

# **Ordinance 18:019**

**An ordinance to amend the 2018 budget  
and move \$2,000,000 dollars from the  
general fund reserves to capital  
improvement fund for STIP projects**

## PETITION AGAINST WIDENING HARRISBURG ROAD TO 5 LANES

We, the undersigned citizens of Jonesboro, Arkansas strongly oppose the widening of Harrisburg Road to a 5-lane road. The property that is proposed is on Harrisburg Road, south of Parker Road. We oppose this 5-lane widening for the following reasons:

1. For the most part, this is still a residential area. There are **ONLY 8** businesses on Harrisburg Road. After the ditch by the Exxon Station, there are no major businesses [REDACTED]. If you look at the other 5-lanes roads in Jonesboro- Highland Drive, Caraway, Red Wolf Blvd- businesses are lined up on both sides.

2. City Officials say that they **CANNOT JUSTIFY** a traffic signal at Forest Hill and Harrisburg Road because there is **NOT CONSISTENT** traffic. Well, neither is the busy traffic on Harrisburg Road. The heavy traffic is at:

**MTTHF** 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**W** 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Church traffic)

**SATURDAY** Light traffic throughout the day

**SUNDAY** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There are 178 school days for the Nettleton School District. When school is not in session (summertime), the traffic is always much lighter. Also, I believe there are not as many church services during summertime.

If there is **NOT** enough consistent traffic for a traffic light at Forest Hill Road, then there is **NOT** enough consistent traffic for a 5-lane road.

3. With the placement of a 5-lane road on Harrisburg Road, several citizens will have this new road on their front porch **OR** their homes could be taken by eminent domain. There will be little to no parking available for their family and friends to use. It will be extremely dangerous for them. These citizens didn't work hard to make money to purchase their homes and then put a road in their front yard.

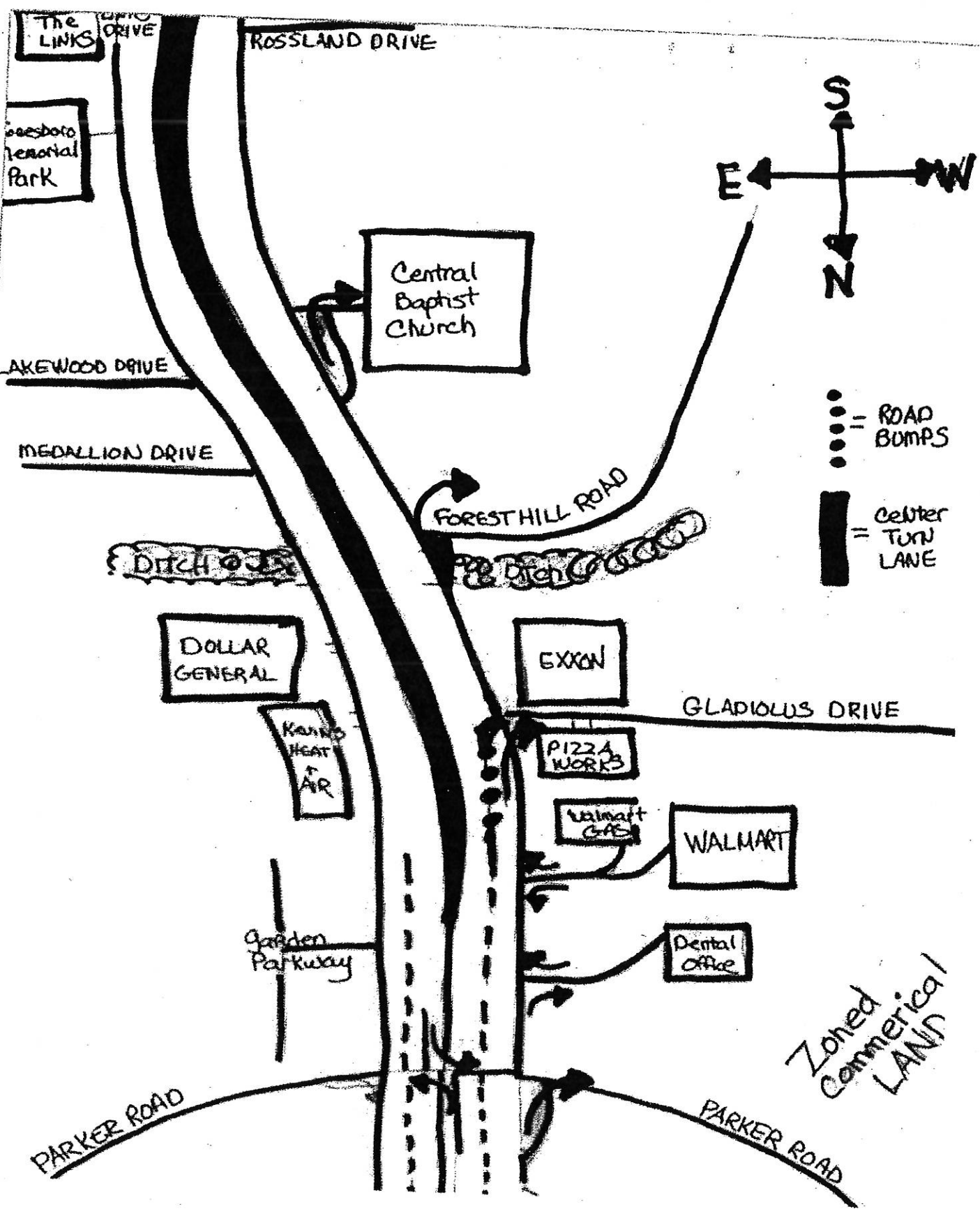
4. A 5-lane road will be dangerous for the kids who ride the school bus. The school buses currently stop on Harrisburg Road to let them off the bus. Also, it will be dangerous for the people who ride the **JET BUS**. The **JetBus Stop** is on the east side of Harrisburg Road between Kevin's Heat and Air and Dollar General.

## OUR PROPOSAL

1. Starting at Parker Road, going southbound, have 2 lanes until you reach Gladiolus Drive. Having the right lane as an "ONLY RIGHT TURN LANE". Make the right hand lane coming over the overpass go straight and NOT a "turn only" lane at Parker Road. *A Right hand turn lane at Forest Hill Rd and Central Baptist*
2. After Gladiolus Drive (Exxon Station) have a traffic lane on both sides with a **TURN LANE** in the middle all the way to Links Drive.
3. Along with saving some money by doing it this way and not the 5-lane road only to either Forest Hill Road or the entrance of Central Baptist Church, the state/city, as required, will be able to put a completed sidewalk **ALL THE WAY TO THE LINKS**. This will be a sidewalk to somewhere instead of just stopping and not serving a purpose.
3. When headed north on Harrisburg Road by the Neighborhood Wal-Mart's entrances/exits, put a **TURN LANE** there also. **PLUS** have 2 lanes start before Garden Parkway- This will help with the cars backing up during the busy times.  
*2 lanes, a center turn lane and several right hand turn lanes will work well for Harrisburg Rd.*

## ADVANTAGES OF OUR PROPOSAL

- The City of Jonesboro/State saves money by not having to widen the bridge after the Exxon Station.
- You can take our proposed widen road further down on Harrisburg Road which in turn, will benefit many more travelers on this road.
- You will be able to put the required sidewalk to a destination point (The Links) that it will be beneficial for many,
- You don't take too much property away from the homeowners and the <sup>of</sup> businesses and church on Harrisburg Road.
- Central Baptist Church saves money because they don't have to move their sign on Forest Hill Road and Harrisburg Road.
- This will let the traffic flow much easier with the center turn lane.
- This helps keep our area more residential and helps save our shrinking green space.



Zoned Commercial LAND

## • **COMPARING STADIUM AND HARRISBURG**

### • **STADIUM**

- 16,000 cars daily/666 cars per hour
- 48 plus businesses
- North of bypass is 5 lanes

### • **HARRISBURG ROAD**

- 12,000 Cars daily/500 per hour
- 5, no 4 businesses
- North of bypass is 2 lanes
- 4000 car difference per day

- Increase of 1.5 per year (1 % by city notes)= 180

- **It will take 23 years to add up to almost 16,000**

# THE ANSWER IS **NO!**

Parker Road to Forest Hill Road= \$2,400,000

State contribution of \$2,000,000

City of Jonesboro contribution of \$400,000

Requested Project- Forest Hill to Fire Station

State contribution of Zero (0)

City of Jonesboro contribution of \$2,000,000

## **TOTAL of both projects if done together.....**

State's cost= \$2,000,000

City of Jonesboro's cost= \$2,400,000

If we wait till the State has MONEY in their budget to widened their STATE HIGHWAY the cost will be

State's cost= \$4,000,000

City of Jonesboro's cost= \$800,000

**Bottom Line= The City will have an EXTRA**

**\$1,600,000.00**