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Fwd: Beatties Ford Road theWidening Project

teg4ph@aol.com [teg4ph@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 6:11 PM

To: teg4ph@aol.com

Cc: Steve Johnston

Again.....we'll see what happens!!!!!!

From: teg4ph@aol.com

To: mayor@charlottenc.gov

Sent: 12/22/2014 3:43:39 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

Subj: Fwd: Beatties Ford Road theWidening Project

Mayor Clodfelter.....

The attached email again reflects specifics concerning our request for accommodation that many, many citizens feel is such a simple matter that should have been fully resolved long ago.

As you saw and heard for yourself when you took the time to ride through this 800 foot segment with me on Dec 5; which included your also hearing concerns expressed by Atty. Patricia King of King Funeral Home, it is so unfortunate and unnecessary that this issue remains a dissatisfaction to so many in this area.

Again, we are hopeful that you can provide input to assist that can quickly lead to the closure we seek.

Optimistically,

Paul Holmes

www.teg4me.com/bfr

From: teg4ph@aol.com

To: aaustin@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Sent: 12/22/2014 2:47:01 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

Subj: Beatties Ford Road theWidening Project

Council member Al Austin.....

Are you representing us, or what? We (your constituents/voters) need your representation. Again, **"just tell 'em NO, Al"**.

As I stated during my opening remarks at the recent Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, the purpose of our requesting the session was four-fold; **1)**, transparently inform those in attendance with generic specifics of our request concerning the concrete median; **2)**, constructively advise you of our full dissatisfaction with your overall representation based primarily on your lack of positive, collective communication with us (likely due to your apparent lack of measurably successful progress in spite of your statement in an email 11 months ago (I hope to have an answer soon. Paul I would ask that you give me a chance to make this right...which I will. Alvin.") ; **3)**, again, constructively advise you of simple, positive steps (that included a firm, and even aggressive attitude behind the statement of **"just tell 'em NO, Al"**) we feel you need to take to firmly ensure that you declare (or obtain, or fight for, if you have to) approval for our request, and **4)**, collectively hear from you for the first time since June at King Funeral Home..... when you stated you would get back to us in a couple of weeks. Are you representing us, or what? We (your constituents/voters) need your representation. Again, **"just tell 'em NO, Al"**.

Unfortunately however, you diverted the first seven of your allotted ten minutes' to the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT).....the very department that initiated denial 2 years ago,

allowing them to make a presentation. You then spent your remaining three minutes essentially repeating the message of defense they are hiding behind.....and that is "concrete medians offer safety for this project". Unrolling, then taping up their large 8 foot street diagram, and stating broad safety factors that were neither relevant, nor comparable to our 800 foot segment was purposely diverting. This was followed with your comments that referenced full access via the cut-through in the concrete median in front of King Funeral Home, along with traffic signals at both Capps Hill Mine Road and Slater Road.

The above factors, along with all of the **misleading, incorrect, and non-relevant information** in the 9 page document **YOU** distributed was intentionally designed, and came across as a shell game type of format, to give the impression that much has been accomplished. So, so, so untrue!

The meetings' format did not allow for my rebuttal or response to statements made by city staff. Yet, even with all the dialogue you claim has occurred.....there is still a concrete median in the design.....along with the **unsightly cut-through** we have clearly also opposed all along. You indicated there are no longer any limitations as to when it can be accessed.....but..... it is still in the design. Your document also states it is there to "restrict other drivers not going into the funeral home from making a U-turn". Well.....**if that's what you really want to do**, simply eliminate the 800 foot concrete median and install a painted median (as we requested in the first place). Then, those "other drivers" can just pull into the median to enter and exit their own driveways, church and businesses..... without having to go to Capps Hill Mine Road or Slater Road (or the funeral home) to make a U-turn. By the way.....those "other drivers" are only the same few residents, business clientele, or church congregants your concrete median is inconveniencing in the first place!

Consider.....**King Funeral Home** and the church property (**Lirio de los Valles**) is within 200 feet **NORTH** of Capps Hill Mine Road. Conversely.....there is a funeral home (**Wayne Russell**) and a church (**Reeder Memorial**) only 450 feet **SOUTH** of Capps Hill Mine Road. Via a painted median (exactly what we have requested), their clientele and congregants are **NOT** subjected to a cut-through or U-turns (thank goodness; or maybe, thank CDOT). They **SAFELY** enter and exit every single day.....not to mention the minimum 150 plus cars entering and leaving the church **EVERY** Sunday! **So, why would CDOT design, then, unfairly maintain conflicting traffic patterns within the SAME 650 feet of roadway that impacts two of the SAME types of properties? Then, on top of that, when a few constituents/voters, followed by many, many constituents/voters ask in a nice manner to please change the design.....only 650 feet down the SAME street to a SAME painted median.....we are refused for now nearly 36 months via a still unsubstantiated excuse! If it's safe there, then how is it suddenly UNSAFE only 650 feet away.....on the SAME street.....with 90% of the SAME vehicles going by? Go figure!**
By the way....Pastor Don Steger of Reeder, and Wayne & Anita Russell signed our petition last year, and remain supportive of our request.

Just last year (8 months after our initial request), and only 1.6 miles **SOUTH** of Capps Hill Mine Road, CDOT installed concrete medians within a 900 foot segment that included a funeral home (**Long & Son**) and a church (**House of Prayer**). Fortunately no concrete median, or cut-through, or traffic signals "that don't meet the typical requirements" were installed in front of them! In fact, those concrete medians were strategically placed so that only one of the 29 businesses (**Rudean's**) was negatively impacted. **(29 businesses and a church in that 900 foot segment....versus 2 businesses and a church in our 800 foot segment.....and safety is the reason we have to have a cut-through, driveways blocked to make U-turns, and traffic signals ("that don't meet the typical requirements") installed? Why didn't CDOT install a concrete median and/or cut-through in front of Bank of America (right across the street from Rudean's)or a cut-through to enter and exit the Char Meck library? Not to mention McDonald's or Burger King or the Wells Fargo ATM drive-thru! And.....if Chiquita Banana, or Electrolux, or Met Life, or Mercedes-Benz were locating a small facility in this 800 foot section, we truly do not believe you would install a concrete median with a cut-through, thereby causing clientele and/or employees to have to make U-turns.....especially **if** they had to ask you not to!**

Al.....why are you willing to agree with CDOT to spend additional money for an un-attractive cut-through, traffic signals at two intersections "that don't meet the typical requirements", and a unnecessary driveway (mine),and then claim you are truly accommodating? All you fairly and sensibly and economically have to do to "accommodate" (from the \$14 million project you keep touting) is spend a lot less money and install the 800 foot painted median as we originally requested. Are you representing us, or what? We (your constituents/voters) need and are pleading for your representation. Do you NOT hear us? However, I honestly feel that you DO feel "us"so, please.....represent "us"!

Per CDOT information YOU have publicly distributed three times this year, your/CDOT's "accommodations" also **ADD A MINIMUM OF \$50,000 TO THE TOTAL COST**. On that same page **OUR REQUEST WOULD ELIMINATE A MINIMUM OF \$93,000 FROM THE TOTAL**

COST. Go figure! That same document reflects CDOT's strict adherence to "guidelines" (USDG). Yet, they are now proposing/supporting a flagrant, purposeful act ("accommodation") of ignoring "requirements" (as in "**does not meet the typical requirements**").....via installation of traffic signals at both intersections. Again.....are you satisfied with this "accommodation" after one year? We are not....after 3 years!

Again, "**just tell 'em NO, Al**". Unfortunately and unnecessarily, this is a fight, Al.....you saw that even in the months before you officially entered the ring almost one year ago. Our claim is that safety is not an issue here in the first 800 foot segment of the project between **Capps Hill Mine Road and Slater Road**. Since CDOT now claims safety IS the issue, where is documentation/data to confirm that? Or, are you giving them a blank check and just taking their word for it? Have you asked for it, and/or has it been provided to you? If so, why have you/they not shared it with us? Going into this third year, no safety documentation has ever been provided by you and/or CDOT.

Again, "**just tell 'em NO, Al**"! We (your constituents/voters) need your representation. This is 2014.....and we are refusing to cave in (and, nor should you) to the city's track record of traditional/historical inconsideration of constituent/voter input for matters of this nature on the west side.....specifically along the Beatties Ford Road corridor. Our having to go through all this for a simple accommodation of a painted median for 800 feet at the beginning of a project is unfair and archaic. You ought NOT allow this to happen on your watch!

Again, "**just tell 'em NO, Al**"! We (your constituents/voters) need your representation. I repeat....."We (your constituents/voters) need your representation". Also reminding you again.....for the umpteenth time.....the "we" is not just me, Paul Holmes. The "we" are also my immediate neighbors/property owners in this 800 foot section who are directly/negatively impacted, as well as over 400 others who have signed petitions, and/or sent emails, and/or made phone calls to you and/or your predecessor. Also, several "notable" others within the political, business, faith, and educational communities (including a widely recognized city design expert) have taken the time to personally visit with us (as you have) to closely observe our 800 foot segment. They are in agreement with and remain supportive of our request.

It is our firm, collective desire to meet with you as soon as possible after the holidays. Hopefully, you can provide for the first time, the documentation that clarifies and/or otherwise substantiates how safety would be compromised if our simple, yet safe, and economical request is accommodated.

Paul Holmes
www.teg4me.com/bfr

PS.....Please also note this very important item; Al, you are not Thom Tillis and I am not Kay Hagan, or vice versa, running for a US Senator from NC position. So, therefore, discontinue distributing written material or responding to telephone or in-person median inquiries with information concerning me that is (both or either) not about, or irrelevant to the issue concerning the median; and/or, knowingly factually untrue, and therefore intentionally and/or resultantly misleading. That is all unnecessary. That is all not nice. Stay on target..... stay focused.....proudly and positively and honestly represent your constituents/voters. We are proudly and positively and honestly asking and holding you accountable to do just that!