
Re: Rapp Road/Costco Project

1 message

scupoli@aol.com <scupoli@aol.com>
To: kovalchikk@togny.org

Sun, Apr 19, 2020 at 2:43 PM

In a message dated 4/19/2020 2:41:48 PM Eastern Standard Time, scupoli@aol.com writes:

Ken,

I am writing today to voice our concerns about elements of this project. We also want to note that we were pleased that the Fencing would be replaced with white vnyal fencing along with 12-15 ft evergreens planted on the top of the berm along Paden Circle on the westerly side of the project. Also that the lighting will be 12 ft and no higher. Hopefully on timers so that even the apartment residents have dark time.

When reviewing the Gipp Road Alternatives so as to reduce traffic in the Historical District we favor Alternative 9. Alternative 6 has possibilities a well. We do understand that the City of Albany must agree but it works and emergency vehicles have access to the community which has always been my main concern. My husband and I and several of our neighbors do not turn left at the Gipp and Rapp Road intersection just so we do not drive through the historical district. But that is a conscious decision we make.

In the Maser Concept document it sites Roadway improvements for Rapp Road residential/Western Developments. Here is where we have real concerns.

We can see removing the slipways and getting all traffic at the lighted intersection with the Mall Rd. We can see having a left turn only, right turn only lane and a thru lane to go onto the local Rapp Rd. We hope that the Rapp Rd in front of the development stays a local Road smaller in size so that traffic does not speed.and keeps some of its windy character.

Our concerns are with Maser's recommendations

1. that people traveling easterly turn right at the light on to the Rapp Rd heading to Western Ave. Currently there is a concrete median with grass near the traffic light. We want a median to continue down to Western Ave so that no one can make a left turn into Costco from this road. Nor can anyone coming out of Costco make a left turn onto Mall/Rapp Rd to go Western Ave. It is an accident waiting to happen.

2. Traveling north on Rapp Rd from western Mall Road to go to Costco should be a right turn only lane. The exit lane should also be a right turn only lane. Not left turn to go to Western. The concrete median would prevent this and avoid major accidents.

We would want to see that the traffic flow for Costco be in and out at the new traffic light at Gabriel Terrace and Crossgates Mall Rd.

There is a lot to this project and my husband and I want to see what can be done best for our neighborhood and the community in general. We also hope that consideration can be given that the entire Apartment complex not be all built at once but rather in phases. Meaning do the 2 story ones and then if demand for occupancy is there do one of the 5 story buildings. Only build the last one if there still is the demand.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding. This is changing how we have lived in our neighborhood for the past 36 years. We know change happens and as the then new kids on the block there was resistance to us. But we have learned to get along over the years and hope to do that going forward.

Sharon and Ed Cupoli

Rapp Rd Project

1 message

Sharon Cupoli <scupoli@aol.com>

Sun, Apr 26, 2020 at 10:03 AM

To: Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Cc: James Soos <jamessoos@pyramidmg.com>

Ken,

Here are a few things I forgot to include in my last letter to you on this project.

I understand that the Costco site will be built below grade one Rapp Rd and assume also of the Mall Rd so that the existing berm, albeit modified on the Mall Rd side should stay and be landscaped with trees and bush to prevent car lights on the road from distracting drivers in the parking lots and to prevent distracting driver on the roads as well. Putting trees all along the Rapp Rd side will help to keep car headlights and poles lights from disturbing residents on Westmere Terrace and Western Avenue drivers. Since Costco closes at 9 by 10 pm the lights in the parking lot and gas station should also significantly dim so as the reduce the light pollution on residents and drivers in Western Ave and Westmere Terrace. The houses and apartment on Western need a break from the new additional light from this project. After all they had a treed area to look at all of these years. So trees along Western Ave would help as well to create a buffer.

We hope that the trees along the berm on Rapp Rd at the Macy's side of the Mall. Will get cleaned up and replaced as well. That will help the Apartment residents, residents along Rapp Rd, and Paden Circle. More buffering and something pleasing to look at.

I know the 200 ft wide strip along Gipp Road is forever wild and can't be built on but can some cleanup of the dead trees and vines be done? Would help things to grow better in there providing the wildlife with a better habitat. As well as keeping branches from falling in the road.

Ed and I are just trying to make this a better project for all. Trees help the environment and in this day and age of true climate change we need to think of how to help the planet as well as help business.

Sharon and Ed Cupoli

Sent from my iPad