

August 16, 2017

Scott Cole
NCDOT Deputy Division Engineer
716 W. Main Street
Albemarle, NC 28001

Dear Scott:

On behalf of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners, I am writing to thank the North Carolina Department of Transportation staff and consultants for holding the public information meeting in Matthews on July 31, 2017 related to the E. John Street Widening Project and the revised plans for the section of the project within town limits. We believe it was helpful for our community to hear directly from the NCDOT and see the positive steps that have been taken related to a revised design for the Matthews segment of the project.

I am also writing, however, because Town representatives remain concerned with the lack of inclusion of the U.S. 74 and McKee Road Extension projects in the traffic analysis that was completed as part of justification for making improvements to E. John Street. While we understand these projects were not included in the original traffic analysis because they were not funded when the analysis was completed, their absence raises significant questions regarding the accuracy of the completed analysis and whether the E. John Street Widening Project will truly be necessary after looking at the impact of all funded area projects on traffic congestion.

With both the U.S. 74 and McKee Road Extension projects now funded and given the persistent questions regarding the true necessity of the E. John Street Widening Project once all funded area projects are included in a traffic analysis, we respectfully request that the NCDOT rerun the traffic analysis for the E. John Street Widening Project to include these and any other missing funded projects before commencing any additional work.

Though the Town understands the findings of an updated traffic analysis may not change significantly from the current analysis, we believe a complete analysis is critical to having true understanding of the project's need for the NCDOT, the Mayor and Town Board of Commissioners, Town staff, and citizens alike.

Once the findings of an updated traffic analysis are known, Town of Matthews elected officials and staff desire to continue to work diligently with NCDOT to identify an optimal design for E. John Street that continues to balance the needs of our community with the demands of traffic in the region.

Sincerely,



Hazen Blodgett
Town Manager