



Inverness Master Homeowners Association



4 Office Park Circle, Suite #106
Birmingham, Al 35223
205-991-1575
January 30, 2007

Ms. Jennifer Trammel
Director
Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce
1301 County Services Drive
Pelham, AL 35124

Dear Ms. Trammel:

The Inverness Master Homeowners Association represents 1300 homeowners in the Inverness Community of Hoover. I am writing to request the support of the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, through the Alabama Department of Transportation, for a greenway paralleling Valleydale Road.

Valleydale Road is scheduled for upgrading in the very near future. As part of the project, the ALDOT approved a six-foot concrete sidewalk paralleling Valleydale Road from Caldwell Mill Road to US 280. The sidewalk is fully funded by the City of Hoover. We ask that ALDOT approve a 10-foot greenway. The proposed greenway will connect the greater community to the new Spain Park as well as area businesses.

We are very proud that Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos and Shelby County Commissioner Larry Dillard are jointly supporting this project. Unfortunately, we have not been able to gain the support of ALDOT for the four additional feet for a greenway. We ask that ALDOT become a partner and support the community and local governments by approving a 10-foot greenway as opposed to a six-foot concrete sidewalk. There is only one opportunity to accomplish this work and that is now during the widening of Valleydale.

Since the main trunk of the greenway will parallel Valleydale, a six-foot sidewalk will be inadequate. To illustrate the problem, a six-foot wide concrete walk through Mountain Brook is worn slick on each side of the walk. The walk is several inches above the compacted shoulder. This is a safety hazard for children on bicycles as well as joggers. Greenways safely accommodate a greater variety of uses. For example, joggers do not like to run on concrete.

We see several significant benefits to this proposal.

1. The greenway provides families an alternative to driving to the newly constructed Spain Park on Valleydale Road. Families will be able to walk, jog, roller skate or ride bicycles from nearby neighborhoods to the park.
2. The greenway contributes to economic prosperity of family restaurants and ice cream shops located in each neighborhood commercial area.
3. The greenway provides a facility for children to exercise safely thus addressing the obesity issues of Alabama's children.
4. The greenway will provide the opportunity to expand Hoover's cross-country races at Spain Park. The three-day races were highly successful and contributed to the area economy.
5. Middle grade and high school students will have a continuous, safe route to Spain Park schools.
6. The greenway establishes a family ethic to improve air quality of Shelby County and Jefferson Country by leaving the car at home.

A study of the project in Inverness is presently funded through the Livable Communities initiative. Inverness, one of Alabama's first planned unit developments, is proposing a loop greenway that will parallel Inverness Parkway and Inverness Center Drive both connecting to the proposed greenway paralleling Valleydale Road from its intersection with US 280 and Caldwell Mill Road. The system will: 1) link two

neighborhood business centers- one at the intersection with Caldwell Mill Road and a second intersecting with US 280; 2) provide direct access to the new Spain Park, Spain Park Sports Complex, the new Inverness Park, Inverness Grade School, the Spain Park Middle School and High School, and Jefferson State Community College.

This project is a textbook example of a Livable Community Project. The land use along Valleydale Road is primarily residential, residential - commercial mix, apartments, churches, schools and parks. There are two professional office parks and several single office buildings for professionals.

We ask that the Chamber of Commerce support us by contacting the Alabama Department of Transportation to express your support. We will be pleased to brief you fully on our proposal. If you have any questions, please contact our board representative William R. Sweet at 205 980-2894.

Sincerely,

Noel Chambless
President

cc: Honorable Bob Riley
Honorable Jabo Waggoner
Honorable Mary Sue McClurkin
Honorable Tony Petelos
Honorable Larry Dillard
Alex Dudchock, Shelby County Manager