

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 11:00 PM
To: Janiczek, Jeanette
Subject: Hillsdale Extension

Ms. Janiczek:

I write to you with regard to the concept of developing Hillsdale Drive into a major artery linking Rio Road to Hydraulic Road. This idea is supposed to relieve traffic congestion entering and exiting the City on Route 29, but in reality it creates a hazardous situation that puts vulnerable Citizens at highest risk. Can you imagine our Senior Citizens crossing a road like 29 on foot? Can you imagine citizens in their 80s maneuvering a tricky traffic circle? This would be the disastrous situation created by this project. This is the situation we face if Hillsdale Drive is developed.

This area of Charlottesville currently offers Sanctuary to hundreds of Senior Citizens. **The Senior Center, The Laurels Nursing Home, and Rosewood Village Assisted Living Community, and Branchlands Retirement Village** are all located in close proximity to lower Hillsdale, the proposed site of the connector. The **Jefferson Area board for the Aging (JABA) and Our Lady of Peace** are located on upper Hillsdale. Many retirees in this area, no longer able to drive, are forced to walk regularly along and across Hillsdale Drive to access the Senior Center and to purchase groceries at nearby Food Lion. People with walkers, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and impaired vision can be seen on the sidewalks along Greenbrier and Hillsdale most days. Some elderly Citizens who are still able to drive, are no longer able to react quickly. They hesitate long before moving s-l-o-w-l-y out onto the Drive. Are we going to force them into this treacherous situation?

Anyone familiar with this area of Charlottesville knows that traffic on Hillsdale created by people taking "the shortcut" to avoid 29N congestion is already hazardous to Seniors who cross it regularly. Hillsdale is already a very busy street, used by 1,000s of cars each day, many speeding through late for appointments/work. Do we really need trucks and racing commuters victimizing Senior Citizens on Hillsdale Drive? I don't have to hire experts to conduct studies to know that further development of Hillsdale Drive is a **VERY BAD IDEA.**

Don't our Seniors deserve more respect and consideration than this after devoting their lives to and paying taxes in our community for decades? This is not a step forward, but a step in the wrong direction. This does not relieve the problem; it complicates it and compromises those who have long served and protected us. This is not an answer; it is an injustice. It's time for the governing entities of Charlottesville and Albemarle to use Good Judgment to preserve this area for the sake of those who now depend upon us to serve and protect them. Selling out our Seniors is not the answer to Charlottesville's traffic woes. Why doesn't local government step up to the plate and resolve the Real Problem by building the real bypass? What is it going to take for them to take that step? **Where is their leadership and their vision?** We should be building our Senior Citizens a park at this location where they can sit peacefully protected instead of running a major

traffic artery through the center of their enclave. What will happen to the Rivanna Trail if this connector is built?

The rights of seniors are seriously compromised by this plan. My father, 89 years of age, leaves Branchlands community three times a week in his Cadillac to drive to Martha Jefferson Health and Wellness, Pantops, to work out. He is a retired marine, a brigadier general. He insists on doing all his own shopping and errands. His fortitude seems boundless. He refuses to give up his rights and freedoms. He will not compromise. The plan to develop Hillsdale Drive into a major traffic artery places him at higher risk and this has created a real problem for our family and many other citizens. I really don't know what City and County governments are thinking by initiating this project. It really is a stupid idea. People of Advanced Age and Traffic don't mix. I think this project discriminates against the elderly by ignoring their needs and compromising their lifestyle. Where is the logic in this?

Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 3:15 PM
To: Janiczek, Jeanette
Subject: extender to hydraulic

I live in Greenbrier and the Hillsdale project will help a lot. I am concerned about the Michie apartments and the other town houses entrance into Hydraulic Rd. There are three entrances very close together as planned. Brandywine, Michie apartment road and then the extension exit and entrance. I notice the people in the apartments have a difficult time getting out and I know we do. I do not think it possible to improve our exit into Hydraulic but would it be possible to combine the entrance to the apartments and the extension. If it is possible, consider a connector to the extension from Brandywine to the Hillsdale extension. I find it dangerous and tricky to enter Brandywine from Hydraulic across the road or from the by-pass. I know the other drivers should be considerate of people trying to enter Brandywine but that is a very rare occurrence and we have to gun our motor and charge out or in. In all probability this intersection will require another light among many and of course more eager, anxious people trying to get to 29N or South. Why can not these people be directed to get off the by pass at Red Lobster Instead of the really not to short cut up Hydraulic.
Thank You,

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2007 5:08 PM
To: Tucker, Angela; Janiczek, Jeanette
Subject: Hillsdale

Good afternoon,

That was a respectable crowd that gathered at the Senior Center yesterday afternoon. We at CTS would be very interested in seeing any public comments collected by the consultants at yesterday's Citizen Information Meeting that are related to transit service.

Would that be possible?

Regarding the possibility of incorporating roundabouts as part of the corridor, for future transit service the design features should include roundabouts that are "transit-friendly" for 40-foot long transit buses.

Also, for transit service along the Hillsdale extension, the ideal alignment on Hydraulic Road would be a roundabout that incorporates the present or future exit from the Kroger parking lot. This currently aligns with the entrance to the K-Mart.

Thanks.

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2007 12:19 PM
To: Tucker, Angela
Subject: hillsdale comments

Angela,

I reviewed the online drawings for Hillsdale and have some thoughts:

I really like the idea of using the stream bed between the Post Office and Seminole Square for a trail. It may allow an underpass of 29 in the future, when gold bars fall from the sky.... Glad that line is showing up.

For trails: We probably want to up the width to be 8-10 feet wide, which is the VDOT standard. 6 feet is a bit narrow for multi use. This also shows sidewalks as typically 3-6 feet wide, and this should be 4 at a minimum.

Also, I notice the consultant is using "Rollerblading" in the diagrams showing typical use of trails. That word is copyrighted, and should be "In-line skating". I think "Rollerblade" Inc. went on a streak when all the "No Rollerblading" signs went up in the 1990s for copyright infringement.

The site plan for Pepsi expansion is currently in review. I have no reason to ask for any easements as part of the trail plan. If anything, we may want to ask for a bike/ped easement from Pepsi for the north side of the new Hillsdale road, which we could do now or as part of construction of the road later. All bike/walk facilities on the new road are proposed as "on road" rather than trail. The multi use trail along Meadowcreek behind the building would not be on Pepsi property.

Rick and Angelica,

I was sorry that I couldn't attend the latest Hillsdale meetings due to work and travel commitments.

A concern we have is the reintroduction of a traffic circle at the Seminole Court and Zan Road intersection. Our Sperry Marine Federal Credit Union continues to support the Hillsdale Extension so long as the project stays within the existing right of way along our frontage and access to our property is not adversely impacted.

If the traffic circle and/or associate side walks and/or bicycle path impacts either our property or access, we would strongly recommend using a traffic light as an alternative.

Regards

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 9:44 PM
To: Tucker, Angela
Subject: Hillsdale Extension

Dear Angela,

I was not able to attend the meeting at the Senior Center regarding the prospective Hillsdale Extension. As a member of the Senior Center, I want to put in my 2 cents worth, much of which which I am sure you have already heard. Just add mine to the list.

From the diagram of the path of the road, it would appear that it goes very close to the Cinema 4 theater. Doesn't this pose a danger to the theater attendees--especially the children? And a speed limit of 25 miles per hour? Please; even police cars that are not responding to an emergency don't adhere to the speed limits elsewhere in the City, be they 25, 35 miles, etc

Oh yes, and the disruption and dangers that will be posed to the seniors in those senior communities that border on the roadway...how is that justified and are the proposed solutions really viable?

Are there examples elsewhere in the state or even the country where a major roadway runs through an existing shopping center? This does not make good sense to me.

I think this is another example of the City (and County) conceiving of a project that they *think* will solve all the traffic problems of 29N, that they will push through and after all is said and done, will not solve the existing problems and will create even more. Then what--build *another* road?

Sincerely,