

Israel

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June 7, 2001

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler
State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336

RE: Proposed projects 8 and 9, Forest Hill Road, Macon, Georgia

Dear Sir:

As a longtime resident of the Forest Hill Road area of Macon, I feel it is my responsibility to express my serious concerns over the proposed projects 8 and 9 referenced above. The impact of the "preferred alternative" on the 39 residents fronting Forest Hill Road and the hundreds of residents on either side is unacceptable. Please consider the following points:

- The four-lane segment from Wimbish Road to Vineville will drastically alter the residential character of the area.
- The closure of Overlook Avenue, The Prado and Drury Drive would create undue congestion in the Riverdale, Albermarle, Belvedere and Ridge Avenue and cause delays in the arrival of police and emergency services.
- The encouragement of traffic through Northside Drive to I-75 is a much better alternative as an arterial thoroughfare due to the fact that the residential impact would be much less in this scenario.
- Forest Hill Road should be modified to add turn lines and sidewalks to decrease congestion and to provide non-vehicular alternatives.

The most dangerous result of the proposed concepts is the damage suffered by owners of real property contiguous to Forest Hill Road, surrounding sub-divisions, environmental impact, health problems, due in part to choking, air pollution, and destruction of home life in a peaceful neighborhood. **Good health is a priceless institution.** The following are cognitive facts. Environmental impact is a multifarious term, and, under the current concepts, includes the following: more lanes, more wrecks, increased speed, personal injuries or deaths, increased crime, decreased real property value, higher insurance rates, road discourtesy and rage, loss of trees, dangerous driving conditions, increased noise from tractor trailer rigs, pollution which increases the instance of disease, safety of children exiting school buses and having to cross multiple lanes, and crossing multiple lanes going to and from school and church.

If this project is approved, the philosophy of sacrificing established residential areas to accommodate suburban sprawl would be reinforced; the heart of Macon, and the quality of life in mature residential areas would be further eroded. Thank you in advance for your decision **not** to approve this plan!

Sincerely,

Name: *Mr. George M. Israel, Jr.*
Address: *4130 Forest Hill Ter.
Macon, Ga. 31210*

June 11, 2001

91

June 7, 2001

Mr. Larry R. Dreihaup, P.E. Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW
Suite 17T100
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: Proposed projects 8 and 9, Forest Hill Road, Macon, Georgia

Dear Sir:

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Sincerely,

Name: *Mr. George M. Israel Jr.*
Address: *4130 Forest Hill Ter.*
Macon, Ga 31206 31210

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Meeting Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

Freda C. Johnson
1189 Normandy Rd
Macon, GA 31216

Do you support the project?

I think we only need 2 lanes plus

Comments

The section of the proposal that talked about realigning Normandy Rd and Glenhill Court caused questions because according to the map they had not been realigned to create a four-way stop. I spoke to Mr. P. LaTina and he said he would check into the situation.

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio _____

Newspaper _____

Signs

Word of Mouth _____

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community _____

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you _____

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? Not completely

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? ~~Yes~~

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings? _____

Forest Hill Road Project
June 11, 2001

Johnson
92

To Whom It May Concern:

We have concerns about the proposed Forest Hill widening project; it is a waste of money and an intrusion into our neighborhood. We prefer it to remain a neighborhood road. Northside Drive and Zebulon RD both had commercial development **BEFORE** the roads were widened. Other than at the intersection with Northside DR. there is no commercial development on Forest Hill RD.

Some changes do need to be made to make the **EXISTING** traffic flow more smoothly. We do feel that a turn lane at Newport Road is necessary to facilitate school traffic flow. Lanes do not need to be made 13 feet wide; if less than 11 feet is good enough for interstates, it's good enough for our neighborhood. There also need to be turn lanes at Forest Hill / Old Lundy fork and Forest Hill at Wimbish RD. (some have already made one there) The road going into the Northside Hospital needs to be made **ONE WAY**. If I remember the reason a road was put there was because in an emergency our neighborhood needed quick access to the hospital. No one should be allowed to enter Forest Hill Road from that road, especially when a left turn is such a hazard. Then the intersection of Forest Hill and Ridge needs to be redone with directional signals and turn lanes. Log Cabin going into Napier used to back up for blocks, but a simple turn lane and left turn signal light certainly solved that problem.

Our city has other pressing needs for our funds. Making a super highway out of a neighborhood road is not one of them. This is a residential road; if people want to go to the Mall, Riverside Dr., Interstate 75 and Forsyth RD. will take them there quickly. We do not want nor need the speeding, reckless driving that is such a problem on both the superhighways known as Northside Dr. and Zebulon RD.

We feel that the design for this project needs to be rethought.

Sincerely,

Areda C. Johnson

1189 Normandy Rd
Macon, GA 31210

June 11, 01

As a concerned citizen who lives on Riverdale Dr., I highly reject the proposed concept of closing the Prods, Overlook Ave. and Hurry Lane. This would place a very heavy traffic burden on Riverdale, Albemarle, Belvidere and Ridge Ave.

We on Riverdale have young children on every other street. It is an awful

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Also, no one has to park it just since Riverdale

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(4 yrs), free the corner and Ridge. The high volume of traffic and trucks going through our street to overlook Rd. and to the connection from Stinville to Riverside Drive is awful. I think as a property owner we have already suffered enough damages with the traffic we have at present.

* (opposed to widening Forest Hill Rd.)

Sincerely,
Edward S. Jones
221 Riverdale Drive

Jones, 2-

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Meeting Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT

Name

Margie & Ed Jones

Address

2211 Riverdale Dr.

Macon, Ga. 31204

Do you support the project?

No - No - No

Comments

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio _____

Newspaper

Signs

Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend?

Yes

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community _____

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend?

Yes

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you _____

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? _____

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? _____

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings? _____

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Meeting Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT

Name Dr Robert H Jones
Address 285 Riverdale Dr
Union, GA 31204

Do you support the project? no

Comments I'm concerned about the impact this project will have on traffic on Riverdale and Abernethy as well as increased traffic on Ridge and Overlook if you make the Road and Overlook and de/sans One avenue of traffic between Riverdale and Abernethy (a paved public alley) has been illegal blockaded by 4 neighbors and made into a private driveway. We complained to the city

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio _____ Newspaper
Signs _____ Word of Mouth _____
traffic engineer's office but have yet to receive a reply

I would prefer that Overlook continue as
Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? yes

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community _____
a rural road entering in the 3x4 lane
Vineville Ave and Northside Drive

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? yes
If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you _____

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? _____

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? yes

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings? _____

Georgia Department of Transportation Public Meeting Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT

Name

Ed L Jones

Address

1360 FOREST HILL

Do you support the project?

NO

Comments

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio

Newspaper

Signs

Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend?

YES

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend?

YES

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel?

YES

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?

NO

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

HAVE LAW STOP SPEEDER -
HAVE BEEN LIVING ON FOREST HILL FOR
43 YRS

To The Georgia Department of Transportation:

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RE: The proposed widening of Forest Hill road
Macon, Georgia

Position: AGAINST

I am a property owner and something of a business owner who would be considerably adversely affected by the proposed widening of this road. I live on Newport Road, which is almost to the Northside end of Forest Hill Road. I am up and down Forest Hill Road many times a day. I don't see the need for widening. There is seldom any backlog of traffic, like there was on Northside Drive before it was widened.


In addition, I am a parent/owner of the parent owned corporation that operates as Montessori of Macon, 436 Forest Hill Road. This proposed widening would make it a lot more difficult to get in and out of the school (which I do up to five times per day). I think new parents would be hesitant to enroll in a school going through the turmoil that we just recently saw for the widening of Vineville/Forsyth Road.

In short, I drive constantly on the portions of Forest Hill that would be affected by this proposal. The amount of traffic I see does not warrant any sort of drastic alterations as is presented in this proposal. Leave Forest Hill as it is.

Angelia Jordan



Greg Jordan



1211 Newport Road
Macon, Georgia 31210

June 20, 2001

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To: Mr. Harvey D. Keepler
State Environment and Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

From: Balint Kacsoh, MD PhD
Associate Professor of Anatomy,
Physiology and Pediatrics
Division of Basic Medical Sciences and
Department of Pediatrics
Mercer University School of Medicine
1550 College Street
Macon, GA 31207
Phone: 478-301-2225
Fax: 478-301-5487 or -5489
E-mail: Kacsoh_B@mercer.edu
Home: 902 Hill Place
Macon, GA 31210
Phone: 478-474-3251

Re: Proposed reconstruction of Forest Hill Road from Vineville Avenue to Northside Drive in
Macon, Bibb County

Dear Mr. Keepler,

I have learned about the proposed project and your name was given to me as a contact person. My home is at the corner of Hill Place and Forest Hill Road, therefore I am among those, who are most immediately affected by the proposed project.

I am adamantly opposed to the road widening project for the following reasons:

1. The wider road would further increase traffic on Forest Hill Road. As it is, Forest Hill Road traffic generates more than enough pollution and noise pollution for my home. With higher traffic, the road moved closer to my house, and the necessary removal of the shrubbery that decreased noise and pollution, two of our four bedrooms would be directly exposed to higher levels of noise, dust and fuel emissions.

2. The closer placed road and the pedestrian sidewalk will decrease personal and property security. Currently the garbage disposed of by bypassing traffic falls mostly on the road-side of the existing shrubbery. It is already an unhappy duty to remove it - otherwise it would pile up (the city is not too eager to clean it up or enforce the law about littering) and would encourage further littering (not that people need much encouragement for this). The absence of sidewalks has helped to keep away some undesirable types of people getting too close to our property and our small children playing in the garden. In addition, we felt safe to have our dogs to be with us in the garden. With the proposed changes, we would be forced to put up a fence, something we did not want to do in part because of the expense, and in part because it would make the gas meter inaccessible for readings. Even if the fence would be paid for by the County, regrowing the protective shrubbery would require 15 to 20 years.

3. My understanding is that part of my property would be taken away, and I would be reimbursed for its market value. However, this entire project will make my entire home less than desirable to live in, and that will impact either my quality of life there, or my ability to sell it. Even if I find a buyer, my property value will significantly decrease. For your information, I enclose a paper I recently received from the County, in which I was notified that my property value has INCREASED, and my property tax will go up. This alerts me to the fact that either the various branches of government are unaware of each other's activities, or that the local government is ready to sacrifice any tax payer's rights to fairness.

Knowing how this system operates, I have no illusion that the citizens can stop it, and the road widening project will proceed in spite of public objection. With all that said, I reiterate that I am opposed to the road widening. Should it happen, however, I will demand the following:

1. The County of Bibb pays for a fence of my choice and appropriately improved sound and dust insulation of my home (including insulation in the walls and replacement of all windows and doors with an appropriate upgrade).
2. The County of Bibb reimburses me for any part of the lot that is lost to construction. The basis of the value is NOT the current (decreased) market value, but what the market value would have been without a plan for widening Forest Hill Road.
3. The County of Bibb provides me with a full reimbursement for the decrease in my property value that resulted from the project. This includes:
 - The difference in the estimated value of the property in the absence of a road widening project (starting value of the property is as listed by the tax commissioner's attached paper, plus overall real estate price adjustment for North Macon excluding the Forest Hill Road or similarly affected areas) and the actual amount for which the property is sold.
 - Any increase in my insurance premium that may result from having the road closer to my home (increased risk of accidents, fire and burglary).
4. My property value must be adjusted for tax purposes immediately upon approval to move ahead with the road widening project. This means the date of approval, not the date of the start of construction, because if and when the project is approved, I will start trying to sell this home, but its market price will already be affected. I am not ready to pay high taxes to the County on a property that lost value because of an action by the County against my expressed will and against the will of most of us in this area.

In short, if the County wants Forest Hill Road to be widened, the County must foot the bill. I am not here not foot the bill that is beneficial mostly to real estate developers and speculators, and not the home owners and residents of the neighborhood being affected.

Sincerely,



Balint Kacsóh, M.D., Ph.D.

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If not Delivered
After 5 Days return to
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TAX ASSESSORS

**TAX ASSESSMENT
NOTICE**

653 SECOND STREET
MACON, GEORGIA 31201

PROPERTY ADDRESS

0902 HILL PL

8327

MAP NO
MO44

MAP CODE
403 J1

RTNO
0039

ACCT. NO	K00240-001	
PRIOR YEAR VALUE	<u>100%</u> 109,080	<u>40%</u> 43,632
RETURN VALUE		
CURRENT YEAR VALUE	128,400	51,360

HOMESTEAD EX. 7,000
TAX DISTRICT 1
TAX YEAR 2001
TODAYS DATE 06/01/2001

THIS IS NOT
A
TAX BILL

OFFICIAL TAX MATTER

DELIVER TO:

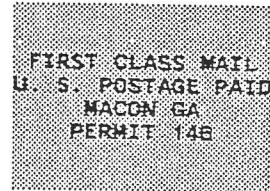
KACSOH BALINT
902 HILL PL

MACON

GA 31210-3329

REASON FOR CHANGE - REVALUATION
FOR INFORMATION CALL (478)742-2254 SANFORD EDWARDS

31210X3329 EA



98

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Meeting Comment Card

PLEASE PRINT

Name GENE + JANET KELLY
Address 148 TEN KNOLLS DR
MACON
GA 31210
Janet & Gene Kelly
148 Ten Knolls Dr.
Macon, GA 31210-3428

Do you support the project? NOT ENTIRELY BUT KNOW THERE IS A NEED
FOR ACCESS AND DESIGN CHANGE

Comments OUR MAIN CONCERN WITH THIS IS TRUCK
TRAFFIC - ESPECIALLY "18 WHEELERS" IS THERE
CONSIDERATION TO MAKE FOREST HILL RD "OFF-LIMITS"
TO THEIR USE? BECAUSE IT IS STILL A NEIGHBORHOOD
ROAD & A PORTION WITH A STEEP HILL THIS IS
A REAL PROBLEM - BIG & HEAVY TRUCKS. WE LIVE IN
THE AREA AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio _____ Newspaper
Signs Word of Mouth _____

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? yes
If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community _____

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? yes
If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you _____

We only attended the informational time - not
the meeting

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? _____

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? _____

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings? _____

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Meeting Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT

Name Ruth B. Kennedy
Address 3891 The Prado
Macon, Ga. 31204

Do you support the project? NO!!

Comments I support project # 2. I am opposed to closing the entrance to the Prado!! and Overlook Dr. It would be a disadvantage to the residents on the Prado in the event of a fire on the street. The engine would go down Ridge Ave. left over to Overlook. And left off to the Prado. How stupid!! By that time my house - second on the Prado off Forest Hill Rd would burn down. This whole thing is a stupid mess - why not make these do this to Wesleyan Drive - ? Pollution, noise

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio _____ Newspaper _____

All my neighbors & Signs _____ Word of Mouth
Others _____ My neighbor - Joe + Alice Patterson.

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? yes

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community _____

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? O.K.

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you _____

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? yes ?

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? ?

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings? _____

People who walk will walk in the residential neighborhood. Why do we need sidewalks along an Expressway? P.S. Why not direct traffic northside Dr. to Wesleyan or continue on northside Dr. on to Kivali Dr. I don't consider this destruction of property an improvement

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Meeting Comment Card

PLEASE PRINT

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Name MARILYN KILDANY
Address 4135 WOOD FOREST PLACE
MACON GA 31210

Do you support the project? PARTLY

Comments NO NEED FOR A SIDEWALK! PUT IN A BICYCLE
LANE INSTEAD! and PLEASE ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS!

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio _____ Newspaper _____
Signs _____ Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes
If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community _____

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes
If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you _____

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? Yes + a neighbor too

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? Yes

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings? _____
SHORTER FORMS!