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September 11, 2001

Town of Chapel Hill
City Transportation Department
1089 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a petition request, as well as a copy of a letter I sent in response. It concerns rerouting the part of the V bus route that makes the turn from Parkview Crescent to Highgrove Drive to Brookgreen Drive, passing by the Southern Village clubhouse and two other stops.

I hope my letter serves as some consideration for the citizens that appreciate the route and would hate to see it changed.

Sincerely,



Allen York
910 Highgrove Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Enclosures

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September 11, 2001

Mr. Chris Rogers
303 Parkview Crescent
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Re: Bus route petition

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Since I have only recently moved to your neighborhood, I might not fully understand your desire to reroute the bus line that briefly enters our neck of the woods. You do state that the buses are "irritating" and "pesky." By this, you mean perhaps that the buses are noisy, or present a hazard, or are unwelcome.

The buses may be loud, but they are no louder than the variety of construction vehicles, cement mixers, and dump trucks that come through the neighborhood even more frequently than the bus, which only comes twice an hour. Indeed, while waiting for the bus, I easily mistake even Suburbans and other SUV's for the arrival of the bus. Surely you would not suggest that these vehicles not be allowed to enter the neighborhood.

You may argue that the buses pose a hazard to pedestrians or children. These buses are driven by professionally trained drivers who are exceptionally careful and unfailingly yield right of way. The drivers are alert for children that fail to look both ways, they begin braking well in advance of stop signs, and they obey or stay below posted speed limits. Unfortunately, I am unable to say the same about our residents, whether adult or teenager.

In fact, the bus line actually reduces traffic. By giving rides to several commuters at one time, it saves those people from driving to and from the neighborhood in several different cars. This serves the greater good by decreasing pollution, as well as easing the traffic and parking problems of our city.

The bus line is similar to trash and recycling pickup. Large vehicles come through the neighborhood and provide a community service. However, if you proposed limiting the route of the dump trucks, I imagine the reaction would be extensive, swift, and vocal.

Even though the bus provides a service that might not be used by all or not personally by you, it does provide a valuable service to residents of this neighborhood and to the community at large. To ask that a line that has been agreed to by the Town of Chapel Hill and the homeowners association of this development be rerouted or abolished is selfish and unreasonable. The area which you ask to petition is not even entirely residential; the tennis pro shop and swim club make it partly commercial.

Please reconsider your movement to petition the town of Chapel Hill to reroute the V line. We are all fortunate for the service it provides.

Sincerely,

Allen York

cc: Chapel Hill Department of Transportation
Southern Village Homeowners Association

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IRRITATED BY ALL THE BUSES?

Want To Do Something About It?

Join Us In Petitioning
City Transportation
Dept. To Re-Route
Those Pesky Buses!

Call Melanie Joy at 969-8649 or
Chris Rogers at 929-5940

303 Parkview Crescent
CH...

(82)

Transportation - Director
Administrator - Transportation Board
Department of Transportation -
1089 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC

Dear Sir or Madam:

There is a petition circulating in
Southern Village to eliminate the

X Bus — This will be
a hardship, i.e., eliminating
this route on many students,
people with one car, like me, or
people who do not drive for
one reason or another.

Please think carefully or
don't accept that there are
many here on Nolan Lane

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Robert Philip Koontz

③ Thank you for your cons. Section.
Sincerely
Robert P. Koontz September 17, 2001

and the students in Southern ②
Village who will be harmed
if this bus is taken away.

I can now walk from my home
on Nolan to the pool stop and
go anywhere on campus.

As a senior citizen with no car -
my wife uses our car for work -
it will be real hardship if this
bus is eliminated.

September 18, 2001

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Town of Chapel Hill
Transportation Board
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN VILLAGE V BUS ROUTE

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that one of my neighbors in Southern Village is circulating a petition to stop the V bus route. I am very pleased about the new V bus service from Southern Village to UNC. This bus route is extremely convenient and I hope that the bus route continues to be run. I am a second year Medical Student at UNC, and there are several medical students who are homeowners in the community who use this route daily.

Sincerely,



Wendy L.M. Hunter

cc: Town of Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board
UNC Dept of Transportation and Parking

Mary Lou Kuschatka
Director Transportation Services, City of Chapel Hill Transit
Chapel Hill Town Hall
306 North Columbia Street Chapel
Hill, NC 27516

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September 25, 2001

Dear Ms. Kuschatka:

I write on behalf of a group of Chapel Hill residents who live in the Southern Village community. This group has formed recently to address community-wide concerns about the current bus route that runs through the residential portion of Southern Village, and we've met to try and find a solution acceptable to all for a possible rerouting or reconfiguring of that bus route.

But first, thank you for taking the time recently to meet members of our group, and to contact those who've called your office. We know that your job, probably overwhelming on any given normal day, has been especially taxing with the hiring process that we understand you are engaged in.

We also want to thank you for recently extending an offer to meet members of the Southern Village community over this bus route issue. We had extended an offer early on in the process to the Homeowners Association to hold such a meeting, but they declined to call a meeting, stating that they didn't have the authority to do so on this issue. But we pushed on, and held our own "homeowners meeting," door-to-door, with a petition that sought the opinion of the residents. As you can see from our number tallies below, we reached the vast majority of houses and residents and have an overwhelmingly solid, majority statistical sampling.

The core of our concern is simple, as is its resolution: Frankly the current bus route—which was instituted without a public hearing or opportunity for comment by Southern Village residents—doesn't not adequately serve Chapel Hill generally or the Southern Village community specifically. There are 25 daily bus trips running through Southern Village – over 6600 a year. The buses wind their way through tight, child-filled, residential streets that allow parking on both sides. Aside from the noise of the large city buses, we've noted that the buses largely run empty, or with one or two riders. Our ridership numbers come from anecdotal observation, yet we're sure it will be supported by empirical ridership numbers you may have access too.

That said, please don't get the wrong idea. We at Southern Village welcome the buses. They afford those who need transportation with easy, affordable access to the City. They are great for children and students who would otherwise get Mom to drive them downtown or take a car that would have to be parked. Plus, by any measure we all agree that mass transport is a good thing and a civic responsibility the town should extend to its citizens. What we are seeking is a *minor reconfiguration* of the current bus route, a

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shortening of the route, so that it picks up riders in the *commercial* area of Southern Village, and does not wind its way through the tighter residential streets, where frankly the service is underused, demonstrably dangerous to pedestrians (many of whom are children who walk to school, which doesn't offer bus service because it is so close to the area homes) and where, we suspect, the buses may be encouraging non-area-residents to park throughout the day, further aggravating the problem of narrow streets.

Thus, we respectfully submit the attached petition, whose results clearly point to overwhelming community support for a reconfigured bus route.

We made diligent attempts to reach 566 of the 574 households in Southern Village, and indeed directly contacted 350 of these homes, or 61%. Of those, 87% signed our petition in favor of a rerouting of the bus route; 13% opposed. A total of 845 people signed the petition in support. Those familiar with elections and voter patterns will recognize that the remaining residents who we missed would surely break along these same support/oppose lines, so we are confident that we have a vast majority of people in favor of the re-routing. Please note that many people who are pro-bus and who use the bus support the re-routing.

We have enclosed three maps. One is enclosed simply to identify the street names. The other two maps are "before rerouting" and "after rerouting" scenarios. You can see from the yellow highlighted route that we are suggesting the bus execute a pick-up loop only in the commercial area. This is the route that the petitioners have advocated by signing onto the enclosed petition.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and to look over the results of our polling. This really is an example of common citizens rising up to responsibly engage the civic process, and I hope that the material herein is a good starting point for a reasoned response and a swift, amiable solution to a clearly pressing issue.

Sincerely,



John D. Wagner
& Melanie Joy

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303 G Copperline Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
September 27, 2001

To the Town of Chapel Hill Transportation Board:

I am writing to voice my **support** of the **V Bus Line**. Recently, I have heard rumors that some in the Southern Village neighborhood dislike this route and are voicing their complaints. As there is very little in life that pleases everyone, please know that many depend on this route for daily transportation to and from the UNC campus.

As a first year law student coming from a smaller university, I feared using public transportation. I did not want to become dependent on a bus system with inconvenient time schedules and drop off points. In particular, I feared being dropped off a great distance away from the law school and having to lug books over long treks or transfer busses two or three times. After using the bus system for over a month now, however, I have changed my mind and **love Chapel Hill's V bus line**. In my opinion, it is the best bus route in Chapel Hill as it travels from Southern Village, through the heart of the UNC campus, and then out to Meadowmont. I have found the V bus line to be economical, environmental friendly, and highly convenient.

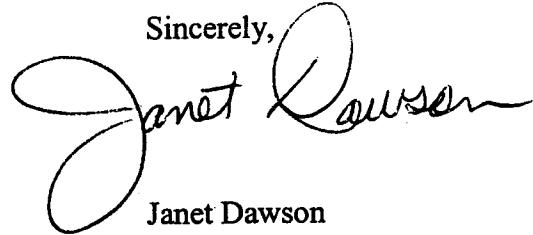
I am not the only one who loves and depends on this route. Every morning and afternoon, students, professors, and community members take this line to and from the UNC campus. Stopping this bus would lead more people to drive their cars to the either over crowded park and ride lots or use public parking spaces on the UNC campus. Everyone who rides this bus agrees that its service is unparalleled. Its convenient route, friendly bus drivers, and dependent time schedule make it a wonderful connection to the UNC campus and Chapel Hill downtown.

While I understand some may dislike busses running through their neighborhood, these busses serve a very important purpose. They connect the Southern Village neighborhood to the greater Chapel Hill community. It is my belief that the V bus line will encourage the numerous Southern Village UNC students and faculty to ride the V bus rather than drive. This line also provides transportation for anyone in the community needing quick access to Chapel Hill. Such service should increase property values within the neighborhood and encourage more to use public transportation!

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Please do not stop the V bus route. I, and many others, depend on it daily for service to the UNC campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Dawson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Janet Dawson

Cc: Town of Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board
University of North Carolina Dept. of Transportation & Parking
Southern Village Apartments

10/17/2001

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Mary Lou Kuschatka
Director: Transportation Services
City of Chapel Hill Transit
Chapel Hill, NC

Dear Ms. Kuschatka:

Several weeks ago, a neighbor in Southern Village asked me to sign a petition requesting an hearing about the new "V" bus service that connects Southern Village and Meadowmont with the UNC campus.

Her concerns centered on pollution and safety for children. In addition she had learned that you also anticipate adding a feeder line to connect us with the D Route. It was her feeling that these services which we were paying for now that we have been annexed ~~wase~~ not needed, and, furthermore that we had not been consulted or informed of the service in advance. Low ridership may have resulted.

My immediate response was to tell her that I am a strong advocate of mass transit and have lived all of my life (until May of this year) in cities that counted on buses, train/subways and trolleys for a significant part of their transportation systems. We used these means as much as possible.

However, I did agree with her that there seemed to be no effort on the part of the Town to let us know about the new route. If it was announced in the free *Chapel Hill News*, you should know that many parts of Southern Village do not receive that paper. We were, however, well informed of trash and recycling schedules.

I back your efforts to introduce convenient routes in the Southern Village area. In this spirit, may I make a few modest suggestions?

1. That you inform us of the process which led you to inaugurate the services and that you send this information at our homes, along with schedules for the appropriate routes.
2. That you consider replacing the present large buses with smaller buses/vans until such time as ridership calls for larger vehicles?
3. That the North-South route be continued well beyond 7:30PM. I understand that you do have a share a ride program, but that information may not be widely known.
4. That one of the routes currently serving Southern Village be extended through Chapel Hill and East Franklin Street, the library and Eastgate? (I am aware of the D route)
5. That you consider offering non-stop service to RDU from the parking lot in Southern Village. At present, I understand that it takes three buses to get to the airport.

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6. That you encourage youth ridership to the library, the "Y" and other community activities?
7. That you consider some creative services, such as transportation to the Symphony and other cultural events in Raleigh, and to the Sports Arena. As an older citizen, I would appreciate nighttime transportation. Think how many cars you would keep off the roads and of pollution reduction!

I sincerely believe that you are trying to plan for the rapid growth of this area. Part of your success will depend on the inclusion and encouragement of residents as the process evolves.

Please understand that I am only one citizen and new to the area. These are just ideas for your consideration. I do not want to see this letter published!

Thank you.

Sincerely

Mary M. Medearis
Mary M. Medearis
109 Westside Dr.
Chapel Hill, 27516

968-0709

*P.S. - You might also have bus service
to Theatrical, music and sports events
at UNC and Duke!*

To: Mayor Rosemary Waldorf
Town Council Members
From: Linda and Richard Esner
Date: October 31, 2001

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As residences of Southern Village, we are writing to let you know that we support having the full bus route through Southern Village and not just in the commercial area. We were never asked to sign the counter petition and assume that there are many more people out there who were not asked and feel as we do.

We have taken the bus several times since moving to SV and find it very convenient. In addition, we feel good about the fact that we are doing our part to lessen the congestion on the roads. Because of availability and ease of use that a full bus route provides, it won't be long before more people opt to ride the bus.

Linda Esner

Paul M. Esner

104 Unwin Pl

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
From: Linda and Richard Esner
Date: November 5, 2001

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As residents of Southern Village, we are writing to let you know that we support having the full bus route through Southern Village and not just in the commercial area. We were never asked to sign the counter-petition and assume that there are many more people out there who were not asked and feel as we do.

We have taken the bus several times since moving to SV and find it very convenient. We have opted to live in a village where bus transportation is a way of life. This is in contrast to a suburb where one has to drive a car everywhere. In addition, we feel good about the fact that we are doing our part to lessen the congestion on the roads. Because of availability and ease of use that a full bus route provides, it won't be long before more people opt to ride the bus. Please give it a chance to "catch on".

Linda & Richard Esner
104 Unwin Pl
Chapel Hill, NC 27516