


Charlotte Department of Transportation

Memorandum

Date: August 29, 2007

To: Keith MacVean
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department

From: 
Scott L. Putnam
Development Services Division

Subject: Rezoning Petition 07-133: Located on the north side of Albemarle Road
between I-485 and Rocky River Church Road,
abutting Mint Hill Jurisdiction

Consistency with Transportation Action Plan (TAP): The two goals of the TAP that most directly affected the staff's review of this petition define the integration of land use and transportation, and the provision of transportation choices.

- Goal 1 of the TAP relies on the Centers, Corridors and Wedges land use strategy to be implemented. This project site is located in a Wedge and does not appear to support the Centers, Corridors and Wedges land use strategy.
- Goal 2 of the TAP describes various connectivity and design features that are important for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. Specific comments are identified below that need to be addressed for CDOT's support of the petition and to bring the site plan into compliance with the TAP and best practices for multimodal transportation.

Vehicle Trip Generation

This site could generate approximately 500 trips per day as currently zoned. Under the proposed zoning the site could generate approximately 5,600 trips per day. This will have a significant impact on the surrounding thoroughfare system.

Therefore, we request that the developer submit a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) in order to evaluate the effect that site generated traffic will have on the thoroughfare system in the vicinity.

The preparer of the TIS must contact Susan Habina (704-432-1563) of the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) prior to beginning the TIS to determine the study requirements. Since access is proposed to an NCDOT-maintained roadway, they may also require a TIS as part of their driveway permit approval process. They may have additional or different requirements for their approval than what is identified in this rezoning process. The developer/petitioner is recommended to meet with NCDOT early in the development process to identify any issues that they may have.

We have the following specific comments that are critical to CDOT's support of the rezoning petition:

1. The proposed cul-de-sac needs to be a stub street that will provide future connection to adjoining development to the east.
2. The plan needs to use a standard configuration for roundabout design. Guideline/standards for roundabout geometric design and pedestrian crosswalks can be found in the Federal Highway Administration's *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*.
3. We will not support the proposed median opening on Albemarle Road. The site plan needs to be revised accordingly.
4. The Proposed Road shown on the site plan appears to be located on an adjacent parcel that may not be owned by the petitioner. This proposed street is a major collector street on the City's adopted Collector Street Map. The right-of-way needs to be acquired, dedicated to the City, and constructed by the petitioner.
5. The site plan needs to include a scale for further review.

We have the following specific comments that are important to CDOT's support of the rezoning petition. We would like the petitioner to give serious consideration to these comments/requests. These may require coordination with related CMPC issues.

1. The petitioner needs to provide 6-foot sidewalks and 8-foot planting strips on Albemarle Road and the proposed road. (TAP, best practices, and proposed *Urban Street Design Guidelines*)
2. The site plan needs to provide an internal system of sidewalks that connects the building entrances to the sidewalks along the street.

We have the following general comments that are provided to aid the petitioner in planning and subsequent permitting phases:

Albemarle Road is a major thoroughfare requiring a minimum of 100 feet of right-of-way. The developer/petitioner should convey right-of-way in fee simple title to meet this requirement, measuring 50 feet from the centerline of the roadway.

Adequate sight triangles must be reserved at the existing/proposed street entrances. Two 35-foot x 35-foot and two 10-foot x 70-foot sight triangles are required for the entrances to meet requirements. All proposed trees, berms, walls, fences, and/or identification signs must not interfere with sight distance at the entrances. Such items should be identified on the site plan.

The proposed driveway connections to Albemarle Road will require a driveway permits to be submitted to CDOT and NCDOT for review and approval. The exact driveway locations and type/width of the driveways will be determined by CDOT during the driveway permit process. The locations of the driveways shown on the site plan are subject to change in order to comply with City Driveway Regulations and the City Tree Ordinance.

All proposed commercial driveway connections to a future public street will require a driveway permit to be submitted to CDOT for review and approval.

Any fence or wall constructed along or adjacent to any sidewalk or street right-of-way requires a certificate issued by CDOT.

A Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement is required for the installation of any non-standard item(s) (irrigation systems, decorative concrete pavement, brick pavers, etc.) within a proposed/existing City maintained street right-of-way by a private individual, group, business, or homeowner's/business association. An encroachment agreement must be approved by CDOT prior to the construction/installation of the non-standard item(s). Contact CDOT for additional information concerning cost, submittal, and liability insurance coverage requirements.

To facilitate building permit/driveway permit review and approval, the site plan must be revised to include the following:

- Dimension width of the existing and proposed driveways.
- New/reconstructed driveways must be drop curb ramp Type II Modified driveways.
- Indicate the locations and widths of all adjacent and opposing driveways.
- Indicate typical parking module dimensions.
- Include a parking summary with figures for the numbers of parking spaces required and provided.
- Directional wheelchair ramps (two per corner) should be provided at all intersections of public and private streets.

If we can be of further assistance, please advise.

SLP

c: R. H. Grochoske
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Rezoning File (2)