

William R. Proffit, DDS, Ph.D

Orthodontic Education/Consultation

March 12, 2002

RECEIVED

Mayor Kevin Foy
Town of Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

MAR 13 2002

**CHAPEL HILL
ENGINEERING DEPT**

Dear Mayor Foy:

I write in strong opposition to the proposal, recently circulated by the town's traffic engineer, to add multiple stop signs to North Lakeshore Drive.

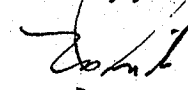
This proposal would place stops 100 yards apart in two places, and result in 7 stop signs in a one mile stretch, 5 at intersections with no cross traffic. The effect will be to make the road almost undriveable as a through street, which I suppose is the goal of someone who lives along it.

In fact, North Lakeshore is a key route from neighborhoods like mine (North Coker Hills). It simply can't be all but closed to through traffic. Given the fact that a left turn from Elliott Road onto Franklin Street is all but impossible at many times of the day, the only way to get out from here toward Durham and I-40 is down Lakeshore. We have too few alternate routes as it is, as the inconvenience of the bridge replacement at Curtis-Lakeshore amply demonstrated.

I remind you of the outrage in our neighborhood when the infamous, and downright dangerous, speed bumps were placed along North Lakeshore. This new proposal is another effort to impede travel along the street, and it will create a similar response among those of us who have to get in and out in order to do our jobs.

The speed bumps appeared out of the blue. At least this time we are being given some warning and a chance to speak out. I applaud your efforts to seek opinion within the neighborhood before the Town Council makes a decision, and appreciate the effort being made to do that.

Sincerely yours,



William R. Proffit

~~cc: Kumar Neppalli~~

COMMENT
STOP SIGNS ON N. LAKESHORE DRIVE

I assume that the reason for the request to place stop signs on North Lakeshore Drive is because there is heavy volume for a residential street and the vehicles are traveling at excess speed. I have observed automobiles traveling at what I estimated to be over 50 MPH on this street.

Over the last ten years, Chapel Hill has used the technique of placing all-way stop signs in many residential intersections to reduce traffic speed. The result is that drivers have developed a tendency of not stopping at these intersections. This is the negative side of placing these stop signs in too many places.

The posted speed limit in North Lakeshore Drive is too low. The limit should be either 30 or 35 MPH, and the limit should be enforced. 25 MPH is entirely too low and encourages people to speed. If one drives 25 MPH on North Lakeshore Drive, one will be run down by the vehicle following.

At some point in the past, I talked to the person at the city responsible for speed limits in town about the low speed limit on North Lakeshore Drive. When I asked how appropriate speed limits are established, I was told that the speed of local traffic was observed and then the limit was set so that 80% (this is the number which I remember) of the traffic was traveling within the speed limit. This is certainly not the case on North Lakeshore Drive. I am sure that 90% of the traffic is traveling above 25 MPH. As an aside, I have seen one 30 MPH speed limit sign in Chapel Hill. I am sure that there are more; however, I have seen one. Twenty five MPH is too slow for residential traffic. Almost no one obeys the law.

I recommend that the speed limit on North Lakeshore be changed to 30 MPH and that drivers going 35 MPH be ticketed.

Samuel M. Carmichael

March 15, 2002

To: Kumar Neppalli
Traffic Engineer
Town of Chapel Hill


I wish you to know that your request for input on this proposal is greatly appreciated. My opinion (and my wife is in agreement) is that the STOP sign is losing the respect of most drivers because of the proliferation of "traffic calming" stop signs. In an attempt to solve one problem another one is being created which I believe is potentially more dangerous. My wife was struck just two years ago while driving on Brookview Dr. when someone ignored the STOP sign at Kenmore. The police cannot be everywhere all the time to stop people from ignoring STOP signs anymore than they are able to stop them from exceeding the speed limit. From my observations (driving on Elliot Road) most of the drivers that really speed will just roll through the STOP signs and speed all the faster between them (possibly out of aggravation or trying to make up the time lost in slowing for them).

The resident who wants this ridiculous number of STOP signs added to North Lake Shore is really trying to say "I should be exempt from Chapel Hill's growing traffic problem". They do not want to accept the fact that North Lakeshore is a main collector street for the neighborhood. Is Chapel Hill going to put a STOP sign on absolutely every intersection and driveway (Lakeshore Court is just barely more than someone's driveway) in an attempt to reduce traffic? For someone like myself who has an arthritic hip, this would be a nightmare. In my opinion the proposal to add 5 STOP signs is simply not justified, and not anymore acceptable to the people in the surrounding neighborhood than the "BUMPS" that were installed a few years back and then removed (thank goodness).

With all that said, I want it to be known that I did write a letter of requesting the addition of the STOP sign at Brookview Dr and North Lakeshore because there was a safety problem due to the limited sight distance turning left onto Brookview when cars were coming down Honeysuckle at an excessive speed. **Therefore, I would also support a STOP sign at Kenmore for the same reason i.e. the people exiting Kenmore have the same problem of a limited sight distance for North Lakeshore westbound traffic.**

Thank you again for permitting us to voice an opinion. I have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope and would appreciate being notified of the survey results and the recommendation that is made to the town council.

Sincerely,



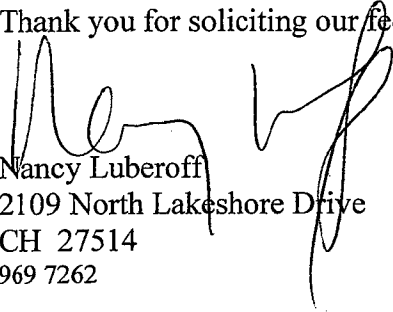
Richard W. Lutz
676 Brookview Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929-5084

3/12/02

We desperately need to find a way to slow traffic down on North Lakeshore Drive. Cars, trucks, and buses are routinely driving at 40+ mph. I think it would be useful to install at least one more stop sign. It probably makes sense to install it at the intersection of through streets. This would mean installing a new stop sign at either Kenmore or Shady Lawn.

More importantly, I would like to see some traffic enforcement. I have never seen a car pulled over on North Lakeshore for speeding. My estimate is that less than half the cars traveling down North Lakeshore make a full stop at the stop sign at Brookview and North Lakeshore; yet I have never seen a car pulled over there for going through the stop sign.

Thank you for soliciting our feedback.



Nancy Luberoff
2109 North Lakeshore Drive
CH 27514
969 7262

We strongly oppose the installation of stop signs on N. Lakeshore Drive at any or all of the intersections between Brookview and S. Lakeshore, for the following reasons:

1. There is not cross-traffic sufficient to justify required stops at these intersections. Never have we had a problem turning onto or off of N. Lakeshore at any of these cross-streets --- and we drive at rush-hour, at public school times, during the day, and in the evenings. Speed is not a problem; visibility is not a problem.
2. Travel would be unreasonably slowed by required stops at these close cross-streets. This is already a safe and reasonable 25 m.p.h. speed road. Because the entire stretch of road between Brookview (where there already is a 3-way stop) and S. Lakeshore (where there already is a 4-way stop) is so short, additional stop signs would slow traffic below this already low 25 m.p.h. speed. The travel would be all acceleration and deceleration --- a nauseating, frustrating and inefficient journey.

We have 2 small children, and are all in favor of safe roads. Additional stop signs along this N. Lakeshore stretch of road are not necessary to achieve this.

Rather, we offer 2 other suggestions for improved neighborhood safety and road efficiency:

1. Ease the flow of traffic on N. Lakeshore by eliminating parking on one or both sides of the street. The street is not wide, so when cars are parked on the street, traffic is slowed. (Please note that stop signs are not the necessary or reasonable answer to this issue.)
2. Focus on a far more serious neighborhood problem: the intersection of Sedgfield and Weaver Dairy. At this intersection, there have been numerous accidents, and lanes of traffic come to a precarious halt because of left-turners (off Sedgfield and off Weaver Dairy). A smart light at this intersection would make sense --- a reasonable accommodation on the flow of traffic for the sake of safety and efficiency.

Carolyn Gardner & Paul King

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: I am appalled that the town would even consider such an environmental ly hazardous proposal, without considering the public health implications for those on and near

N. Lakeshore. Stop-and-go traffic produces much higher levels of polluting emissions than evenly flowing traffic. This is known to cause significant increases in various respiratory illnesses, especially asthma, among the residents near such stop-and-go thoroughfares.

Consider also that N. Lakeshore runs for its entire length through a stagnant air basin almost at lake level. The surrounding hills and the lake humidity trap noxious fumes.

Name of the Resident:

Linda Tarascio

623 Shady Lawn Rd, Chapel Hill

When the lake is refilled, stand at the bus stop between Arlington and Shady Lawn for 30 mins. at rush hour and see how foul the air quality is. We cannot afford to make it worse!

Please return the form in the attached envelope by March 25, 2002. Thank you.

In addition, the noise pollution would destroy the peace of our neighborhood. The acceleration sounds from vehicles at the infamous speed bump carried 4 blocks to our house. These were only vehicles slowing down and speeding up once, not stopping and proceeding 5 times! Would anyone want to live at these street corners after signs were installed?

A return to the very effective ticketing policies of our police department in the 1970s and 1980s would solve the problem quickly. No one dared to speed on N. Lakeshore then.