



TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Board of Education

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Ron Kiviniemi, *Vice Chair*
Marty Griffin
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Superintendent

Jeff McDaris, Ed.D.

November 21, 2016

Brevard City Council
95 West Main Street
Brevard, NC 28712

Dear Council Members:

The Transylvania County Board of Education (BOE) and administration of Transylvania County Schools wishes to thank the Brevard City Council for the scheduled community input sessions and opportunities for public discourse regarding the proposed West Loop for the City of Brevard. We appreciate the volume of research and effort that is being implemented in targeting present and future traffic congestion in Brevard. The work completed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in cooperation with city officials highlights the need for future planning and discourse.

In examining the proposed byways offered as potential routes, we express some very real concern over any options that would direct traffic in closer proximity to school buildings as well as disrupt longstanding family neighborhoods and homes. Engineering options that seek to establish a traffic corridor too close to Brevard Middle School appear to dramatically undervalue the sheer volume of traffic already present during school opening and dismissal times.

The route options as presented also fail to recognize the safety dangers that a heavily traveled route would present to the school. There are also potentially very expensive landscaping adjustments that would be incurred by the city, the DOT, and the school system in a route that appears to pass within a few yards of our second largest school.

The BOE equally expresses concern over any design that makes bus flow more challenging. These are large vehicles that must run into neighborhoods affected by any road design changes. We hold strong apprehension regarding plans that would negatively displace longstanding neighborhoods culturally and physically within the proposed loop options. With all due respect, the designs presented in the community input meetings do not seem designed to produce better traffic flow. The problem of

physics is not resolved with the current intra-city design. Increasing volume with limited outlet would cause pressure and congestion to increase.

We respectfully ask the Brevard City Council to advocate with the NCDOT in seeking more efficient routing for a loop or bypass that will reduce congestion in the city, preserve culturally important neighborhood design, and protect safe school travel.

Sincerely,

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Education

Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Transylvania County Board of Education

Marty Griffin, Member
Transylvania County Board of Education

Cindy Petit, Member
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