

Jason Sullivan

From: RoseMarie Roth <rosemarieroth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 4:07 PM
To: Jason Sullivan
Cc: paul.phillips@chathamnc.org; rb@fearrington.com
Subject: Chatham County Planning meeting

Dear Mr. Sullivan;

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the planning meeting this evening, but as a resident impacted by the Briar Chapel SD EAST development along 15-501, I wanted to express my concerns regarding significant safety and quality of life issues the development impacts: Light pollution, and noise pollution, and public safety.

It seems obvious that we need some sort of protection in Phases I & II from these problems which will grow increasing intolerable as time passes and the light and noise pollution increase dramatically as a result of increased population density and highway traffic.

I see two needs at the top of the list:

1. A sound-proof barrier fence to reduce noise and light pollution and to provide protection for FV residents
2. Lowering the speed limit to 45 mph beginning at Mount Carmel Church Rd.

I have lived at 2 Benchmark for over a decade. Many years ago when Newland's development projects were in the planning processes, Newland had offered to put in a fence between the development and the boundary lines of the FV properties impacted by the development. At that time Newland representatives offered to install a fence along the affected areas of Fearrington Village (Phases I & II) to protect community privacy and quality of life by dampening highway noise.

The proposal for a sound proof-fence along the border of the affected areas of Phase I and II needs to be resurrected. It is a reasonable to request and insist, if necessary, that the developer take responsible action to ensure that the community which existed here long before Newland's development does not lead to the degradation of the areas of Fearrington in close proximity to the new construction.

One way to quiet things down a bit from highway noise pollution and garner greater traffic safety is to lower the speed limit to 45. Regardless of whether or not drivers violate a 45 mph limit, it will still be better than the noise and Danger presented by traffic violating at 60 to 65 mph as is the current situation from my personal observation. A 45 mph speed on 15-501 is posted just past Briar Chapel and all the way into and through Chapel Hill. We need the same 45 mph speed limit along this "new" corridor of population density and greatly increased traffic.

I was informed by the DOT that 15-501 is designed and designated as a "super highway" designed to move traffic as quickly as possible between highway 64 and into Chapel Hill. That may have seemed reasonable when traffic and population density from Mount Carmel Church Rd. to Chapel Hill was very low. This area is no longer low density and will mushroom into very high density in the near future.

The DOT and Chatham County priority should be safety over speed. It is irresponsible to maintain the current speed limit of 55 mph on 15-501 and tout it as a "super highway" through a high density area. Posting "high crash area" signs (as is done in CH near the Erin Road U-turns) is not in any way a "responsible" action.

More expensive and intensive interventions are required to insure the safety of residents and commuters. We pay for highways with our tax dollars (and developers depend on those highway dollars so that their building projects can be implemented.

Therefore, both the more subtle, but nevertheless, essential needs of residents, as well as safety issues need to be implemented by the local and state officials.

I hope we can count on responsible intervention from the Chatham Planning Board role to ensure quality of life issues are impacted as little as possible and that the risk for serious and/or deadly accidents is reduced. Both commuters and residents of

FV and Galloway Ridge and neighboring residential areas are all at risk in the increasingly high-density area where the major road has been designated as a "super highway."

Thank you for attention to this matter and the concerns it brings and the impact it has for Chatham residents.

Sincerely,
RoseMarie Roth
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