

April 4, 2006

To: The Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Durham Metropolitan Planning Organization; the City of Chapel Hill; the counties of Orange and Durham; the North Carolina Department of Transportation

Re: Southwest Durham Drive Arterial connection through the Meadowmont Community

Dear Mr. Henry and Mr. Wood,

I am a resident of the Meadowmont Community. I would like to respectfully register my strong disagreement with the current proposed alignment of the Southwest Durham Drive artery that traverses the Greenways, walking trailways, Army Core of Engineer wetlands and wildfowl impoundment lands on its way through the heart of the Meadowmont community.

I am specifically opposed to the alignment for the following financial, environmental, and safety reasons:

- 1. The bridge and elevated road system required to span the creeks and swamp areas over the Army Core land will cost the DOT millions of unnecessary dollars of investment. Rather, there are already existing roads to the East of the Core land that can address the desire to have arterial connection from 15-501 to highway 54. Consideration of these alignment alternatives is fiscally responsible.**
- 2. Reading your web pages, it is clear that there are major tenets and directives in the Durham, Chapel Hill, and MPO planning charter that call for maintenance of green spaces and the rapidly dwindling wildlife areas. Routing arterial traffic through precisely this type of terrain seems to defy logic and established decision making mandates, especially when the alternatives for arterial flow East of the Core property achieve the same traffic flows from Southwest Durham and do not impact environmentally sensitive areas.**
- 3. The Meadowmont community is a pedestrian friendly and environmentally sensitive development. There are bikeways adjacent to both sides of Meadowmont Lane. There is a school and retirement center directly adjacent to Meadowmont Lane. Dumping a traffic volume of twelve to fifteen thousand cars a day down this village street would**
 - jeopardize the safety and welfare of children in the Meadowmont Community, many of whom walk to the neighborhood based elementary school.**
 - jeopardize the safety and welfare of the Meadowmont based Cedars Retirement community members who walk along, or drive through, the narrow tree lined community streets.**

As a resident of the Meadowmont Community, the town of Chapel Hill and Durham county, I strenuously urge you and the above agencies to move the Southwest Durham Drive alignment to the East of the Army Core of Engineers property and to remove Meadowmont Lane and the Meadowmont Community from any proposed arterial traffic plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Teagarden