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Mary Lou Kuschatka

From: Sheryl Sherman
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2001 9:14 AM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Subject: FW: Accolades on the new V bus route

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Kelly [mailto:dakelly1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2001 9:09 AM
To: Transportation Department
Subject: Accolades on the new V bus route

Just a quick note of thanks for the new V bus route through Southern Village. My wife rides the bus to and from the university daily, and it has been a great convenience.

Thanks again,

Daniel and Diane Kelly
803 Edgewater Cir
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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Mary Lou Kuschatka

From: Sheryl Sherman
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2001 2:49 PM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Subject: FW: V-bus route

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

From: Katie Grandstaff [mailto:GrandstaffK@ipas.org]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2001 2:58 PM
To: Transportation Department
Subject: V-bus route

To Whom It May Concern,

I was very dismayed to recently find out that there is a move to end the V-bus route. This is a route that has provided me and my fiancé a great deal of convenience. Neither one of us has a car, and this bus route affords us the opportunity to get to our places of study and work very easily. Since taking a job in Southern Village, I have found that the N/S

Express (being an express route) really didn't offer me the stops that I needed. The V-bus has solved this problem for me. My fiancé, a law student,

can easily get to the law school without having to transfer buses or walk in

excess of 30 minutes. I am not alone in this feeling. I have many associates

and friends who ride this bus and would be very disappointed to see it removed. I think that the V-bus is one of the smartest moves that Chapel

Hill Transit has made this year. It allows residents of Chapel Hill without

cars to move around the town in a more convenient and environmentally sound

way. I appreciate having this opportunity to express my concern over this

matter and I hope that Chapel Hill Transit will take the opinions of those

who depend on this route into consideration before making any final decisions. I can be contacted at 960-8094 if any other information is needed.

Thank you,

Katie Grandstaff
909A Dawes St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 960-8094

Mary Lou Kuschatka

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From: Sheryl Sherman
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2001 3:30 PM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Subject: FW: V bus line

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

From: barnesm@unc.edu [mailto:barnesm@unc.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2001 3:27 PM
To: Transportation Department
Subject: V bus line

To whom it may concern,
I am writing this email in support of the V bus line and keeping it running, despite the protests of homeowners in Southern Village. However, I do think the route needs to be changed as far as where in Southern Village the bus goes. I do not see a need for the route to wind through the houses of Southern Village because rarely have I seen anyone from the houses ride the bus and it presents a possible danger to kids in the neighborhood and causes traffic problems when the bus encounters another vehicle on the street. If the V bus just ran by the cafe like it does now and then around towards the Apartment clubhouse, through the commercial district, you could still capture almost all of the riders that currently ride the V bus. It does a great service for those living in Southern Village who need transportation to the south campus of UNC. Thank you for your time, Matt
Barnes

Mary Lou Kuschatka

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From: Rogers, Christopher P [cpr92601@GlaxoWellcome.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2001 2:50 PM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Cc: 'jdwagner@indicium.com'; Manager; 'riwaldorf@aol.com'; Maggie Mraz (E-mail); Melanie Joy (E-mail)
Subject: Souther Village Bus V Route--City Council Hearing
Importance: High



bus petition.doc

Dear Ms. Kuschatka: I am one of the original organizers for the petition against the residential portion of the buses on the V Route. The contents of this letter are solely my views and should not be interpreted to the views of anyone else.

I am listed on the cover letter to you and the City Council. I've worked on the petition with John Wagner and Melanie Joy who you met with a few weeks ago, as well as an abundant number of other residents that supported the petition drive. During a recent City Council open forum meeting, I submitted on Monday 10/22 the attached petition to the Clerk and City Council.

<<bus petition.doc>>

I left you a phone message earlier today. I'm contacting you to find out when the City Council will have a hearing on our petition and/or your proposal. Myself and several other residents want to attend the hearing and have an opportunity to provide our views and concerns.

I also understand that you recently surveyed Southern Village and are considering recommending to the City Council a reconfigured bus route to serve the ridership in the residential area, which is apparently concentrated in townhomes near the private pool area at the corner of Highgrove and Brookgreen. Well, I measured the distance from the pool to Brookgreen&Market (in the commercial area) and it is exactly 0.3 miles. It is also my understanding that the City tries to provide bus service to within 1/4 mile of all residents in Chapel Hill, which would cover the SV private pool facility.

However, as anyone can see, there are many (if not nearly all) residential neighborhoods in Chapel Hill that do not have any bus service--perhaps because they do not want or need bus service and the attendant parking problems that follow. Moreover, as evidenced by our petition, there are over 300 households representing over 900 residents (many on the current and, presumably, your to-be-proposed route) that are opposed to buses going down their street.

I just cannot see why Southern Village is being singled out to have bus service with low ridership (in particular, low ridership attributable to

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the residential area) forced upon an overwhelming majority of the residents who clearly do not want or need bus service down the residential streets.

However, please do not get me wrong: I (and, from what I can tell, probably all of the residents supporting the petition) fully support bus service to the Park&Ride and commercial area of Southern Village. We all feel that such service is beneficial and reasonable. However, in my view, it is unfair and unreasonable to prejudice and defy 87% of the Southern Village homeowners to accommodate the unreasonable demands of a few residents (ie, an incredibly small minority of the residents) who cannot "commute" 0.3+ miles (or, 3+ blocks) to the commercial area. This is particularly unreasonable given that many 5-10 year old children walk to the Scroggs Elementary School every day, which is a longer "commute" than the few residents that insist on curb-side bus service 25 times per day.

Of course, there are a whole host of other reasons why it is unfair and nonsensical to run 25 nearly empty buses per day thru narrow residential streets used abundantly by adults, children and pets, but I will leave that for the hearing unless you would like me to elaborate further.

I look forward to hearing from you or your superior(s) in regards notice of a public hearing on our petition and/or your bus transit recommendations affecting Southern Village.

Respectfully yours,
Christopher P. Rogers
Patent Attorney
U.S. Corporate Intellectual Property
GlaxoSmithKline Corp.
Five Moore Drive
PO Box 13398
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3398
Work Ph. (919)483-1240
Work Fax (919)483-7977
email: cpr92601@gsk.com

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Mary Lou Kuschatka

From: Sheryl Sherman
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 4:39 PM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Subject: FW: V route

More!

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

From: Eric Burgin [mailto:eburgin@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 4:37 PM
To: transportation
Subject: V route

Hi,

I am a resident of Southern Village. I am a student at the UNC School of Dentistry, and I ride the V bus. I have been hearing of opposition to the V route from certain people in the neighborhood, and I am very unhappy about it. I live in a part of Southern Village that is a fair walk from the commercial area and Park and Ride lot, so the V bus has made commuting a lot easier. I read the recent article in the Chapel Hill News about these people who are trying to get rid of the V bus. I think that the whole idea of Southern Village was a commuter friendly sort of neighborhood, but without the V bus, I would have to walk a half mile or more, sometimes in harsh weather, to catch the bus. I read that they called the bus unused, but if they had ridden on it in the morning, they would have seen that most mornings, the bus is half full, which is more than I have seen on many of the other Chapel Hill routes. Also, this "petition" of theirs sounds suspicious to me. First off, noone ever came to my door, or many of the doors of the other folks that live around me. I believe it could have been that we live in townhomes and condos, and they assumes that we were probably students who rode the bus and wouldn't agree with their efforts. Also, if you know how petitions usually go, someone shows up on your doorstep harassing you about an issue that doesn't really bother you, and often people just sign it to avoid a conflict. I hardly believe that the numbers listed in the article reflect the number of people who really oppose the bus. I know you want to make people happy, but please understand that while you are pleasing a few vocal people in the neighborhood, you will be alienating many who are unaware of their efforts. I urge you to consider getting the opinions of people in an unbiased manner, and if the route must be restricted, please have it include at least the apartments, townhomes, and condominiums. These probably contain more V riders than the housed areas anyway. Thank you for your consideration, and please help the riders of the V bus! And if there is anything else I can do to oppose the efforts of these people, please let me know.

Eric Burgin
914 Edgewater Circle
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
eburgin@email.unc.edu

Mary Lou Kuschatka

From: Elizabeth Snoeyink [emcns@cs.ubc.ca]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2001 5:01 PM
To: vknapp@nando.com
Cc: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Subject: Chapel Hill News article on Southern Village buses

Dear Ms. Knapp:

I was disappointed that your article on Southern Village residents' response to the new V bus route did not include any residents' comments in support of the bus route. I have heard that there was at least one petition supporting the bus route, and that the board of the neighborhood homeowners' association had decided not to take a stand because the board itself was divided, and believed the neighborhood to be divided on this issue.

We bought a house in Southern Village about a year and a half ago because we liked the idea of living in a "new urbanism" neighborhood. We support the bus route going through the neighborhood and find Mr. Rogers' and Mr. Wagner's statements to be untrue and misleading.

Chris Rogers was quoted as saying, "No one had any notice of 25 empty buses a day careening down our busy streets." But information about the V route was included in the packet distributed to each household in Southern Village a few days before the neighborhood was annexed on July 1. I also read at least one article in the Chapel Hill News last spring discussing the then-pending annexation that mentioned the new bus route. I have problems with the "25 empty buses a day" part of Mr. Rogers' statement as well. With a new bus route, I would have been surprised to hear that the bus instantly had many riders. I would expect that the number of riders to increase over time as residents find ways to utilize the bus more often. When I spoke with Mary Lou Kuschatka last week about this issue, she confirmed that the number of riders was steadily increasing.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Wagner want the new bus to be restricted to the commercial section of Southern Village and describe this as a "minor" reconfiguration. What this means for many residents, however, notably for those who like us live in the Highgrove section of Southern Village, is a 10-minute walk that includes a steep, 2-block section of Brookgreen Drive. We do use the bus from the Park-and-Ride lot, but that is a fifteen-minute walk away for us. Insisting that residents hike up a steep hill or drive their cars to the bus stop doesn't support public transportation and the spirit of a "new urbanism" neighborhood.

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I am most puzzled by Mr. Wagner's statement that the bus is "...demonstrably dangerous to pedestrians." Why is a bus any more dangerous than all of the other vehicles including construction trucks, delivery trucks, moving vans, and cars that travel on our neighborhood streets every day? The whole point of the bus is to decrease the traffic by encouraging less dependence on automobile use.

In other places I have lived easy access to bus service was seen to increase property values; it is certainly desirable for anyone working or studying at UNC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Snoeyink

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To get random signatures put text files into a folder called 'Random Signatures' into your Preferences folder.

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Flo Miller

From: Cal Horton
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2001 9:49 AM
To: 'Rogers, Christopher P'
Cc: Mary Lou Kuschatka; Flo Miller
Subject: RE: Minutes re V Route

Mr. Rogers:

We will be pleased to provide the records requested.

Cal Horton

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

From: Rogers, Christopher P [mailto:cpr92601@GlaxoWellcome.com]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 5:20 PM
To: Cal Horton
Cc: Mary Lou Kuschatka; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith
Subject: RE: Minutes re V Route
Importance: High

Cal: Thanks again for your prompt response. I very much appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving a copy of any files, minutes and background information, and public notices thereof.

Best regards,
Christopher P. Rogers
Patent Attorney
U.S. Corporate Intellectual Property
GlaxoSmithKline Corp.
Five Moore Drive
PO Box 13398
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3398
Work Ph. (919)483-1240
Work Fax (919)483-7977
email: cpr92601@gsk.com

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Cal Horton [SMTP:calhorton@townofchapelhill.org]
> Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 5:09 PM
> To: Rogers, Christopher P
> Cc: Mary Lou Kuschatka; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith
> Subject: RE: Minutes re V Route

> Mr. Rogers:

> The quote was accurate and summarized my recollection of the Council's
> discussion at the time that Southern Village was being considered. I
> have asked the staff to review the files and minutes so that we can
> include background information in our report to the Council. I will
> make sure that you get a copy.

> Sincerely,
>
> Cal Horton

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Rogers, Christopher P [mailto:cpr92601@GlaxoWellcome.com]
> Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 4:33 PM
> To: Cal Horton
> Subject: RE: Minutes re V Route
> Importance: High

>
 > Mr. Horton: Thank you very much. I look forward to the hearing on
 > 11/27.
 > Also, I was reading the CH Herald article in the Sunday paper, and see
 > that
 > you were quoted a few times regarding the history of agreements viz.
 > transit
 > service to Southern Village. Since I will be one of the primary
 > speakers on
 > 11/27 re our petition, I was wondering if you had a few minutes to talk
 > to
 > me so I can provide an educated point of view. I'm available at your
 > convenience.
 > Sincerely,
 > Christopher P. Rogers
 > Patent Attorney
 > U.S. Corporate Intellectual Property
 > GlaxoSmithKline Corp.
 > Five Moore Drive
 > PO Box 13398
 > Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3398
 > Work Ph. (919)483-1240
 > Work Fax (919)483-7977
 > email: cpr92601@gsk.com

>
 > > -----Original Message-----
 > > From: Cal Horton [SMTP:calhorton@townofchapelhill.org]
 > > Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 4:27 PM
 > > To: Rogers, Christopher P
 > > Subject: RE: Minutes re V Route

>
 > > Mr. Rogers:
 > >
 > > The minutes of the Council Meeting at which the petition was discussed
 > > have not been produced and have not been presented to the Council for
 > > approval. They will be posted on the Town's website when adopted. I
 > > will ask the Town Clerk to give notice to you. I am not aware of any
 > > other discussion of the V Route by the Town Council.
 > >
 > > I will forward your message to Transportation Director Mary Lou
 > > Kuschatka and ask her to provide any Transportation Board minutes that
 > > mention the V Route and any memoranda mentioning the V Route.

>
 > > Sincerely,
 > >
 > > Cal Horton
 > >
 > > *****
 > > W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager
 > > 306 North Columbia Street
 > > Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516
 > > 919-968-2744 Bell South
 > > 919-682-8636 GTE
 > > 919-969-2063 FAX
 > > 919-967-2626 Home
 > > <mailto:calhorton@townofchapelhill.org>

>
 > > -----Original Message-----
 > > From: Rogers, Christopher P [mailto:cpr92601@GlaxoWellcome.com]
 > > Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 2:48 PM
 > > To: Manager
 > > Subject: Minutes re V Route
 > > Importance: High

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> >
> > Dear Mr. Horton: Could you please forward to me any public memoranda
> re
> > the
> > CH Transit V Route. Particularly, any documents memorialized in the
> > minutes
> > of the City Council or the Transportation Advisory Board. I searched
> > the
> > minutes on the townofchapelhill.org website but did not find anything
> > relevant. Please let me know if this is not possible within the next
> > couple
> > days.
> > Respectfully yours,
> > Christopher P. Rogers
> > Patent Attorney
> > U.S. Corporate Intellectual Property
> > GlaxoSmithKline Corp.
> > Five Moore Drive
> > PO Box 13398
> > Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3398
> > Work Ph. (919)483-1240
> > Work Fax (919)483-7977
> > email: cpr92601@gsk.com
> >
> >
>

Mary Lou Kuschatka

TCW

From: Maggie Mraz [maggiemraz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2001 3:01 PM
To: editor@nando.com
Cc: Mary Lou Kuschatka

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Southern Village I give "Raspberries" to the Chapel Hill News for misrepresenting my neighbors by suggesting they don't support mass transit. Southern Village is a wonderful neighborhood and I am proud of it. I love the fact that the community was designed with pedestrians in mind. Each day I see countless numbers of walkers, bikers, scooter riders and skaters cruising around the streets, sidewalks & greenway path. The streets tend to be narrow and the homes are very close together on small lots. Homeowners gave up personal space for community parks, sidewalks, common playgrounds and schools within walking distance. Residents look forward to the completion of the commercial section and enjoy the close proximity of the park & ride. This is a GREAT place to live! I support bus service from Market Street and the park & ride area. I find it unnecessary for the V route bus to pass by homes 25 times per day from 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. The residential streets clearly were not designed for 35 passenger buses. I believe residents will happily walk to the areas specifically designed for these vehicles. Furthermore, I give Southern Village "Roses" for being pedestrian friendly and for having a commercial section and park & ride lot located within walking distance for all residents.
Maggie Mraz
112 Westside Drive

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<http://explorer.msn.com/intl.asp>

Mary Lou Kuschatka

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From: Diane Kelly [dlkelly@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2001 3:09 PM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Subject: Great Service!

Dear Ms. Kuschatka,

My name is Diane Kelly and I have been riding the bus daily between Southern Village and the University for the past three years. I know there has been a lot of controversy about the new V route and I wanted you to know how much I appreciate, enjoy and need that route.

Because I teach an evening class, the last bus run in the evening allows my husband and I to feel safe as I am required to travel alone after dark. Even though it may not appear that the V route is that different from the NS route -- for a homeowner in Southern Village, the V route is a tremendous asset and convenience.

I also would like to commend two of the drivers in particular: the morning woman driver (Nancy?) and Jean, the afternoon woman driver. They both are extremely courteous, thoughtful and keep a look out for the best interest of the riders. In particular, after a hard day at work, Jean's sense of humor and smile consistently brighten my day.

Having been a nurse for 20 years, I know that that complaints come more often than the praise -- I wanted to take a minute to recognize these two woman for their excellent work, professionalism and courtesy as well as their ability to make a tedious commute an enjoyable experience.

I hope you will pass on this feedback to both of them. Thank you for your attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,
Diane L. Kelly
803 Edgewater Circle
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

From: Jill M [jill8963@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2001 1:30 PM
To: Mary Lou Kuschatka
Cc: riwaldorf@aol.com
Subject: Support for Southern Village Bus Service

Dear Ms. Kuschatka:

I am a resident of Southern Village, and I am writing to express my support for the bus service that was recently extended to our community. I understand that quite a few of my neighbors have contacted you recently to oppose this service, and some of them may have implied or suggested that the service is only appreciated by those who live in the apartments or condominiums near the "business" section of Southern Village. I therefore want to make clear that I live in the heart of the single-family housing in the "residential" portion of the neighborhood--an area that will not be served by the V bus if my neighbors succeed in persuading you to confine the service to the business district.

I support the bus service in Southern Village not only because I personally use it, but also because I am a 21-year resident of Chapel Hill who very much understands and appreciates how important Chapel Hill Transit is to the quality of life in our Town. Like many Chapel Hillians, I am concerned about the effect of excessive automobile traffic in our community. The gridlock and environmental degradation that results when everyone travels in private automobiles erodes quality of life. Bus service that is readily available to all the Town's citizens is one important way we can avoid excessive traffic and its negative effects.

I also share with many Chapel Hillians a concern about how we manage growth. The principal reason my family chose to move to Southern Village is its "new urban" style of development. The high density of this kind of development has the potential to work out well or poorly for Chapel Hill. On the one hand, Southern Village is very pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly, and completion of the pathways between here and the southern edge of the UNC campus will make it even more so. On the other hand, without some means besides private automobiles to reach areas of town that are more distant, I fear that Southern Village--with its high concentration of people and cars so close to 15-501 and Highway 54-- will eventually cause major traffic and environmental problems. I think the maintenance of bus service in the neighborhood is critical to making sure that this doesn't happen.

Because of the potential impact on the Town as a whole, I hope that the issue of bus service in Southern Village will not be viewed as a matter affecting only the residents of this neighborhood. If Chapel Hill is to host high-density development--and it seems inevitable that we will have to do even more of this in the future--then I think we need to take a position as a Town that we will use various means,

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including readily available public transportation, to avoid potential negative impacts of that development on all the Town's citizens. I therefore hope that the "squeaky wheels" in Southern Village will not succeed in overriding the concerns of the Town as a whole with their effort to discontinue bus service in the neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,
Jill Moore
205 Overlake Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-967-0688

cc: Rosemary Waldorf, Mayor
Cal Horton, Town Manager

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<http://careers.yahoo.com>