

### Memorandum

**To:** Chapel Hill Town Council  
**From:** Coker Hills West Neighborhood Association (CHWNA)  
**Subj:** Pedestrian and safety issues for Coker Hills West  
**Date:** June 12,2006

**Background.** The Coker Hills West Neighborhood is a quiet area adjacent to Lake Forest, composed of 92 households located on Rock Creek and Kensington Drive and adjoining streets. None of these streets have sidewalks, as the neighborhood was built before sidewalks were required, and the streets are wider than current residential standards. Bushes and trees have grown up over the years in the easement area, thus requiring pedestrians to walk in the street. Speeding has been an issue for years. Over the years, a cyclist was hit by a car, and we have had several near misses.

Neighborhood residents have long enjoyed the proximity to Estes Hill Elementary and Phillips Junior High School. Many families moved to this area so their children could walk to school, and school children and parents use several routes to walk or bike to these schools. One route the kids take to school is to bike or walk on the sidewalk along South Lakeshore, across Rock Creek and Kensington Drive to Curtis Road, and then up the hill to the path which leads to Estes Hills Elementary School.

Two more routes taken by school children in ow area are paths that are along Town easements which were established when the neighborhood was first built. Since they were created, the Town stopped maintaining the paths, and the neighborhood has taken on that responsibility. Last year, the neighborhood provided the labor and the Town supplied the materials to construct a new set of steps to the entrance of the lower path last year which leads to Estes Hills Elementary.

These two paths both begin on Kensington Drive. One path is located near the foot of the hill on Kensington Drive and goes directly to Estes Hill School; the other path at the top of the hill begins on Kensington and leads first to Phillips and then to Estes Hills. Some parents bring their children to Kensington Drive and drop their children off at the foot of the lower path; ftom there they walk to Estes Hills School. School children walking ftom nearby neighborhoods and ftom within Coker Hills West neighborhood use the paths as well.

**The problem.** Speeding by young drivers, service trucks, commercial vehicles, and residents themselves remains a problem and a risk to pedestrians walking on neighborhood streets, particularly children. Our Neighborhood Board identified pedestrian safety as a paramount concern to neighbors and to our Association Board. Consequently, our Board agreed to take forward several traffic calming ideas to the general neighborhood membership meeting in April, including speed humps, and

designated cycling lanes. Our recommendations to you grow from the input received at that meeting.

**CHWNA Neighborhood Recommendation:** We request the Town to install the following:

- **Four crosswalks at the intersection of Kensington, South Lake Shore and Curtis Roads**

Crosswalks across South Lake shore and Kensington will increase safety for walkers using the sidewalk. Crosswalks across North Lake shore and Curtis Roads will increase safety for walkers crossing at the stop sign and at the bus stop.

- **Crosswalk at the intersection of North Lakeshore and Rock Creek Road**

Crosswalk at this location will increase safety for walkers crossing Rock Creek Road between sidewalks.

- **Warning sign on North Lakeshore Drive to make drivers aware of cars exiting Rock Creek Road**

Sight distance on North Lakeshore Drive is limited for cars.

- **Crosswalk on Kensington Drive near lower path to school**

Install in-street sign in cross walk  
Pedestrian warning signs with flags near cross walk on uphill and downhill sides of crosswalk

We view these steps as the first steps to be taken toward increasing safety in our neighborhood, and we are eager to see those in place before we consider other measures such as sidewalks. We look forward to working with your staff.

Thank you very much for working for pedestrian safety in Chapel Hill.

Please contact Julie McClintock, [mcclintock.julie@mindspring.com](mailto:mcclintock.julie@mindspring.com) or 967-3661, for further information

*Coker Hill Neighborhood Association was founded in 1977; 80 paid members in 2006.*