

Pam Alexander
4501 Mt. Carmel Road

Let me start by saying, I appreciate your doing the right thing when you were recently asked to approve a sidewalk waiver on East Parker where the new Arby's is going in. I was by there yesterday and was pleased to see that a sidewalk is under construction. Thank you for your decision on that matter!

As to this rezoning request on Southwest Drive. I don't have any problem with this request. It conforms to the City's current Land Use Plan, and as such, I support it. As for the larger issue of development along the Southwest Drive corridor, this road will be our city's next test for how we address the access management nightmare that now exists along Caraway, Stadium, and East Johnson. Our lax attitude towards curb cuts, setbacks, and parking are reflected in our city codes and ordinances and this attitude continues to contribute to lost opportunities at every construction site underway in Jonesboro today. Those lost opportunities translate into the 30, or 40, or 50 years that any given development will remain in place and puts Jonesboro that much farther behind towards being able to offer safety and connectivity for all its citizens, whether they move in vehicles, on bicycles, on motorized scooters or wheel chairs, or on foot.

The public deserves, at the very least, your verbal assurance that the Arkansas Department of Transportation will be part of the technical planning process to advise the developer as to whether or not the developer will be allowed to place a sidewalk in the Department's right of way PRIOR to the plan being submitted to the MAPC for site plan approval. And if, for some reason, a sidewalk cannot be placed in the transportation department's right of way, the public is owed your assurance that the site will be designed to conform with the ordinance and have a sidewalk placed within the property line.

This should be done for all proposed rezoning and development requests along the Transportation Department right of ways. The public needs to know this issue has been remedied once and for all and that we do not need to revisit this issue again. This is not an unreasonable expectation. I would also like your assurance that my request for your assurance is placed into the public record of this discussion.

Thank you.