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From: Web Site
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 7:21 PM
To: Manager; Town Council
Cc: rudyjuliano@hotmail.com
Subject: recent SUPs

Message sent by rudyjuliano@hotmail.com

To: Mayor Foy and Council
From: Rudy Juliano
Re: Impact of large projects on transportation issues

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to convey concerns about potential negative impacts of very large new development projects on our Chapel Hill transportation infrastructure. The Transportation Board has recently seen SUPs from two such projects, Grove Park and Woodmont; these documents have elicited considerable discussion among T-Board members. However, I am writing currently as an individual rather than in my role as T-Board Chair, since the Board has not yet come to a full synthesis of member opinions.

In many respects projects of the type mentioned above have merit in that they reflect the Towns desire to attain higher density, potentially transit-friendly development in certain areas. However, the very scale of these proposed developments raises questions about their potential impact on transportation in our town. As individual projects they seem to meet Town policies and criteria regarding parking, transit access, traffic impact and other transportation related issues. However, it seems likely that the near-simultaneous construction of several such projects would, in aggregate, have some serious negative ramifications regarding transportation. Thus they could further burden an already strained transit system and would generate sufficient automobile trips to further clog already congested roadways.

In view of these potential problems it would seem prudent not to consider these projects in isolation, but rather to assemble information about the overall town-wide transportation issues of Grove Park and Woodmont, as well as other recently approved large projects. As well, some thought should probably be given as to how to mitigate potentially negative transportation impacts and how to pay for such mitigation. Thanks.