

Advance Knox was not conducted as promised. It started out fine but over time it was clear that resident input was not being heard. Advance Knox serves only one purpose, to increase housing density in rural areas of Knox County.

I believe that is an irresponsible goal. People are literally dying on rural Knox County roads that have been overbuilt. It has been over twenty years that Knox County Commission promised to four lane Northshore Drive. Only now because of intense public demand from the people of Choto will Northshore be widened two feet per lane from the Concord roundabout to the Choto Road roundabout.

That is not enough. Northshore Drive needs to have a turn lane from the Concord roundabout to the Choto Road roundabout. That is the only way traffic accident victims can be reached in time.

It is almost impossible for ambulances to reach traffic accident victims in a timely manner when there are serious car crashes in the Choto area. Once they do reach the accident victim, they are transported to an Emergency Room that is critically overcrowded. It is not uncommon that accident victims are held outside in the ambulance because there are no open beds in the ER. To increase housing density with the current ER crisis is malpractice.

Loudon County has limited density to two units per acre in rural areas. In Knox County it is three units per acre. How can the Planning Commission in good faith approve Advance Knox when it will raise the housing density much higher than three units per acre?

Choto is a suburb of Farragut. Not Knoxville. Every new car in Choto is a car making multiple trips in Farragut because Choto has no grocery stores, large churches, or schools. Farragut provides those services. Farragut has five current schools in a two-and-a-half-mile radius and a new school that will be built soon. Four of these schools are on Kingston Pike within two miles.

Traffic in Farragut is approaching gridlock. Increasing housing density in Choto will further exacerbate the problem. In 2020 the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted down the Growth Policy Plan for this very reason. Should the Planning Commission approve Advance Knox the people of Farragut will strongly ask the current Board of Mayor and Aldermen to vote down this Growth Policy Plan on March 14th.

Rural Metro cannot keep up with current growth. The ambulance service cannot keep up with the current growth. The Emergency Rooms are critically overburdened with no solution in sight. The Sheriff's Department has suspended investigating automobile accidents due to a lack of officers. Knox County infrastructure cannot accommodate Advance Knox.

This has gone past a quality of life issue. It is now a matter of life or death.

I ask you to do the right thing and vote down Advance Knox.

Mike Mitchell

Farragut Citizens for Responsible Growth and Development