

To the Knox County Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recent decision to re-route traffic from the new apartment complex and condo subdivision through our established neighborhood. As a homeowner whose family has called this community home for over 30 years, I have deep concerns about the implications of this decision on our safety and quality of life.

Our neighborhood was never designed to handle the influx of 900 to 2000 cars per day. The narrow streets and lack of infrastructure make it entirely unsuitable for such heavy traffic. The proposed re-routing will inevitably lead to congestion, increased noise, and a significant degradation of our living environment.

A major concern is the school bus stop that falls directly in the path of the redirected traffic. This poses an immediate safety risk to our children, who wait there every day. With the increased traffic, the likelihood of accidents rises dramatically, putting our youngest residents in harm's way.

Moreover, our neighborhood lacks sidewalks, forcing families and children to walk on the streets. The increase in traffic will make it perilous for them to enjoy simple, everyday activities like walking, biking, or playing outside. This decision compromises the safety and well-being of all residents, especially our children, who should feel safe in their own community.

In addition to the safety concerns previously mentioned, the proximity of our neighborhood to Pellissippi Parkway raises significant concerns about increased noise levels. The anticipated rerouting of traffic from the apartment complex and condo subdivision will exacerbate the noise pollution in our residential area, impacting the quality of life for all residents. The constant hum of traffic, combined with the already existing noise from the parkway, will create an environment that is far from the peaceful, family-friendly atmosphere we have enjoyed for decades.

Moreover, increased traffic often correlates with a rise in crime rates. Studies have shown that areas with higher traffic volumes can experience more criminal activities. For instance, the Office of Justice Programs highlights that increased vehicle stops and patrols can lead to higher crime rates in densely trafficked areas due to the visibility of potential targets and opportunities for crime. Similarly, the RAND Corporation's research indicates that increased traffic can indirectly contribute to crime by providing more opportunities for criminal activities such as theft and vandalism (see below for citation). This is a pressing concern for our neighborhood, which has maintained a low crime rate over the years. The proposed traffic reroute not only jeopardizes our safety but also threatens to alter the character and security of our community.

In light of these considerations, we strongly urge the Knox County Commission to reconsider the decision to reroute traffic through our established neighborhood. The potential risks to safety, increased noise pollution, and the possibility of rising crime rates make this an ill-advised move that could irreversibly damage the fabric of our community. We appeal to the Commission to explore alternative solutions that do not compromise the well-being of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Courtney Quist

Sources Cited :

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/relationship-between-police-presence-and-crime-deterrence>

<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/essays/firearm-prevalence-violent-crime.html>