

From: Robin Latham Simpson <robinllatham@gmail.com>

Date: December 3, 2024 at 9:54:13 AM CST

To: Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>

Subject: K10 and Lone Elm Interchange

Good morning,

My name is Robin Simpson. I've lived in Lenexa for 12 years and just recently moved to Manchester Park. My daughter goes to school at Manchester Park Elementary. I've done some research on the proposed K10 and Lone Elm interchange, and I have to voice my vehement opposition to this proposal.

I understand that the area north of K10 between K7 and Lone Elm will be developed into commercial space. Naturally, this would result in an increased presence of semi trucks. The interchange would also provide access from the residential communities to the middle school and high school on the south side of K10. The current proposal intentionally mixes increased semi-truck and commercial traffic with new teenage drivers and school traffic. I cannot understand why, for any reason, the City of Lenexa and KDOT would choose to do that.

I have two main concerns with this:

1. Mixing semi-trucks and teenage drivers is a recipe for disaster. My family owned and operated a trucking company for 40 years. I can tell you with absolute certainty that combining increased semi-truck traffic and new drivers will result in kids getting seriously injured or killed. New drivers are inherently not very good because they're learning, and they likely don't have experience driving around large commercial vehicles that have different and increased blind spots. Semi-trucks, as we all know, do not have the ability to quickly stop or turn. Anytime there is a collision between a semi-truck and just about anything else, the semi-truck will always win. The proposed interchange is inherently dangerous to our kids, and I can't understand why a city would choose that outcome when there are viable alternatives that your residents support.

2. The Olathe school district has struggled for years with bus schedules and bus drivers. Just this year, the Olathe school district changed start times for all of the schools to accommodate the lack of available bus drivers. If an overpass was built, kids in the neighborhoods immediately north of K10 could still ride their bike or even walk to the middle and high schools. If there is an interchange, that would not be a reasonable or safe route for walking or biking to those schools. As a result, more bussing would be required and would burden the already-strained bus system. Again, I can't understand how it makes sense to do this when there is a supported alternative.

In summary, there are multiple options available to allow traffic to newly developed areas between K7 and Lone Elm that do not include an interchange. My understanding is that some of the funding for this project is coming from tax dollars. Residents of Lenexa have voiced their strong opposition to using their tax dollars for a project that isn't a common sense solution. I encourage you to listen to the residents that you represent and spend their money as they see fit to build something that benefits the people paying for it.

Respectfully,

Robin L. Simpson

From: Jeannette Duwe <jkan98@gmail.com>

Date: December 2, 2024 at 11:09:07 PM CST

To: Mark Charlton <mcharlton@lenexa.com>, Bill Nicks <bnicks@lenexa.com>, Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>

Cc: Kirk Duwe <kduwe95@gmail.com>

Subject: Lone Elm and K10 Overpass

Dear Mayor Sayers and Councilmembers Charlton and Nicks,

We live in Manchester Park at the end of 97th Ter. with property backing up to Monticello and are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed highway interchange at K10 and Lone Elm and to advocate for the construction of an overpass instead. This decision is crucial for the safety and well-being of our community, particularly our children. Additionally, it strikes us as ridiculously /fiscally irresponsible to put another interchange a mere mile away from Woodland when the area in question can easily be served by the existing interchanges at Woodland / K10 and Prairie Star / K7. We must ask – is this idea of an interchange being pushed because of pressure from a developer? If so, we respectfully beg you to reconsider and remember the constituents you serve who live in this area and feel the pain of already poor planning decisions with increased housing and high-density development already approved.

First, an overpass would facilitate safe walkability and bike-ability to the south side of K10, providing a secure passage route for students to get to school. High school students would benefit from a direct driving route, avoiding interaction with highway traffic, thus ensuring safer commutes. When we first moved to Manchester Park, we dreamed of such an overpass for our children who we knew would eventually be driving to school.

Furthermore, an overpass would help maintain the distribution of high school traffic across three areas: K7, Woodland, and Lone Elm from northside neighborhoods. This would prevent congestion and promote better, safer traffic flow. One of the main goals of our project is to reduce traffic on Woodland and K7, which an overpass would help achieve effectively.

Conversely, with an interchange, all highway and northside high school traffic would be funneled into a single road - Lone Elm. This would result in highway traffic being concentrated near the middle school, compromising the safety of our children. There are no highway interchanges that ensure pedestrian or bike safety, and I would not feel comfortable with my child navigating through one to get to school. This scenario would increase pressure on bussing or place an additional burden on parents for drop-offs if buses are not an option (which they surely would not be in either scenario for our community due to distance). A thoughtfully designed overpass with bike lanes and protected sidewalks would be highly desirable.

Additionally, the development along K7, particularly where Smiley's is located, indicates plans to route industrial traffic along 101st Street. This would mean a significant increase in traffic, including large trucks, through our neighborhood. With the high volume of elementary school traffic on that road, this poses a serious safety concern. This property is very easily served with access from the K7/Prairie Star Parkway interchange.

Finally, we have an overall concern with the direction of development in the area that we'd be remised not to mention. When we moved here in 2016, we did so because it was so conveniently located to so much, but also had a more rural feel in that it wasn't built up like other parts of our city (i.e. 119th, 135th etc.). We pay extremely high taxes to enjoy this quality of life and the crush of development and high-density housing is and will continue to have a negative impact, bringing increased crime (which we have experienced at an alarming rate in the past few years) and other pressure on our existing infrastructure. Another interchange so close to neighborhoods makes our community an easy target for thieves looking for a quick hit and multiple easy-access escape routes. It makes us sad to see that developers seem to have a larger seat at the table than the citizens of Lenexa WHO YOU SERVE.

An overpass at K10 and Lone Elm would uphold the safety and convenience of our community, especially for our children while also helping to protect what specialness we have left. It would ensure better traffic distribution, promote non-vehicular commutes, and mitigate the risks associated with increased industrial traffic. I urge you to consider these points and support the construction of an overpass instead of an interchange.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Please say NO to the interchange!

Respectfully,

Jeannette (and Kirk) Duwe

22165 W 97th Ter.

Lenexa, KS 66220

--

Jeannette Duwe

c: 208.794.2620

From: Alexis Guetzlaff <alexis.guetzlaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 10:07 AM
To: Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>
Subject: Fwd: K10 Lone Elm Interchange Project

Hi Julie!

I hope you are doing well.

There has been a lot of activity on the Lone Elm project and I was curious if you could help me understand a little bit more.

An interchange seems to be detrimental to residents and school, where an overpass would be beneficial, but the overpass option is not currently included in the KDOT proposal.

Would love to get some more info on the thinking behind this project, if you wouldn't mind reading through the email I sent to Mark last week.

Thank you!

Alexis

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alexis Guetzlaff <alexis.guetzlaff@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 14, 2024, 9:32 PM
Subject: K10 Lone Elm Interchange Project
To: <mcharlton@lenexa.com>

Hi Mark,

My name is Alexis Guetzlaff and I live in the Manchester Park neighborhood (9722 Millridge Dr.) which, I believe, is Ward 2.

I have engaged with the KDOT process about the Lone Elm Interchange Project through public comment a few months ago and then attending the open house they hosted tonight.

During the open house tonight it was made clear the the City of Lenexa is the one pushing for the interchange and I'm having a hard time understanding what the value is of this interchange to residents of Lenexa.

I have lived in this neighborhood for over 11 years and have often said "if only Lone Elm went through..." wistfully. So, when I heard this project was a part of the K10 corridor, I was excited. In my mind, this would be an overpass that would connect the Lone Elm area of Olathe and Lenexa. It would allow us to walk or bike to friends' houses, and make the restaurants there easier to access.

Now, we have a middle schooler and I see even more benefits to connecting this road:

- The middle school and high school are just on the other side of K10 and our kids could potentially bike or walk to school

- The district has a ton of bussing issues and this could help a large population of kids access the school without using bussing or car lines

- With high schoolers driving to school, a portion for them that live to the north could drive on Lone Elm, at a low speed, never get on the highway, and access the high school. Then, other portions of the student population could access via Woodland and K7, splitting up the traffic into 3 sections and keeping the higher speed traffic coming off of the highway further away from the school, forcing them to slow down before entering the school area.

But with all of this upside from connecting Lone Elm, I haven't ever thought to myself "I wish I could get onto K10 there" and I don't know anyone around us that has felt this way. Woodland and K7 are extremely easy to access, we feel like we just "hop" onto the highway.

With Lone Elm becoming an interchange I see the following issues:

1. All of the school traffic would be funneled into one road, rather than 3.
2. The traffic coming off of the highway has no time to slow down before coming into the school area (PRT Is right off the highway.)
3. An interchange is not pedestrian or bike friendly and even if there is a "protected" pedestrian area, they would need to be crossing multiple highway entrances and exits, which is ultimately unsafe, especially for kids.

I'm hearing there is a desire for semi trucks for a future industrial area (near the current Smileys golf course) to be able to exit at Lone Elm and access that area via 101st extension. Is that accurate? Is there a reason why the trucks can't use K7 and Prairie Star? Where there are not residential areas and the largest elementary school in the district?

Can you help me understand what value an interchange provides that an overpass doesn't? And how that outweighs the benefit of increased walk/bike-ability, better flow for school traffic, limited to no infringement on residential property, etc.?

Lastly, will this be discussed at future meetings? Is there opportunity for residents to participate?

Thank you!!

Alexis

From: Tina Kolm, M.S. <tinakolm@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 29, 2024 2:11 PM

To: Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>

Subject: Lone Elm and K10 Overpass

Hi Julie,

So good to have you as our mayor! As you may recall from when we chatted, and from when you so kindly added a painting of mine to your collection, my husband and I are 22 year residents of the Manchester Park subdivision in Lenexa. We raised our children here and they attended Olathe Public Schools. Both now young adults working in careers that contribute to society.

I am writing to ask you to support an OVERPASS (not an interchange) at K10 and Lone Elm.

ADVANTAGES OF AN OVERPASS

- Safe walk/bike-ability to the south side of K10 for the children and residents in all of the neighborhoods south of K10. The middle school and high school for these youth are on the south side of K10.
- The ability for high school kids to drive a direct route without interacting with highway traffic.

DISADVANTAGES OF AN INTERCHANGE

- Highway traffic being dumped close to the middle school.
- No pedestrian or bike safety - there is not a single highway interchange I would feel comfortable with my kid walking or biking through to get to school in the morning. (Imagine living on the North side of K10 and Ridgeview and then sending your kid from the North side to the Garmin Fields every day.)

Please support the “human-scale,” people / youth oriented choice and support an overpass, not an interchange.

Looking forward to our next opportunity to chat.

Warmly,

Tina Kolm

Artist

From: Kerrie Thomsen <jtktandthepak@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 3:27 PM

To: Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>

Subject: Lone elm

I am a Lenexa resident off of 101st Street and I think an interchange would be a nice addition. Either way an overpass would be fantastic.

Kerrie Thomsen

10103 Redbud Lane

Lenexa

From: Kurt Elmore <kurtelmore@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 12:00 PM

To: Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>

Subject: K10/Lone Elm Interchange

In response to the proposed Lone Elm interchange, I would like to support an overpass (no exit or on ramps) along with road widening on Lone Elm in the area of K10. Putting an interchange here would compromise safety for K10 commuters and disrupt traffic flow significantly, it is already very chaotic during morning and afternoon rush hours. This would also offer walk/bike ability for the hundreds of students that reside on the north side of K10 to access ONW high school and Prairie Trail junior high. There are currently 2 large churches at the intersection of Lone Elm and 101st with another one 2 blocks east on 101st. This residential area is not designed to handle that much traffic (specifically 101st St.). An overpass would allow safe north/South access without bringing heavy commercial traffic into the neighborhoods. Expansion of Lone Elm to 4 lanes as specifies would direct heavy traffic flow to Prairie Star Parkway and College from the Woodland exit and not disrupt the traffic on K10. Best,

Kurt Elmore

913-220-3306

From: Stephanie Shull <stephanie.a.shull@gmail.com>

Date: December 2, 2024 at 7:54:38 PM CST

To: Courtney Eiterich <ceiterich@lenexa.com>

Subject: Playground replacement plan

Good Evening Courtney,

I was disappointed to hear that the “Playground Replacement Plan” is more of just a “removal and fail to replace the playground” plan when it comes to our neighborhood. As a mother of young children, they are not capable of riding their bikes or walking further to other parks. And although my kids will grow and be capable, young children will always be living in the area. The proximity of these parks has had us coming back several times a week in nice weather despite their embarrassingly poor upkeep. Replacing these parks is needed, but removal and relocation is not.

As I’m sure you’re aware, residents of Parkhurst have been asked to be extremely patient with the construction of a hospital that is loud, disruptive, and really entirely too close to a residential area. Taking more resources from our neighborhood would be another major disappointment to residents.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Stephanie Shull

From: Nick Gay <ngay528@gmail.com>
Date: December 3, 2024 at 12:00:48 PM CST
To: Julie Sayers <jsayers@lenexa.com>, Joe Karlin <jkarlin@lenexa.com>, Courtney Eiterich <ceiterich@lenexa.com>, Bill Nicks <bnicks@lenexa.com>, Mark Charlton <mcharlton@lenexa.com>, Melanie Arroyo <marroyo@lenexa.com>, Chelsea Williamson <cwilliamson@lenexa.com>, Craig Denny <cdenny@lenexa.com>, Chris Herron <cherron@lenexa.com>, Stephanie Sullivan <ssullivan@lenexa.com>, CD Planning <Planning@lenexa.com>
Cc: Kevin Jolly <jolly.kevin@gmail.com>, Leah Larson <llarson@sentrymgmt.com>
Subject: Preservation of Parkhurst Playgrounds and Commitment to Vision 2040

Attached is a letter addressed to Lenexa City Council and Planning Commission regarding the future of Parkhurst Playgrounds from Parkhurst HOA Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/2/2024

**Lenexa City Council
Lenexa Planning Commission
Lenexa City Hall, 17101 W 87th St. Pkwy., Lenexa, KS 66219**

Dear Lenexa City Council and Planning Commission,

Subject: Preservation of Parkhurst Playgrounds and Commitment to Vision 2040

On behalf of the Parkhurst Homeowners Association (HOA), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the proposed defunding and eventual removal of the Parkhurst Playgrounds. These facilities are integral to our neighborhood and align with the Vision 2040 plan's commitment to fostering vibrant, inclusive, and well-connected communities and neighborhoods.

The current Parkhurst Playgrounds are uniquely positioned to serve families with small children, allowing them to walk safely and conveniently to play areas within close proximity to their homes. This accessibility fosters a sense of safety, community engagement, and active lifestyles that are essential to healthy neighborhoods and nearby multi-family housing. In contrast, the proposed replacement playground would be located approximately half-mile further away, situated farther from permanent housing. This change would impose a significant burden on families, especially those with young children, by requiring longer travel distances and reducing the playground's accessibility.

The Parkhurst Playgrounds are vital community assets that enhance the quality of life for residents. They support physical activity, social interaction, and neighborhood cohesion, while also contributing to property values and the attractiveness of Lenexa as a place to live. The removal of

these amenities would undermine these benefits and contradict the objectives of the Vision 2040 plan, which prioritizes vibrant and connected neighborhoods.

While we recognize the challenges of budget allocation, we believe that preserving these playgrounds is a strategic investment in our community's future. We respectfully urge the City Council and Planning Commission to reconsider the defunding decision and explore alternatives that retain the playgrounds in their current accessible location and promote the future of the Central Green Space.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on solutions and would appreciate being included in discussions regarding the future of these essential amenities. Please feel free to contact Leah Larson, llarson@sentrymgt.com, to arrange a meeting or provide updates on this matter.

Thank you for your attention and for your continued commitment to the residents of Lenexa. We remain hopeful for a resolution that upholds the values of the Vision 2040 plan and benefits all members of our community.

Sincerely,

Nick Gay
Vice President
Parkhurst Homeowners Association

From: Kyra Barker <kyraannbarker@gmail.com>

Date: December 3, 2024 at 12:04:35 PM CST

To: Joe Karlin <jkarlin@lenexa.com>, Courtney Eiterich <ceiterich@lenexa.com>

Subject: Please SAVE the Parkhurst Trail Playgrounds!!

Hello Joe and Courtney,

My name is Kyra Barker and I live in the Parkhurst neighborhood (17704 W 83rd Terr). I am also a mother to two small children, ages 1 and 3.

It has come to our attention that the Lenexa Capital Improvement Program includes plans to "move" the Parkhurst Trail playgrounds to the new Central Green area. As a resident, I strongly oppose any plan to remove the playgrounds on our neighborhood trail. The Parkhurst Trail Playgrounds were a deciding factor for us in choosing to move to this neighborhood ~2 years ago. To remove them would significantly decrease the value of living in the Parkhurst neighborhood for people with children, and would be a disservice to the neighborhood and young families like ours.

While I certainly support having a playground in the Central Green, this location is beyond comfortable walking distance from our home and exposed to a busy road - both of which would deter our family from visiting regularly.

I know there was a Planning Commission meeting last night as well as a City Council meeting tonight where this will be discussed - unfortunately I can't attend a 7 pm meeting as this is when my kids go to bed (which I know is true for many families who care deeply about this issue). As many of us are unable to attend, I must implore you to make sure our voices are heard - please SAVE the Parkhurst Trail Playgrounds on behalf of our family and all the families in the Parkhurst neighborhood!!!

Thank you for your consideration,

Kyra Barker

17704 W 83rd Terrace

Lenexa KS 66219

906-366-7615

