

July 31, 2002

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**CHAPEL HILL
ENGINEERING DEPT.**

Mr. Kumar Neppalli, E.I.T.
Traffic Engineer
Town of Chapel Hill
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Dear Mr. Neppalli:

We are writing to follow up on the status of a petition from the Springcrest neighborhood to consider traffic calming measures on Perry Creek and Chipchoaks Drives.

In two petitions from the Springcrest neighborhood submitted by Michelle Arlotto (dated March 21, 2001 and March 28, 2001), residents of both Chipchoaks and Perry Creek Drive requested relief from speeding in the neighborhood. A study was conducted for Perry Creek in September 2001 and another smaller study was added in February 2002 to study Chipchoaks Drive. There is a recommendation to be presented at the August 2002 town council meeting to provide much needed traffic calming relief for Perry Creek Drive.

However, it appears that there is currently not a recommendation for relief on Chipchoaks Drive. We request you add this recommendation to the town council, as we believe Chipchoaks is **also in serious need of traffic calming relief**. The following points from your traffic report (Feb 2002) and our own observations in the neighborhood support our reasons for this request:

1. Chipchoaks has the **highest sheer volume of traffic** (867 cars/day) in the entire neighborhood. With at least **15% of cars exceeding 28 mph regularly, this translates to over 130 cars/day speeding on Chipchoaks**. By comparison, three sites on Perry Creek already recommended to get speed humps have approximately 123 (201 Perry Creek), 83 (409 Perry Creek) and 66 (602 Perry Creek) speeding cars/day.
2. Complicating matters further is that there is a blind curve on Erwin Road at the intersection of Erwin and Chipchoaks, which is the main entrance to the neighborhood. This intersection has unfortunately already been the site of 3 fatal accidents. Most cars entering Chipchoaks from Erwin are doing so at a high rate of speed. As they come onto Chipchoaks there is a small hill that limits a driver's view on Chipchoaks. This poses a hazard not only to any child crossing the street but also to the cars backing out of driveways closest to Erwin.
3. Cars entering Chipchoaks from the other direction (Perry Creek) tend to gain speed before going over the small hill on Chipchoaks, posing a hazard to both children crossing the street and to the driveways on the other side of the hill. These

driveways could be considered blind driveways as their location near the top of the hill sneaks up on drivers.

4. During the school year the school bus for Ephesus Elementary stops at the corner of Callard Run and Chippoaks. Many of the children who use this bus stop must cross Chippoaks to reach the bus stop. There have been several near misses of children being hit by cars as a result of cars using excessive speed. Many parents on Chippoaks have been seen yelling at drivers to slow down to no avail.

SUPPORT DATA

Information taken from Traffic table provided from the town of Chapel Hill in Feb. 21, 2002 report sent to Michelle Arlotto)

LOCATION	Avg weekday traffic volume*	Avg Speed	Number of speeding cars/day
Chippoaks	867 cars	24 mph	130
201 Perry Creek	823 cars	27 - 28 mph	123
409 Perry Creek	556 cars	25 - 26 mph	83
602 Perry Creek	438 cars	23 - 24 mph	65 - 66
104 Perry Creek	112 cars	23 mph	17

*Note: Avg. weekday volume for 602, 409 and 201 Perry Creek came from taking avg of traffic from 3 days (9/26, 9/27, 9/28 in 2001). Weekday volume for 104 Perry Creek and Chippoaks comes from the only day data was taken, 2/20/02.

Because of the serious hazard facing children and pedestrians on Chippoaks Drive, we request traffic calming relief. We have attached a map proposing the site of speed humps or stop signs for Chippoaks.

Sites in bold already have recommendation for speed humps. Chippoaks should have a speed hump, too. Our first choice would be to have a speed hump in one of two places:

- between Green Willow and Callard Run
- at the top of the small hill near Tabscott Run


If that is not possible, then a stop sign at either location would help.

We hope the town will do the right thing and take steps to help protect the children and pedestrians on Chippoaks.

Sincerely,



Donna Bauman
101 Tabscott Run (side of yard is on Chippoaks)



Eleanor Murray
101 Chippoaks Drive

Neighborhood Request Perry Creek Drive Traffic Calming Plan (Amended on July 31, 2002)

