

Johnson Road Project  
November 16, 2017

As a resident of the Eastwood area, I remain very concerned over the volume of new traffic that will be introduced into our area not only with this one project but the other projects in the pipeline.

Of primary concern is the ability of the life safety/fire vehicles to respond to emergencies. The Shelbyville Road/Johnson Road intersection clearly has major obstacles to overcome. If new projects continue to be viewed as “one off individual developments” an already overtaxed infrastructure will be in crisis.

The closest Fire Station to my home AND to these new homes is the Eastwood Fire Station. The quickest route would be Shelbyville Road and left on Johnson. However, if there is any traffic back-up at this intersection, minutes and perhaps a significant number of minutes could be added to the response time. I believe we all understand time of the essence in a medical or fire emergency, there can be no doubt that response time in large part determines outcome in a medical or fire emergency. In the late 70's, my parent's home caught fire. Their home was off Brownsboro Road and at that time the closest Fire Station was in St Matthews right next to the railroad tracks. I happened to know one of the volunteer firemen that responded and the first thing he said to me was “we could have saved so much more had we not been held up by a train,” **clearly time does matter**. And let's not forget, there are train tracks on Johnson!

Those of us that live and work in this area are all too familiar with the back-up caused by only one vehicle making a left onto Johnson from Shelbyville Road. Construction work, utility work or an accident only exacerbates the problem. When Aiken Road was closed due to utility work, we heard more and more residents complaining of 2-mile commutes taking over an hour.

Much of the infrastructure in Eastwood is two lane roads, yet it is this area that is experiencing the most dynamic growth. The safety of all our residents depends on a healthy balance of infrastructure improvements and population growth. The expanded Traffic Study suggests that this project will negatively impact our roads and residents. With all due respect, to knowingly invite grid-lock appears rather reckless and imprudent.

Of additional concern is the lack of any barrier or transition between the Johnson Road project and the existing Community of The Summit at Polo Fields. The Summit is contiguous to the new project however, according to the site map, there is no planned barrier or transition between the two communities. While there is planned open space and tree canopy within the Johnson Road project, these will not mitigate the impact or address issues such as outdoor lighting, lights from automobiles, loud noises, automobile exhaust, dust, dirt and storm water run-off for the residents of The Summit. Brasslin Avenue is perpendicular to and within feet of where Taunton Vale is to be extended. Brasslin has a significant grade and could potentially be negatively impacted by storm water run-off.

Consideration of a landscaped barrier or berm would be appropriate and benefit both communities. Additionally, as the communities are going to be so close to one another, perhaps single-story units would be advised on that row of new homes that abuts The Summit, this would allow at least a modicum of privacy for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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