

From: [Ron Crouch](#)
To: [Debra Herrmann](#)
Cc: [Adair, John](#); [Johns, Jessica](#)
Subject: SCDOT modification of Business 17 and Impacts on Residential Streets
Date: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 10:47:47 AM
Attachments: [SCDOT - Business 17 modifications and impacts on residential streets - FINAL.docx](#)

Dear Debra:

As we discussed here is my letter to the Mayor and Council for their meeting this Monday, August 8th. I plan to attend to briefly summarize it during the appropriate agenda item.

Ron

Dear John and Ms Johns:

I wanted to make certain that you had copies as well so you might see what I had to say. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Sincerely,
Ron Crouch

10th Avenue North
Surfside Beach, SC 29575
August 1, 2016

To The Mayor and Council, Surfside Beach

Subject: SCDOT modification of Business 17 and Impacts on Residential Streets

1. The present plan indicates that the left turn from Business 17 toward the beach will see the access to 10th Avenue North closed while 11th Avenue North will remain open.

2. I would like to see the traffic surveys which SCDOT used to make this decision. But even without the surveys I would like to make the following comparisons between 10th Avenue North and 11th Avenue North.

a. 10th Avenue North is at least two feet wider than 11th Avenue North.

(1) 10th Avenue North is 21 feet wide [two measurements at 10th & Poplar and 10th & Harbor Lights];

(2) 11th Avenue North is at most 19 feet wide [three measurements at 11th & Cedar of 19 feet; 11th & Cherry of 18 feet; and 11th & Poplar of 18 ½ feet].

b. 10th Avenue North already is marked and has signage for through traffic.

(1) Double white lines on sides, yellow stripe and reflectors in the center.



(2) Clear markings for dead-end onto Cedar.



(3) 11th Avenue N dead-end at Cedar (note no markings on street).



c. 10th Avenue North has fewer families. 10th Avenue North has ten single-family homes, all on the north side of the road; the other side is a stormwater ditch and tree line for Harbor Lights HOA. 11th Avenue North has 18 single-family homes on both sides of the road. [These numbers include corner lot homes if a driveway enters that road.]

(1) 10th Avenue North looking from Poplar toward Cedar:



(2) 10th Avenue North looking from between HOA entrances toward Cedar:



(3) 11th Avenue North looking from Poplar toward Cedar (note no markings):



(4) 11th Avenue North & Cherry toward Cedar (note no markings):



d. While both street segments run from Business 17 (inland) to a dead-end on Cedar Avenue North (beach side) 10th Avenue North has fewer side-street intersections than 11th Avenue North and only one of those three is from an open-access street [open access streets are marked with an asterisk (*)].

(1) 10th Avenue North has three side-street intersections:

- * (a). Poplar Street North from 15th Avenue North;
- (b). Inland entrance/exit into/from Harbor Lights HOA [Poplar Street North]; and
- (c). Cedar end entrance/exit into/from Harbor Lights HOA [Harbor Lights Drive].

(2) 11th Avenue North has four side-street and one alley intersections:

- * (a). Poplar Street North from 10th Avenue North;
- * (b). Poplar Street North from 15th Avenue North;
- * (c). North Cherry Drive from 16th Avenue North;
- (d). Eleventh Avenue N, a Private Street into/exiting an HOA; and
- (e). The Rear Entrance (alley) to the Comfort Inn on Business 17.

e. 10th Avenue North has the only public building on these two streets.

The South Strand Senior Center is located at 1032 10th Avenue North. One of ten Senior Centers operated by the Horry County Council on Aging, Inc., it is open from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, Monday through Friday, providing daily “a wide variety of activities ranging from exercise and health promotion to crafts and games. A hot lunch also is available through a cost-share program.” [South Strand Senior Center flyer, undated]

Originally this building was the Surfside Beach branch of the Horry County Public Library, which opened October 18, 1978.

[History of Horry County Memorial Libraries: “With Mr. James A. Calhoun, Jr., offering a wooded lot on 10th Avenue North near U.S. 17 and the Horry County Council providing \$42,000, the Surfside Beach Council in June 1977 appointed a Library Building Committee with James F. Squires as chairman. The Committee conducted a fund raising campaign. Mr. Calhoun donated another lot and the proceeds of its sale went into the building fund that totaled more than \$23,500.

Construction began in April 1978, and the library opened October 18, 1978. The library outgrew its current building and site in the early 1990’s. By 1995 a new facility was built for \$700,000 consisting of 7,260 square feet and is now located at 410 Surfside Drive.”]

3. The R-1 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, Sec. 17-306. – Intent specifies: “The intent of the provisions of this division is to: (1) provide for quiet, livable low density single-family neighbor-hoods; (2) prohibit the establishment of incompatible land uses; (3) disallow any other use which would substantially interfere with the development or continuation of single-family dwellings in the district; and (4) encourage the discontinuance of existing uses that would not be permitted as new uses under the provisions of this division.”

With Council's appointment of the Library Committee in June 1977 the R-1 intent for 10th Avenue North was compromised and this compromise has been reaffirmed ever since with the continued maintenance of the wider, well-marked 10th Avenue North with extra signs to allow for access to first the library and now the senior center from both Cedar Drive N and Business 17.

10th Avenue North already is a through street and markedly different from 11th Avenue North, with its absence of markings and signs and narrowness, all of which reaffirm, whether by omission or commission, 11th Avenue North is a Local Street. [DIVISION 5. - STREET AND SIDEWALK DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS, Section. 15-451. - Street design in general specifies that "(e) Local streets shall be so laid out that their use by through traffic will be discouraged."]

Nowhere have I addressed any financial costs to the town when the SCDOT program is completed. In either case the chosen street will need to be widened to 22 feet [Table 15-456, Minimum Right-of-Way and Pavement Widths]. Of course, 10th Avenue North would only require one additional foot, readily available on the South side of the road.

The widening and marking of 11th Avenue North and installing additional signage along it and Cedar Drive North would be considerably more, especially since (1) up to four feet would be needed to meet the 22 foot minimum and (2) likely there would some exercising of Eminent Domain to maintain the R-1 Zoning lot sizes, set-back and frontages in Chapter 17, Article III. Finally, (3) there are those costs of redoing, then implementing at an even later date the 11th Avenue North stormwater system which has been delayed from its scheduled installation of 2016 by the US Army Corps of Engineers' Beach Renourishment program.

4. Clearly either 10th Avenue North or 11th Avenue North will become a "through street" with the planned changes to Business 17 (installing limited crossovers with traffic lights and closing all other existing crossovers with landscaping).

I therefore ask Council to request SCDOT to modify the current plans and re-open the 10th Avenue North crossover as it has been a through street for almost 40 years and to close the presently planned crossover on 11th Avenue North to keep it a local street.

Yours truly,

Ron Crouch

cc: Ms Jessica Johns, SCDOT (Rm 505), PO Box 191, Columbia, SC 29202
Mr John Adair, Director, Public Works, Surfside Beach