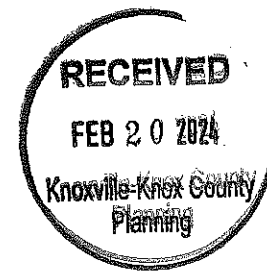


February 13, 2024

To the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission:



The Calvary Chapel Church, on John Sevier Highway, is proposing to build a new sanctuary by 2027. The church intends to construct a new road that would connect their existing entrance road on John Sevier Highway to Topside Road.

As a resident of the Anchorage Subdivision, and a retired pastor of a growing mega church in Knox County, I am uniquely qualified to understand both sides of this project. As the Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church on Oak Ridge Highway, we requested a similar reconstruction of a portion of Beaver Ridge Road around the church. A couple of the residents in the neighborhood voiced their opposition to the changes and shared them at a Commission meeting.

The vote was positive and allowed us to build the new road and improve the safety for our children who needed to cross the road to get to the church. It also improved the traffic flow for hundreds of Grace Christian Academy students. Once the residents witnessed the improvements that were made, they no longer complained about the new road.

Also, the growth of the church was a tremendous benefit to the growth of the business community on Oak Ridge Highway, and the housing developments in the community. The owner of the McDonalds franchise built a restaurant across the highway from the church. He told us he built there because of the growth of the church. Many other businesses have moved into the community since then.

A church can be an amazing catalyst for growth in a community. Some of the residents in our neighborhood may attend the church. Traffic will only be increased on Sunday mornings when there is usually limited traffic on East Topside Road.

I believe the new road will not only help the church it will be an asset to the community.

Thank You,

Dr. Ron Stewart & Emily Herrod-Stewart
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