



Inverness Master Homeowners Association



4 Office Park Circle, Suite #106
Birmingham, AL 35223
205-991-1575
November 19, 2007

Honorable Tony Petelos
Mayor
City of Hoover
100 Municipal Drive
Hoover, AL 35216

Dear Mayor Petelos,

Thank you for meeting with Bill Ochsenhirt and me on October 29, 2007. It appears that you have decided to support the ten-foot greenway along Valleydale only if ALDOT provides enhancement funding.

My concern is that you are looking at the short-term costs and effort to redesign Valleydale. This road improvement is a long-term investment for our section of Hoover and its residents. You mentioned that parking at Veterans Park exceeded the capacity of the parking lot on a recent Sunday. Yesterday, my wife and I went to the park and the parking lot was likewise full. People were parking on the grass and under the trees at the volleyball court. A father and his young son (about 6 or 7 years old) were riding bikes on Jaguar Drive (presumably from the school parking lot) to the trails. People have no choice but to drive to the park. The greenway, being a multiple purpose facility, will allow for people to safely walk, skate, jog or bicycle to the park from surrounding neighborhoods. A six-foot sidewalk is simply inadequate to accommodate multiple users. Unfortunately, a six-foot sidewalk is an “engineering” solution rather than a “people” solution. When people meet, someone will always have to step off the sidewalk. It will be inadequate the day the project is completed.

We have discussed enhancement funds at length. I discussed enhancement funds with Mr. Davis at one of the highway 280 meetings. He said the first step is for him to receive a request for enhancement funds from the responsible official. Have you or your staff formally requested enhancement funds from ALDOT?

You mentioned future purchase of a ROW for the greenway. That will only be feasible if the design today allows for additional ROW acquisition tomorrow. Going back twice to the same landowners on the same project is not a cost effective use of public funds and most likely will not be well received.

I talked to Commissioner Larry Dillard on November 7, 2007. He continues to strongly support the construction of the greenway. Following our meeting of April 24, 2007, Tim Westhoven was going to provide Commissioner Dillard with costs of redesign and additional ROW acquisition to facilitate the greenway. Commissioner Dillard stated that he has yet to receive this information. Several alternatives were discussed including acquiring additional ROW, grading for the greenway and eliminating the six-foot wide sidewalk in the Valleydale contract. Shelby County would contract construction of the greenway following completion of the road improvements. I hope that Mr. Westhoven shared this information with you. Following our discussion with Mr. Westhoven and my recent discussion with Mr. Dillard, there is ample opportunity for the city to partner with the county to achieve the greenway with or without enhancement funds.

The greenway will enhance property values and make the area more attractive to homebuyers. It will stimulate businesses anchoring each end of the greenway. It will provide a safe mode of access from neighborhoods to the schools and the park. The study for the Inverness Greenway is nearing completion. We do not want a ten-foot greenway from Inverness intersecting with a six-foot concrete sidewalk along Valleydale. It is comparable to a four lane highway intersecting with a 2 two-lane highway. Now is the time to make a positive decision and move forward.

I request that you find a workable solution by scheduling a meeting with Commissioner Dillard, Mr. Brian Davis and myself to make the greenway a reality. If there is any concern that the people do not support the ten-foot greenway, I suggest that ALDOT host a public hearing to solicit input from the community. The hearing should address the use of enhancement funds to make the greenway a reality. The initial public hearings were in 2004. Conditions have dramatically changed in our area of Hoover since 2004, including the addition of Veterans Park, the expansion of Jefferson State Community College, the construction of a new high school and middle school at Spain Park and several new large subdivisions.

I look forward to your response. Please mail correspondence to me at 2040 Glen Eagle Lane, Hoover, AL 35242. My phone number is 205 980-2894.

Sincerely,

William R. Sweet
Greenway Coordinator
Inverness Master Homeowners Association

Enclosure: copy of correspondence with Tim Westhoven

cc: Mr. Noel Chambless, Inverness Master Homeowners Association
Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County Commission
Mr. Brian Davis, Division Engineer, Alabama Department of Transportation