

February 12, 2013

Howard Lazarus  
Director  
City of Austin  
Public Works Department

Lee Austin  
Engineer  
City of Austin  
Transportation Department

Dear Mr. Lazarus and Ms. Austin:

On behalf of the Hancock Neighborhood Association, Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Eastwoods Neighborhood Association, North University Neighborhood Association, the PTA at Lee Elementary School, and parents of the children on Carolyn Avenue, Texas Avenue, Woodrow Street, and Harris Avenue, we request that the City of Austin conduct a pedestrian and bike safety study of Harris Avenue, Woodrow Avenue, and Carolyn Avenue relating to Lee Elementary School.

Our concerns are twofold: the existing safety of school children and pre-school children going to and from Lee elementary school on school days and for evening activities as well as the safety of children who use daily and on weekends Lee School's playground. We call to your attention the proposed three duplex buildings to be constructed across from Lee Elementary School at 718, 720 and 722 Harris Avenue. Each of these duplex buildings will have the capacity to house six unrelated individuals, and a total of eighteen parking spaces located on the site will be accessed from the public alley on the rear of the property with entrance and exits on to Woodrow Avenue (see attached map). We believe these duplexes will escalate dramatically the already unsafe situation in this area.

We are asking the City to investigate the safety risks of these additional cars to pedestrians and those commuting via bicycle -- noting that, as with other duplexes of this nature, in addition to the 18, there could be up to 30 or 40 cars when considering those people who will be visiting the occupants of the duplexes.

We are informed that the City's planning and residential review department is now reviewing the duplex plans for potential permits. With this in mind, we ask the City to complete the safety evaluation before building permits are granted and to take it into consideration in reviewing applications.

We are also asking that the results of this safety investigation be provided to the Planning & Development Review Department and to members of the City Council and Mayor.

We are not experts on safety studies but we believe it is very important the study be

conducted in the morning during drop off hours for Lee students (between 7:30am and 8:30am) and afternoon during pick up hours for Lee students (between 2:30pm and 5:00pm), and at night when there are scheduled activities at Lee Elementary School.

For your information, we have attached a letter dated 11/12/10 from Rohini Kumarage, Public Works Project Manager, who at the request of residents of the Hancock Neighborhood conducted a safety study in regard to the use of Carolyn Avenue and Landon Lane as a staging area for materials and equipment for the construction of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street improvements. The City decided not to use these streets as staging areas, noting this "neighborhood is highly trafficked by pedestrians, especially neighborhood children, as they walk to and from Lee Elementary School." (see attached letter)

Signatures,



Kelsey Evans, PTA President  
Lee Elementary



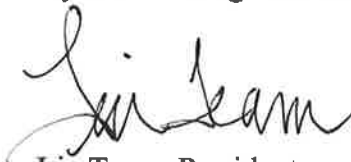
Michael Riley, President  
North University Neighborhood Association



John A. Williams, Co-President  
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Ashley Schweickart, Co-President  
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Lin Team, President  
Eastwoods Neighborhood Association



Carolyn Palaima, President  
Hancock Neighborhood Association

cc:

Mayor and City Council  
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager

**Greg Guernsey, Director of Planning and Development Review**

**Don Birkner, Assistant Director, Residential Review**

**Carol Gibbs, Neighborhood Advisor, City of Austin**

**Chris Moore, Child Safety Program, City of Austin Department of Public Works**

**Robert Spiller, Director of Transportation, City of Austin**