

October 28, 2019

To: Mayor Jon Dalton,
Alderwomen Pam Holman, Lindsey Butler, Tiffany Frautschi, Sue Allen,
Aldermen Matt Reuter, Ryan Mortland, Jon Benigas
Buckland Hall Road Trustees, Susan Crandall, Cheryl Schmid, Susan Yoshida

From: Jana and Kevin Hunt
13320 Buckland Hall Rd.
Town and Country, MO 63131
314 409-0381
janahuntstl@gmail.com

We are Jana Hunt and Kevin and we live in Buckland Hall subdivision, which is on South Mason Road. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed reconstruction of the existing sidewalks by the City of Town and Country, along South Mason Road. We understand the project would include an 8'ft wide noncontiguous asphalt trail with multiple east/west crossings, required motor vehicle signs, markers, and white pavement markings which would end at Buckland Hall Road subdivision.

The existing land topography, beautiful wooded areas, handsome subdivision entrances, private fencing and large residential lots along South Mason Road make it a unique and picturesque secondary road in Town and Country. However, we believe this proposed trail, would greatly and negatively impact subdivisions and South Mason Road.

Our reasons are as follows:

- The varied topography along Mason Road makes construction of a contiguous asphalt trail NOT feasible. The trail plan would only remake existing sidewalks in a larger format, with many signs and markers at subdivision entrances. Please note that there is a continuous concrete sidewalk runs from Longview Farm Park to 141 on the north side of Clayton Rd. This sidewalk does not diminish the overall ascetic appeal of the subdivision entrances along the road.
- Currently usable concrete sidewalks exist in subdivision easements along both the east and west sides of South Mason Road. They fit nicely with the ascetic appeal of that stretch of Mason Road and the subdivision entrances. The concrete sidewalk on the west side of Mason Road around Wheatfield subdivision looks good and works with the ascetic of their subdivision entrances. Removing the concrete subdivision sidewalks and boundary fencing along South Mason and then replacing them with 8 ft. wide asphalt, markers, and signs would be unsightly to the entrances to these neighborhoods.
- An 8 foot wide walking trail is NOT necessary for pedestrians. It allows access for motor vehicles and requires signage for drivers not pedestrians. The project is not visually pleasing and is built at the expense of losing trees and existing mature landscaping.
- Encouraging the use of South Mason Road as a noncontiguous walking trail to St. Louis County's Queeny Park is dangerous for both walkers and drivers. South Mason Road has no shoulder; it is narrow; and it has several sharp turns with limited sight distance for drivers. It is a risky road for walkers to cross from east to west. The 90 degree turn near Buckland Hall and Lochinvar subdivisions has seen numerous accidents by drivers losing control on the curve and hitting subdivision boundary fencing.
- The Mason Road entrance to St. Louis County's Queeny Park is located well beyond the end of the proposed asphalt trail at Buckland Hall Road subdivision. Building the trail on the east side of Mason would be encouraging walkers to cross over Mason Road in unmarked spots that they might deem as an easy access point to the Queeny Park trail.
- The 'temporary' asphalt sidewalk at Weston Park subdivision, that was started as part of the trail plan, should be replaced in concrete. This would be a lower cost to the city than the plan's new asphalt trail and signage.

- On November 4, 2019, Buckland Hall Road will entirely repave the subdivision road. It is a privately maintained subdivision road. Our trustees have been planning this work for a long time and the expense is funded by a large assessment to all the homeowners in the subdivision. We will have new roads, and an improved entrance to our subdivision. We do not want a large trail, signage and painted white lines on new asphalt roads to alter our subdivision entrance. We think the plan is not aesthetically pleasing.

We have enjoyed the current trail system in Town and Country. Our family uses this all the time. The beauty of this plan is that it truly provides connectivity to key Town and Country locations along Clayton Road and fosters a sense of community. In other words, it passes the "common sense test." That is certainly not the case with this proposed trail along Mason south of Clayton Road. This is a trail to nowhere!

Sincerely,

Kevin and Jana Hunt

Kevin Hunt
Jana Hunt