

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

407 Ransom Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

TO: The Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Baird S. Grimson, President
DATE: April 10, 2006
RE: "No Through Truck" Signs

We had been experiencing an increase in heavy vehicle traffic, including buses, construction dump trucks and even 18-wheelers, cutting through our neighborhood. This has been exacerbated by the closure of Pittsboro Street.

The current ordinance specifies McCauley Street a "No Thru Truck" street and we are grateful for this but feel we need this designation on all our neighborhood streets as it simply is not safe to have this heavy traffic driving through our residential neighborhood. We are asking the Council to add to the ordinance the following streets with the same designation--"No Thru Trucks"--Ransom, Vance, University, W. University and Westwood Drive with signs to be placed at the intersections of Ransom/W. Cameron, Pittsboro/Vance, Pittsboro/University Drive, and both intersections of Westwood Drive/S. Columbia.

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and we hope that this request will be granted as soon as possible in the interests of safety and that the signage will be posted and the ordinance enforced.

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

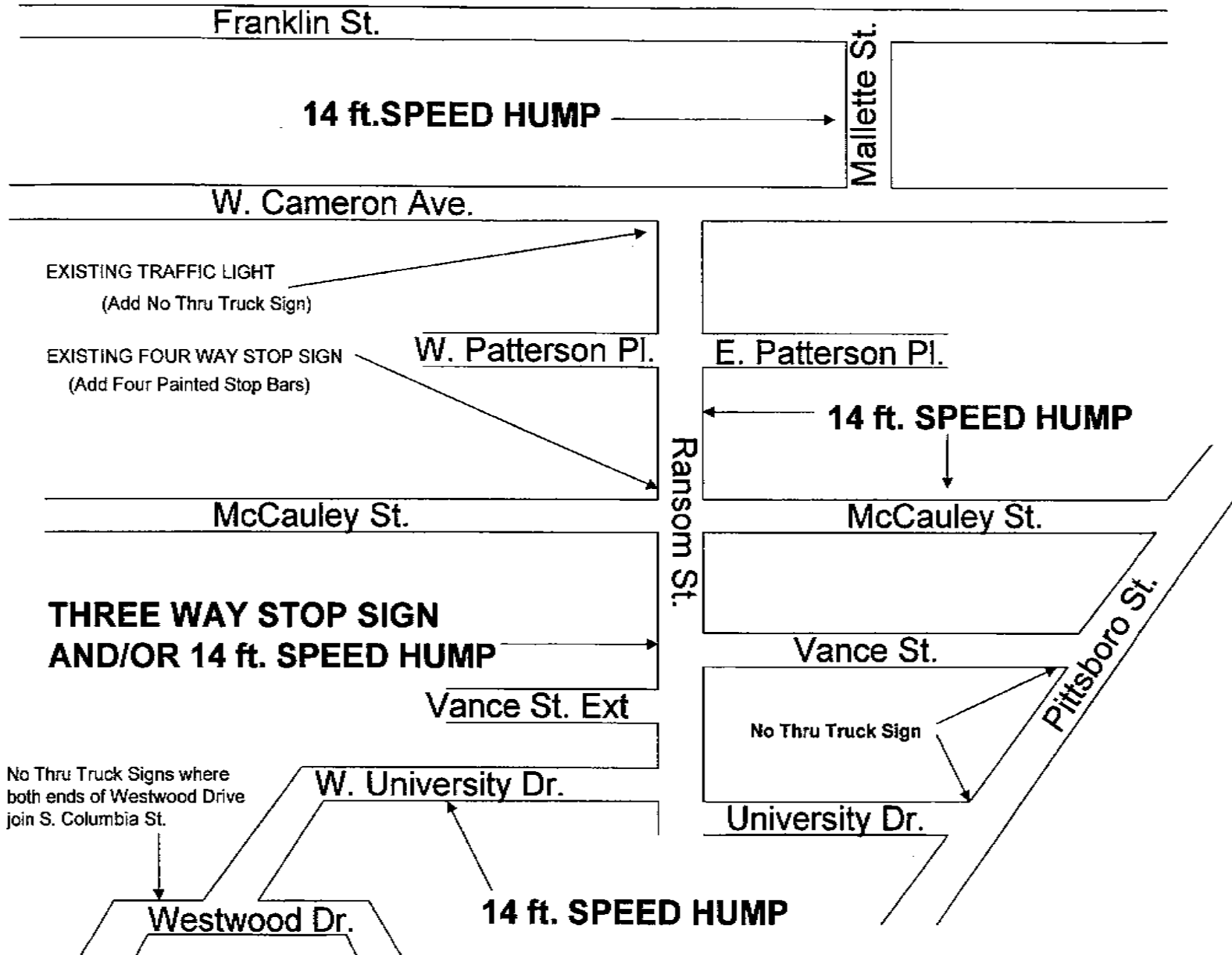
407 Ransom Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

TO: The Mayor, Town Council and Town Manager
FROM: Baird S. Grimson, President
DATE: April 10, 2006
RE: Traffic Calming

We are pleased to see that the 2006 UNC-CH Annual Development Plan Report includes neighbors living near the campus in talks about traffic calming with the Chapel Hill Town Manager and Town Staff. In our neighborhood, on the western edge of the campus, we have been experiencing many traffic problems that have been made worse by the recent closure of Pittsboro Street near the Carolina Inn for repair of the University steam tunnel. The Westside Neighborhood is asking the University and Town Manager that interested neighbors be included now in discussions about traffic calming measures.

We are not traffic engineers, or experts in this area, but we do have the advantage of observing the types of traffic and speed of vehicles on a daily basis in our Westside neighborhood. We have also read a variety of material on neighborhood traffic calming techniques. For a starting point in these discussions, we have produced this map of our neighborhood with our suggestions for improving the traffic. The All way stop signs, speed humps and improved street markings presented in this map have already been suggested by the university for our area for traffic calming techniques in the Ransom Street and its feeder streets (see Table 3.2: Neighborhood streets Considered for Traffic Calming Measures). We hope that the University and Town Manager and Town Staff will allow representatives from the Westside area join them in any of their future discussions on traffic calming.

Suggested Traffic Calming – Westside Neighborhood



UNC Development Plan Report
Chapel Hill Town Council
May 10, 2006
Joyce Brown

I am very grateful to the Council for adding the transportation section to OI-4. This has given those of us who live near the campus hope that our transportation problems will be addressed. And all our problems are greatly increasing in severity, including the amount of traffic, the speed of the traffic and the number of large vehicles that are using our small neighborhood streets. I am also grateful to the University for being willing to address these problems and work with the citizens of the neighborhoods on solutions.

There are several things that we in the neighborhood would like to have clarified. On page 21 of the annual report the phrase "to be considered" is used in several places, once even with a question mark. We would like to make sure that "to be considered" means that traffic calming measures will be implemented, not just considered in the neighborhoods mentioned.

We also do not have a clear idea of the process to develop the actual traffic calming plan and the involvement of the neighbors in the process at a very early stage. To my knowledge no citizens have been contacted by the University about involvement in the planning process for an implementation plan. While we are not traffic engineers or planners or transportation experts, we are experts on our neighborhoods and have ideas about the kinds of things that we would like to see happen. We hope that both UNC and the Town will keep that in mind. We would also like to be notified at least two weeks in advance by UNC about any kind of joint planning to make sure some of us will be available for planning sessions.

The schedule for implementation is also not clear. A number of neighborhoods are mentioned, but there is no idea of determining factors for when to implement traffic calming in which neighborhood. It would be extremely helpful to have this clarified.

While we are experiencing severe increased traffic in the Westside neighborhood because of the work on Pittsboro Street, our neighborhood has had serious traffic problems long before this work began. And we worry that our already serious traffic problems will increase as the numbers of vehicles, both large and small, will continue to use our neighborhood when Pittsboro Street is repaired, increasing an already bad traffic problem.

We would like our neighborhood to be quiet, livable neighborhoods, just as I'm sure all of you wish for your neighborhoods. We look forward to working with UNC and the Town to make this happen.

We also request that the Council require that this annual report come to the Council as a regular agenda item, not an information item, which is not now the case.

From: Caroline Spencer
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2006 4:25 PM
To: Manager
Subject: UNC Transportation Report/Mallette Street

April 13, 2006

Dear Mr. Horton:

We were pleased that the town council referred UNC's *Annual Development Plan Report on Transportation* to town staff for review and analysis. As downtown homeowners, we share town concerns over the impact that university growth has/will have on our neighborhoods.

We were disappointed to note that Mallette Street was not specifically mentioned in the University's Transportation Report. Mallette Street is a residential street adjacent to the University. Each day over 3,000 cars speed up and down this street as a cut through from Franklin to Cameron Street, many using Mallette to avoid the troublesome Cameron/Columbia intersection. This is only going to get worse as both UNC and the town develop projects adjacent to our neighborhood.

On behalf of our Neighborhood Association, I am writing to request that the town carry out the following measures:

- 1) Ensure that **Mallette Street** is included in any study, report or discussions of traffic conditions and traffic calming measures in streets adjacent to the University.
- 2) Keep our neighborhood association up to date on progress and include a neighborhood association representative in any town or town/gown discussions about these issues, as appropriate.

For the first time in almost 40 years (!), there are young children on our street in addition to senior citizens, professors and of course college students. We are willing and eager to help the town and university find a way to support the anticipated growth while not filling our neighborhood streets with cars traveling at speeds unsafe for our children and neighbors.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,
Caroline Spencer
Mallette Street Representative
Cameron-McCauley Neighborhood Association