wasting your gas (and thus your gas money), and subjecting you to the polluting exhaust fumes from the other vehicles stuck in the same ***Brodheadsville Bottleneck***.

Route 209 through Brodheadsville is an old, narrow, two-lane state highway. Westbound, it's also the gateway to the West End of Monroe County. (See *Figure 1*, below.)

That means that much of the Westbound traffic on 209 through downtown Brodheadsville is not headed for downtown Brodheadsville. Rather much of that traffic is heading for the residential areas of Chestnuthill,

Eldred, and Polk Townships, for the Weir Lake shopping area (Kinsley's Shoprite, Mr Z's, the old Ames Plaza), and for the villages of Effort, Gilbert, Jonas, Kresgeville, Kunkletown, Mt. Effort, and so forth.

Eastbound, the Brodheadsville Bottleneck is the place where West End traffic funnels together in order to exit the West End to get to major freeways such as Rt 80 and Rt 33 -- or to the major shopping areas in Stroud Township along Rt 611, in Stroudsburg, and in East Stroudsburg.

The Brodheadsville Bottleneck has been around for years. And it is getting worse every year. Yet, so far the Chestnuthill Township Supervisors have not solved the problem. See why in the **Gould Fails to Solve Rt. 209 Traffic Jams** column on page 2.

The actual bottleneck is the section of Route 209 from its intersection with Route 715 (at the WaWa) to the Y intersection of Routes 209 and 115 (at the Rite Aid pharmacy). See *Figure 1*, in the online edition.

The key to solving the Brodheadsville Bottleneck traffic jam problem is moving traffic around the Brodheadsville Bottleneck gauntlet rather than through it. See how to do that in the **Easy Solutions for Chestnuthill Traffic Jams** on page 2 and lots more in the online version at **WestEndVoice.com** .



Gould and His Chestnuthill Supervisors Failed to Solve Rt. 209 Traffic Jams

On and off, Chuck Gould has been a Chestnuthill Township Supervisor for nearly 12 years. During much of that time, he has been and is now the Chairman of the Chestnuthill Township Board of Supervisors.

Gould has had nearly 12 years as a Chestnuthill Township Supervisor to get the Brodheadsville Bottleneck fixed. He has not done so. When it comes to the Brodheadsville Bottleneck and Chestnuthill Township traffic problems, **Gould has failed for nearly 12 years to fix the traffic problems!**

When asked about this at a recent Chestnuthill Township meeting, Gould tried to blame it on the *State*. Rather than set forth any positive plan or action that Chestnuthill Township would implement to solve the Brodheadsville Bottleneck, Gould put it off on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania saying merely that the *State* is studying the problem.

The *State* has had forty years or more to do something about the Brodheadsville Bottleneck, but has done nothing. Moreover, even if the *State* does decide to do something, the way those clowns operate it likely would be five to ten years, or more, before anything actually would be done.

Meanwhile there are lots of things Chestnuthill Township could and should do to alleviate the Brodheadsville Bottleneck. (See *Figure 1*) But in Chuck Gould's 12 years as a Chestnuthill Supervisor nothing has yet been put in place to do that.

It's time to get the Brodheadsville Bottleneck fixed. It's time for a change!

The Democrat and Republican voters of Chestnuthill Township can make the change and get things started to fix the Brodheadsville Bottleneck and traffic problems. It's simple. It's time for a change! Just simply **vote against Gould in the May 17, 2005 Primary Election.**

Easy Solutions for Chestnuthill Traffic Jams

There is no need for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the *State*, to build a four-lane freeway through the West End in order to bypass the Brodheadsville Bottleneck. The solution is to re-route traffic around the Brodheadsville Bottleneck over existing roads.

Traffic driving to or from Eldred, and Polk Townships, the Weir Lake shopping area (Kinsley's Shoprite, Mr Z's, the old Ames Plaza), or the villages of Gilbert, Kresgeville, Kunkletown, and so forth should **use Frantz Road to bypass the Brodheadsville Bottleneck.** See *Figure 2*.

Route 715 traffic should **use the Silver Valley or Lake Mineola shortcuts to bypass the Brodheadsville Bottleneck.** See *Figure 2*, in the online edition at WestEndVoice.com.

These roads already are in place, here and now.

- The first and easiest thing that should be done by Gould and the Chestnuthill Supervisors is to place road signs in the appropriate places indicating the Frantz Road bypass and the Lake Mineola and Silver Valley shortcuts.
- Second, Gould and the Supervisors should repave the Lake Mineola Road. It is in horrible shape. There needs to be some shoulder improvement there too.
- Third, Gould and the Chestnuthill Supervisors should improve Frantz Road, Lake Mineola Road, Silver Valley Road, and Cottontail Lane in order to better accommodate the bypassing traffic -- and to make those roads more attractive alternatives to traveling on Route 209 through downtown Brodheadsville.

The improvements would include widening the roads, widening and improving the shoulders, adding left turn lanes where necessary, and so forth. All of this could be done, and should be done, within the money Chestnuthill Township has for road work. And it could be done, and should be done, right now.

For more information about the Frantz Road bypass and the Silver Valley and Lake Mineola shortcuts and the figures, check the online version at WestEndVoice.com.