

October 29, 2007

Mr. Kumar Nepalli
Traffic Engineer
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Re: Traffic Issues on Sedgefield Drive – No sidewalks, No traffic calming, No slowing down

Dear Mr. Nepalli:

I am writing to request the Town of Chapel Hill take several actions in the interest of improving the public safety on Sedgefield Drive for children, runners, pedestrians, bicyclists, residents and drivers. Given that Sedgefield Drive is a connector for several established neighborhoods and Weaver Dairy Road, I believe the pace of traffic on this street presents a dangerous environment.

I am fully aware that the Town of Chapel Hill cannot do anything about the east-west layout of Sedgefield Drive where there happens to be an elevation change coupled with a 'blind-sweeper' curve. Lack of visibility here is exacerbated by the sun's location during the commuting hours.

I do believe the Town can take measures to improve the public safety by replacing and upgrading its signage and surface markings, initiate a data collection effort and provide traditional Police enforcement. In that spirit, I am offering the following suggestions:

- 1.) A street sign is missing. I have enclosed a photo of the directional sign that was in place at #2420 Sedgefield Drive, but is no longer. I'd like to suggest that the Town take the opportunity to provide more information to drivers with its replacement sign, such as; 'Limited Sight Distance', 'Dangerous Curve', 'Hill Blocks View' or 'Our Kids' Safety is in Your Hands'. See photo # 1.
- 2.) Measure the pace of traffic on Sedgefield Drive. I have made this request in the past, without success. Police Department officials showed interest, but the Sharpe Unit turned out to be inoperative. Recently, I have seen the Sharpe Unit deployed in the Lake Forest neighborhood. Once the speed of vehicles is measured and analyzed, I believe you will have data showing some impressive numbers, in the wrong direction. See photo #2.

Review the safety of the walk zone found between #s 2451 & 2453 Sedgefield Drive. This walking path connects Sedgefield Drive and Weaver Dairy Road (near the entrance to Arcadia Lane). East Chapel Hill High School students walking to and from school use this path frequently. Bicyclists, pet walkers, runners and others also use it. The path deposits those using it directly into Sedgefield Drive, precisely at a point where drivers coming into the neighborhood are gaining speed on their first downhill run. There are no sidewalks on this street. See photo # 3.

- 4.) Upgrade the safety precautions at the Chapel Hill Transit bus stops. There are two Chapel Hill Transit bus stops on Sedgefield Drive, at #2451 and at #2433. Please install Reflective Pavement Markers at both bus stops. The purpose would be to raise drivers' attention and make them aware of their speed due to the change in feel and sound when passing over these pavement treatments.
- 5.) Take an excellent idea and replicate it. There are two 20 MPH speed limit signs on Sedgefield Drive co-located with the Chapel Hill Transit bus stops. Please upgrade the 20 MPH speed limit signs to utilize the permanent, local speed measuring devices found on Hillsborough Street between Mill Race Drive and North Street in Chapel Hill. As you know, that area also has noticeable elevation changes. See photo #4.
- 6.) Police enforcement. Presently, there are no traffic calming devices on Sedgefield Drive. I would appreciate our street being included in the Police Department's rotation of streets where the pace of traffic merits police enforcement.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests. If, after your analysis of traffic on Sedgefield Drive, you find that the street merits additional traffic calming measures, such as pavement undulations or speed tables, I will then be glad to assist with a petition effort.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Richard LaScala
2432 Sedgefield Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919.942.9286

Attachment:

- Photo #1 – 2420 Sedgefield Drive directional sign (now missing)
- Photo #2 – Sharpe Unit on North Lakeshore Drive
- Photo #3 – Walk zone path ending at Sedgefield Drive, (at the base of the sign)
- Photo #4 – Speed limit sign and measuring device on Hillsborough Road



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