



Township of Franconia

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6/10/2026 UPDATE ON HALTEMAN ROAD GATE – There have been no new submissions to the township concerning the Halteman Road Gate. However, it is our understanding a traffic study is being prepared for submission.

Once received, a date for the Souderton Area School District to appear before the Planning Commission will be scheduled.

UPDATE ON HALTEMAN ROAD GATE – 5/11/2026

On October 31, 2025, representatives of the Souderton Area School District (SASD) and Franconia Township held a meeting regarding the secondary access to the Souderton Area High School from Halteman Road. The reason for this meeting was to allow discussions between the SASD and the Township regarding concerns recently voiced by neighbors of the high school and parents of high school students regarding use of the Halteman Road gate.

In that meeting, the representatives of the SASD and the Township reviewed the Halteman Road access to the High School and its use as approved by the Township during the formal land development process in 2006. As those approvals make clear, in 2006, the District proposed that the Halteman Road access be limited to special events and emergencies only to allow the District to minimize its costs in construction of the new high school campus.

In the meeting, they further reviewed the Township's 2017 interpretation of the land development approvals after the SASD asked for certain clarifications to its terms. After the 2017 conversations, the Township sent a letter to SASD confirming that the SASD and the Township agreed that "the Halteman Gate access can be used in the morning for staff parking and parent drop off. Further, the Gate can be opened for large events in the evening in coordination with the Franconia Township Police Department."

The Township understands that the SASD would now like to make a proposal to change the permitted use of the Halteman Road entrance to address the public's concerns.

The Township is always willing to consider a property owner's request for modifications of previous land development approvals. Any such request requires a formal submission of a proposed plan and all appropriate studies to allow the analysis of the request by the Township and its consultants under Franconia Township Ordinances. Specifically, for the Township to consider any proposal to a change in the permitted use of the Halteman Road access, the Township would require that the SASD submit an Amended Land Development Plan with a Traffic Study, just like what would be required of any other applicant in a similar situation. This submission must detail the District's specific request (how and when the SASD would like the Halteman Road gate to be used in the future) and provide sufficient information to demonstrate to the Township and its Engineer that the increased use would be safe and that the appropriate infrastructure would be sufficient to handle such use. This information should include but not be limited to: traffic volumes and turning movements, speed limit analysis, multiway stop analysis for adjacent intersections, line striping, lighting improvements, truck and bus access, emergency vehicle access including turning radius, pedestrian safety and curbing under township requirements to determine any potential necessary upgrades or improvements.

In the meeting, and at SASD's request, the Township agreed to temporarily allow Halteman Road access to be open for one-half hour in the afternoon during student dismissal. This was permitted based on the conditions that the District would post a School District police officer at that gate while it is open and would be diligently working to prepare the required amended land development plan with the required new traffic study. The township conveyed to the SASD that they are responsible for internal process and procedures as it relates to emergency responses.

On April, 16, 2026, the District submitted an Amended Land Development Application without a traffic study. The Township does not have sufficient information to begin its review of the application without the traffic study. It is our understanding the traffic study is currently being prepared by the District, at which time the results will be shared during a public process and discussed in the Township's advertised public meetings as required for any such land development.