

August 20, 2013

Mr. Jack Schaller
Assistant Public Works Director
City of Joplin
602 South Main Street
Joplin, MO 64801

Re : JATSO South Joplin Transportation Study
Joplin, Missouri

Dear Mr. Schaller:

First I want to thank you for hosting the Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization Policy Committee meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2013. The Village of Leawood had several representatives attend to listen to the presentation by CJW Transportation Consultants on the South Joplin Area Transportation Study. It is our understanding that this study was done for the metropolitan area of Joplin and not specifically for the City. Some of the points made during the meeting that the Village would like to document include the following:

1. The traffic study did not look at any options south of 50th Street, which limited the options on how to reduce future traffic on 44th Street.
2. Had the traffic study been expanded to the south to River Road, the logical choice to reduce traffic would be to extend Indiana Avenue South to River Road and to the East to Highlander Drive. Having a second exit to Wildwood/Highlands area has been sought by the City of Joplin for many years. With the majority of the traffic on 50th street going either to the South Middle School, or Mercy Hospital, extending Indiana to the South makes the most sense.
3. As was pointed out by you and the Village, the existing roadways have adequate capacity for the existing traffic loads. It has been estimated that Mercy Hospital will consume all of the capacity of the surrounding roads, such that any new development will require road improvement. Since the Village of Leawood only has low density residential developments remaining, any needed road improvements will be the result of developments within the city of Joplin.
4. It was CJW's opinion that the existing zonings in the study area should not be rezoned to allow higher density developments as this will only increase the traffic congestion. The Village concurs with this opinion.
5. The traffic study simply accepted the Mercy's trip generation estimates, which may have skewed the results. For this reason, the traffic study should be updated in five years in order to actual traffic counts and adjust recommendations accordingly.

We respectfully request the city of Joplin keep the above findings/comments in mind when any future developments come before Planning and Zoning, or the City Council and further share this letter with those groups at the time any requests are made.

Very truly yours,

Denny Desmond
Chairman, Board of Trustees for Village of Leawood

Cc: Mark Rohr- City Manager