

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Abernethy On Behalf Of Cal Horton
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2005 9:32 AM
To: 'Gary Barnes'
Cc: JB Culpepper; Bill Thorpe; Jason Baker; Kevin Wolff; Laurin Easthom; Robin Cutson; Walker Rutherford; Will Raymond ; Bree Bean; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Ralph Karpinos; Sabrina Oliver; Sandy Cook; Toni Pendergraph; Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; 'Edith Wiggins'; 'Jim Ward'; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; Sally Greene (w)
Subject: Email RE: Larkspur connection to Chapel Watch Village

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member, Council candidate(s) and to senior staff members.

Carol Abernethy
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office
Town of Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Barnes [mailto:gbarnes1@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2005 12:50 PM
To: Town Council
Cc: Eleanor Howe
Subject: Larkspur connection to Chapel Watch Village

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council Members:

As vice chair of the Transportation Board I write to encourage you to support the majority of our board that voted in favor of requiring connection of Larkspur to Chapel Watch Village (CWV) via the Maywood Road stub-out. Having devoted an evening to hearing from Larkspur residents, and after weighing their heartfelt arguments carefully, the Board voted in favor of a connection that would carry vehicular traffic as well of bike and pedestrian traffic. Although I expect Eleanor Howe, our chair, to summarize many of the arguments for connection, I write to give you what I think are the most compelling arguments.

First, it is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan that supports neighborhood connectivity, and not just for bike and pedestrian traffic. See page 92.

Second, I think it will benefit Larkspur residents who will use it to travel north and CWV residents who will use it to travel south. As the area north of Eubanks develops in the future, this connection will be of great value to Larkspur residents.

Third, it will lessen congestion on Airport Road, Weaver Dairy Extension, Homestead Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard by drivers of CWV and Larkspur who would otherwise be forced to use these roads if the connection were not made.

Fourth, it will offer shorter and faster access to Larkspur and CWV by Town emergency vehicles, school buses and town buses.

Fifth, it will lessen air pollution because travel distances and travel times will be lessened.

Sixth, as a resident of Meadowmont, I have observed that the connector between the Oaks and our neighborhood, which was vociferously fought by residents of the Oaks during Meadowmont's SUP approval process, has not resulted in excessive traffic although both neighborhoods will likely seek additional traffic calming measures in order to slow traffic on Pinehurst.

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In that regard, the Council should note that the T-Board recommends the connector only if the Town agrees to conduct traffic studies once Maywood is connected in order to determine whether traffic calming steps will be needed. In addition, I personally support the idea of using bollards to close the connector if traffic through Larkspur should ever become excessive. I believe these stipulations should be part of your action to approve the connector.

As seasoned members of the Town Council, you know that is easier to close a connector than to open one after the neighborhood has been built out. You know too that streets are for cars; not for play, and all Chapel Hill residents will benefit from connecting Larkspur and CWV via Maywood Road if it is done responsibly. To reject the connection now, would send a terrible signal to neighborhoods that a slick, well-organized opposition from a handful (fewer than 50 households in this case) of residents can always trump the interests of the less strident majority of town residents.

I urge you to support the T-Board on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Barnes

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