



Foothills Fire Protection District

(In case of Emergency call 911)

November 16, 2011

Mr. Josh Drexler
Jefferson County Planning and Zoning

Mr. Drexler,

The Foothills Fire Protection District is in receipt of the responses to our letter dated August 12, 2011, as provided by Activation Ministry International. While these responses were not submitted in a timely manner, they are appreciated.

The District continues to have concerns regarding the impact the proposed expansion will have on traffic and congestion in the area. We have reviewed the comments submitted by Lanz and Associates, pertaining to our concerns. The District would like to expand on and provide some additional clarification about our concerns.

1. While the evacuation of Cody Park would not be a common, or even likely occurrence, we would like some additional information about how such an event would be facilitated in a safe, orderly and timely manner, given the expansion's proximity to the Cody Park Egress routes.
2. The proposed expansion site lies directly between the Highland Rescue Team Ambulance Station and the Lookout Mountain Fire Station. We are concerned about the impact the increased traffic will have on our response times. There are two specific concerns:
 - a. The fire department is primarily staffed by volunteers, and as such, depends on the response of emergency personnel from their residence to the station. Emergency personnel responding to the station do so in their private vehicles, which are typically not equipped with emergency lights or siren. Given the increase in traffic, we are concerned about the possible delay in station arrival.
 - b. Lookout Mountain Road is our only means of access for a significant portion of the Lookout Mountain community. There are several portions of the roadway that have insufficient shoulder room and poor line of sight to safely allow motorists to yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. In particular, there are two sections we are concerned with. Lookout Mountain Road from Indian Paintbrush Drive west to Cody Park Road has virtually no shoulder on either side of the road and very limited sight distance. Lookout Mountain Road from Cody Park Road west to the Highland Rescue Ambulance station has limited shoulder room and poor sight distance. We are concerned about the ability of motorists to safely yield the right of way to emergency vehicles in these areas.

3. Charros Drive serves as main road for a significant number of residents east of the intersection of Lookout Mountain Road and Cody Park Road. This road also serves as our main response route for calls that occur south of Lookout Mountain, and for most I-70 calls between mileposts 254-259. The road is narrow with no shoulder, has limited sight distance, and steep grades. We are concerned about the impact of additional traffic load on this road. Specifically, we are concerned about the potential for an increase in accidents, the ability for motorists to safely yield the right of way to emergency vehicles, and potential impacts to our response times and abilities.

We do not believe that the traffic study, in its current form, adequately addresses these concerns. Additionally, after a statistical analysis of our calls over the last year, we have discovered facts that must be considered. When analyzed by day of the week, we experience our highest number of calls on Saturday and Sunday. When analyzed by hour of the day, we experience a high number of calls from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Given these facts, we believe there to be an increased risk of traffic related response problems, as outlined above.

We hope this communication helps to further clarify the District's concerns as related to traffic issues. If you would like further clarification or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me. The District will be awaiting a prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Zoril
Fire Chief