



WILDWOOD

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Public Safety

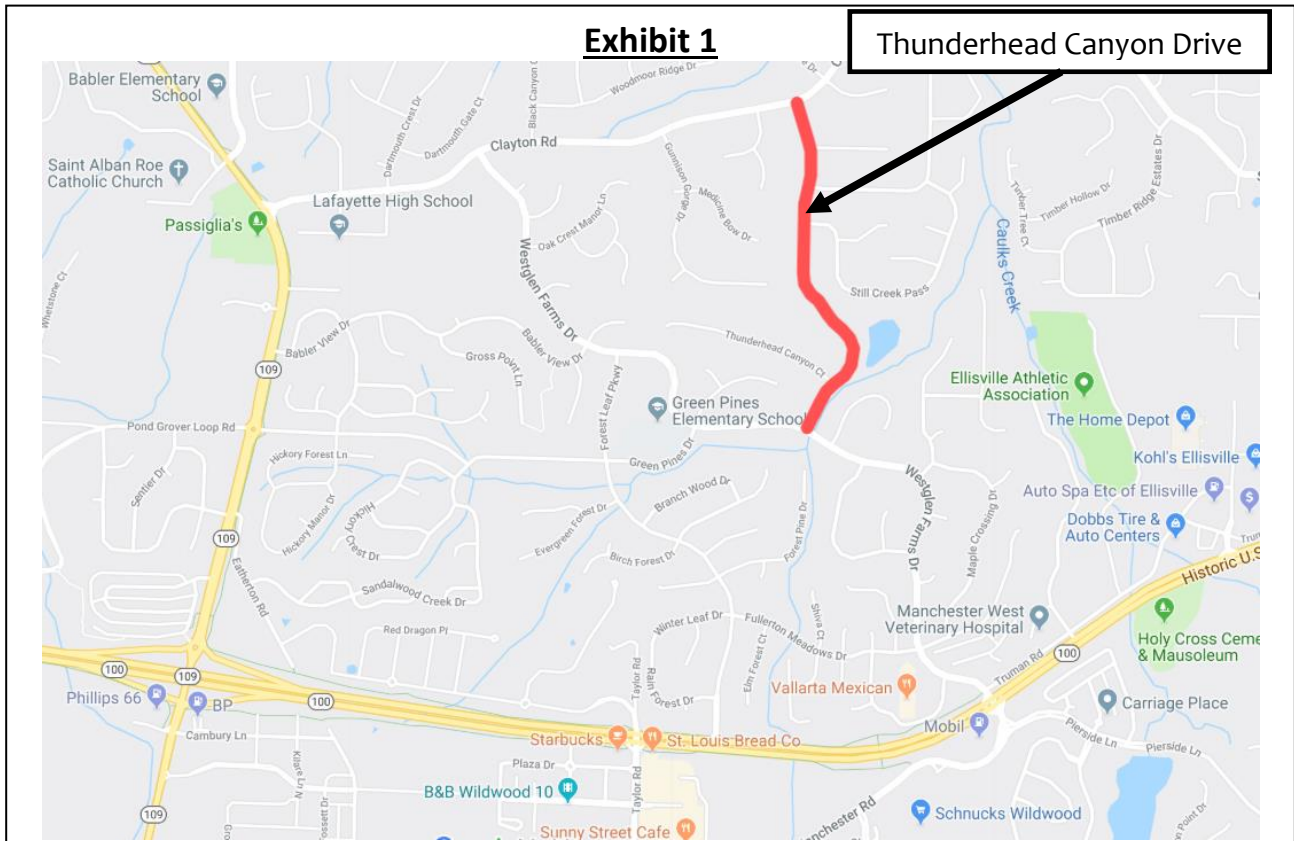
From: Rick Brown, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

Date: October 9, 2019

Re: Thunderhead Canyon Drive Traffic Concerns

At a recent Coffee with the Mayor, a resident raised concerns about the amount of traffic on Thunderhead Canyon Drive, and more specifically the amount of cut-through traffic on Thunderhead Canyon Drive. The location of Thunderhead Canyon Drive is shown below (see **Exhibit 1**).

Thunderhead Canyon Drive serves as a connector street between Clayton Road on the north and Westglen Farms Drive on the south. As a result, traffic heading to and from the east on Clayton Road, tends to utilize Thunderhead Canyon Drive to access Westglen Farms Drive and other streets to the south.



To evaluate this concern, the Department of Public Works recently completed a traffic study of Thunderhead Canyon Drive, which included two components: traffic counting and an origin/destination survey.

Traffic Count

The Department completed a three-day, 24-hour traffic count of Thunderhead Canyon Drive, just north of Thunderhead Canyon Ct., for the days of September 24-26, 2019. The results of this study is shown below (please see **Exhibit 2**). For comparison, we have included a previous traffic count from just over one year earlier (September 18-20, 2018), which is shown below (please see **Exhibit 3**).

Exhibit 2

Traffic Count Data			
Thunderhead Canyon Drive			
September 24-26, 2019			
Direction	Southbound	Northbound	Total
	3141	3206	6347
AWT=	1050	1070	2120
AWTT=	21	18	40
% Trucks=	2.00%	1.68%	1.89%

AWT = Average Weekday Traffic

AWTT = Average Weekday Truck Traffic

Exhibit 3

Traffic Count Data			
Thunderhead Canyon Drive			
September 18-20, 2018			
Direction	Southbound	Northbound	Total
	2907	3137	6044
AWT=	970	1050	2020
AWTT=	17	20	37
% Trucks=	1.75%	1.90%	1.83%

AWT = Average Weekday Traffic

AWTT = Average Weekday Truck Traffic

As can be seen above, the average weekday traffic on Thunderhead Canyon Drive, at the count location, was 2,120 vehicles per day in 2019 and 2,020 vehicles per day in 2018. It should be noted that this traffic volume is high for a residential street. As a “rule of thumb”, a weekday traffic volume of 1,000 vehicles per day, could be considered a maximum desirable traffic volume for a residential street.

Origin/Destination Survey

To investigate the issue of cut-through traffic, the Department completed an “origin/destination survey” of traffic traveling between Clayton Road to State Route 100. The goal of the survey was to determine the amount of cut-through (or non-local) traffic that utilizes Thunderhead Canyon Drive to connect between Clayton Road and Route 100 or between Clayton Road and Westglen Farms Drive.

To complete the survey, city staff observed traffic at three (3) locations during one hour of the morning (7-8 AM) and one hour of the evening (5-6 PM). City staff recorded the license plate numbers and noted the time of vehicles passing their individual survey locations. After the data was obtained, the license plate numbers were matched to determine if vehicles traveling on Thunderhead Canyon Drive traveled from State Route 100 to Clayton Road, or Westglen Farms to Clayton Road. The results of this effort are shown below.

Thunderhead Canyon Drive Origin Destination Survey (09/25/19_**Clayton Rd. to Westglen Farms Dr. Cut-Through Traffic**

Morning 7-8 AM			
Direction	Traffic Count	Number of Cut Through	Percentage of Cut-Through Traffic (%)
Northbound	202	86	42.6
Southbound	63	25	39.7
Total	265	111	41.9
Evening 5-6 PM			
Direction	Traffic Count	Number of Cut Through	Percentage of Cut-Through Traffic (%)
Northbound	120	44	36.7
Southbound	231	92	39.8
Total	351	136	38.8

Clayton Rd. to State Route 100 Cut-Through Traffic

Morning 7-8 AM			
Direction	Traffic Count	Number of Cut Through	Percentage of Cut-Through Traffic (%)
Northbound	302	19	6.3
Southbound	289	8	2.7
Total	591	27	4.6
Evening 5-6 PM			
Direction	Traffic Count	Number of Cut Through	Percentage of Cut-Through Traffic (%)
Northbound	183	15	8.2
Southbound	297	35	11.8
Total	480	50	10.4

Results Summary

Clayton Road / State Route 100:

- Between 5-6 PM, there were 50 vehicles (10.4%) traveling on Thunderhead Canyon Drive that ultimately traveled between Clayton Road and State Route 100.
- Between 7-8 AM, there were 27 vehicles (4.6%) that traveled between Clayton and State Route 100.

Clayton Road / Westglen Farms:

- Between 5-6 PM, there were 136 vehicles (38.8%) traveling on Thunderhead Canyon Drive that ultimately traveled between Clayton Road and State Route 100.
- Between 7-8 AM, there were 111 vehicles (41.9%) that traveled between Clayton and State Route 100.

Based on the survey results, it appears that “cut-through” traffic, between Clayton Road to State Route 100, is occurring in both the AM and PM peak periods, although it is occurring more frequently during the evening (PM) period.

The Department would acknowledge that it does not have a recommendation that would reduce the amount of “cut-through” traffic on Thunderhead Canyon Drive. In fact, reducing the traffic may not be possible, at least to a significant degree, without creating other non-desirable outcomes, such as diverting traffic onto other residential streets, or eliminating through access altogether. For this matter to be fully evaluated, the Department would recommend hiring a qualified engineering firm to analyze this problem and recommend possible solutions.

I will be available for questions or comments on this matter at the October 10th, 2019 Board of Public Safety meeting.

RCB