

22

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

From: Carol Abernethy On Behalf Of Cal Horton
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2005 4:49 PM
To: 'kate flores'
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: Safety for our Children

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: kate flores [<mailto:khflores@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2005 10:42 AM
To: Town Council
Subject: Safety for our Children

Kate Flores
408 Old Larkspur Way
Chapel Hill, NC

Sept.20, 2005

Dear Mayor and Town Council Members,

I would like to add my voice to those who are against a Vehicular Maywood Connector through the proposed Chapel Watch Village to Eubanks Road. I believe that we have a more positive community option.

We moved to Chapel Hill for the benefit of our children; a fine public education, a diverse culture, and the benefits of living in a community that cares deeply about the greater environment, and the beauty and history of the city. I live only three homes away from the proposed connector. My children, ages 6 and 4, ride bikes and scooters up and down the hill that runs Old Larkspur Way into Maywood at the intersection in question. Three or four times a day, I walk my dog around this loop, as do other neighbors. Often, we also take the pedestrian connector into Northwoods to enjoy the woods that neighborhood offers. Of course, construction continues at my end of the Larkspur neighborhood, but I have a future vision. My kids walking safely to their friends homes, the pool and bus stop; of kids playing flashlight tag during the twilight hours of summer.

I am a PTA member, church member, Vice President of a PEO Chapter providing philanthropic support for the higher education of women, small business owner, library card holder, registered voter, wife and home manager rolled into one. However, my most important job is being with and providing for my children to the best of my abilities. It is

the most important and meaningful work of my life. I am the primary advocate for my children, and as much as I am able, for the children of all the working parents who do not have the time to pursue "city issues" which will seriously affect all our childrens safety and quality of life. Yes, I speak as an adult who wants a calm and peaceful place to live, but more importantly, I speak for our children.

To the point, although Larkspur is a small neighborhood, we will require two bus stops when construction is completed. At this time, we have an opportunity to create a better option for safety and connectivity than a vehicular pass thru from Maywood Street to industrialized Eubanks Road. Imagine a pedestrian and emergency vehicle pass providing safe interaction between Larkspur, Chapel Watch Village and also Northwoods. I see a pleasant open space perhaps with wildflowers and some benches where kids from both neighborhoods can wait safely for their school buses.

The open greenway will allow parents from Chapel Watch Village clear vision to this stop which would be placed at the dead end of Maywood Street. Buses would not be required to turn around at all, instead simply proceeding on around the Old Larkspur/Maywood loop. There is nothing safer than a bus stop at a dead end street. What is more important than the safety of our children? Of the occupied homes in Larkspur, we already have over ninety children with two sets of twins on the way. Speaking on behalf of the future residents of Chapel Watch Village: wouldn't you be elated to know that your children had a safe and convenient bus stop; the opportunity to make friends in the neighborhood next door; and access to small quiet communities for your morning run or evening walk?

I see little lucid or deeply thoughtful justification for this vehicular connector as presented by town staff. While I am not a town planner, I do recognize the industrial aspect of Eubanks Road, and the potential for dangerous traffic especially from the UPS facility in our residential neighborhoods. There is little additional positive access for residents of any neighborhood which feeds off Weaver Dairy Extension. I note gross oversights and probable inaccuracies in the traffic study on which the town staff is basing support for the connector. I foresee traffic "cutting through" in order to avoid some 4 or

5 traffic lights on Martin Luther King. Traffic that will find the long straight streets of Larkspur and Weaver Dairy Extension easy for speeding. Traffic that will generally be unaware of our children. Children that must cross the street at least once due to the placement of sidewalks to reach a bus stop. Think about your child dodging cars & trucks during the morning commute hour.

I advocate for our children. I present a thoughtful, practical and viable solution. There is nothing safer for a bus stop than a dead end street.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Flores