

March 10, 2006

City Commission  
6 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Commissioner:

The Centennial Neighborhood Association has worked to improve the neighborhood in a number of areas, including homeownership, beautification, storm water drainage, and traffic. Traffic has been one of major concerns for years. Members of our Association were very involved in the Louisiana St. Corridor Study conducted during the late 90s during which plans for managing traffic on Louisiana St. were developed, in partnership with other neighborhoods and the City. The immediate results of that effort were the traffic islands, crosswalks and improved sidewalks that are currently found along that street. We have studies that show these devices did what we intended—high speed traffic ended and average speeds dropped slightly.

Our goals were at that time, and still are, to reduce the total amount (at least reduce the rate of increase) of traffic on our neighborhood streets. These are our goals not only for Louisiana and 19<sup>th</sup> streets, but all streets in the neighborhood. Another significant and perhaps paramount goal of the Neighborhood Association is to protect and improve our housing stock. It is a constant struggle to maintain our neighborhood identity when forces such as traffic, investors and the closing of schools continue to erode it.

Currently, consultants have proposed two options for the 19<sup>th</sup> St and Louisiana St. intersection. The first to be put forth was to build a roundabout there. At a meeting of concerned citizens last summer at the High School, this did not receive much support due to some criticism of roundabouts in general, the cost and the impact on the neighborhood. In response to this, a second option was offered which involves a geometric intersection that rivals the intersection at 31<sup>st</sup> and Iowa St. There is really no support for that option. Our concerns are the loss of houses, loss of right of way, putting a highway style intersection in the middle of a residential area (at least Iowa and 31<sup>st</sup> are in business and commercial zones) and an enormous expense. We believe that the geometric style improvements will actually lead to increased traffic and traffic speeds. Expanding the intersection doesn't solve for the narrowness of 19<sup>th</sup> St. and Louisiana St. as soon as you are out of the intersection. We believe that increasing speeds, more traffic and an out-of-place intersection modification will cause further serious deterioration in our neighborhood.

We oppose any major construction at this intersection at this time.

This is our general attitude and we suggest reviewing alternative lower cost options suggested by the consultant. Here are some other ways that neighbors have suggested reducing traffic and congestion at the intersection:

- Banning school bus loading on the Louisiana St.

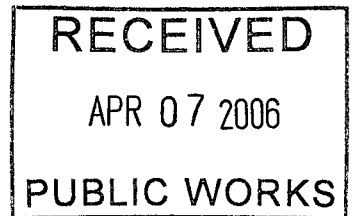
- LHS parking lots can be emptied onto 21<sup>st</sup> St., not 19<sup>th</sup> St., during peak hours.
- Redirecting traffic so there are no left turns out of the high school's south parking lot during peak traffic hours.
- Synchronize lights along 19<sup>th</sup> St.
- Rumble strips on 19<sup>th</sup> St.
- Reviewing making 19<sup>th</sup> street one way during peak hours.
- Reduced number of cars turning east onto 19<sup>th</sup> St. from Southbound Naismith during peak hours.
- No parking on the streets in University Place during the day
- Redirecting more of KU traffic westward onto Iowa or Bob Billings Parkway.
- Extend Naismith St. South to 31<sup>st</sup> and widen it by covering over the drainage ditch.

The geometric intersection proposal is definitely unacceptable. It makes more sense to take measures to reduce traffic through the area. Trying to retrofit streets through a residential neighborhood is a thoroughly bad idea. We will lose four houses, and open up the possibility of a freeway through the neighborhood. We have too many schools on Louisiana St. to turn it into the major entrance and exit for KU and the city. We oppose turning 19<sup>th</sup> street into another 23<sup>rd</sup> street. The city should not put the major burden of traffic management on our neighborhood's shoulders.

Betty Alderson, Arly Allen, Bob Blank,  
 Larry Flotman, Tom Harper, Bob Lewis,  
 Lester Marsh, Jerry Schultz, Joan Stevenson

For the Steering Committee  
 The Steering Committee  
 Centennial Neighborhood Association

Julie A. Nicely  
1105 W. 93<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
(816) 340-3717  
(913) 219-0750



April 4, 2006

Mr. Chuck Soules  
Director of Public Works  
City of Lawrence, KS  
6 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: 19<sup>th</sup> & Louisiana Intersection Study

Dear Chuck:

I appreciate your discussing with me the project related to the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> & Louisiana, as I was unaware of any meetings regarding this topic. I have owned the house at 1900 1/2 Louisiana since May, 2001 and have a vested interest in the outcomes of this project.

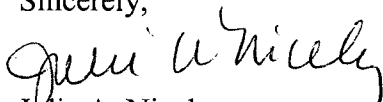
I have renovated the entire house over the past several years, including new roof, new driveway, new siding, new windows/doors, and extensive interior work to increase the value of my property. I am concerned that the estimate for my house used in this project was the lowest of the 4 properties listed. Therefore, I feel that the estimated bid for the project as well was underestimated. Per our conversation, you mentioned that this was only an estimate and a fair value would be assessed if this project resulted in demolishing my house.

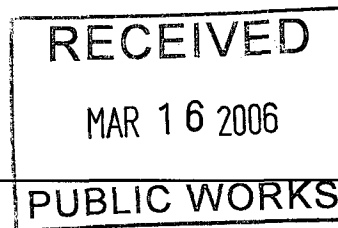
I recognize that safety is the key concern and hopefully a reasonable resolution will come about that does not involve demolishing homeowner's property. I'm concerned that the geometric improvements result in 5 homeowner properties being demolished, yet the park is minimally impacted.

Meantime, because of this project getting attention in the media in Lawrence, 3 tenants have backed out of their intent to lease my property beginning August, 2006 due to the uncertainty of this project and the potential demolition of my house. Because this impacts my future income potential, I would appreciate being notified of any meetings to resolve the issue with the City Commission.

Please keep me informed on any information relating to this project. In the meantime, it has become impossible to rent my property due to this project.

Sincerely,

  
Julie A. Nicely



March 14, 2006

Chuck Soules  
Director of Public Works  
City of Lawrence  
P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Soules,

We appreciate the City's effort to keep Lawrence Public Schools in the information loop regarding proposed intersection improvements at 19<sup>th</sup> and Louisiana Streets and to solicit our input. After your presentation to the School Board on January 23, 2006, we asked the administrators of the two schools most affected by the intersection to discuss the proposed improvements and give us their feedback.

Information from the intersection study report was provided to Lawrence High School and Cordley Elementary School communities through their Site Councils. After discussion and meetings with you and staff of BG Consultants, the schools have offered the following statements.

**Cordley**

"The major concerns about the 19<sup>th</sup> and Louisiana intersection are:

1. Child pedestrian safety, and
2. Impact on traffic to the east on 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Both proposed improvements, geometric improvements or roundabout, present significant concerns for elementary-age pedestrians; however, the current intersection is also difficult for children to cross. If we have an increase in the numbers of children walking from the west to our school, Cordley would request another crossing guard study. It had previously been determined that we do not have enough students crossing at this intersection to warrant a guard. However, it is a "catch-22" with parents not allowing their children to walk this route because they feel the current situation is so unsafe.

Neither of the proposed improvements appear to have much impact on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Kentucky or 19<sup>th</sup> and Vermont intersections.

Based on our two primary concerns, it is difficult to see significant advantages of one proposal over the other. As an aside, a number of our parents, who live in the area, have expressed opposition to the roundabout based on their belief and experience that people do not know how to use them safely."

### **Lawrence High School**

"The construction of a roundabout at the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> and Louisiana to improve traffic flow is not supported. However, it is agreed that the intersection needs upgrading and signage. Upgrading should include improvements to curbing and the grade on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. In addressing traffic issues, the district may need to look at additional parking on the Lawrence High School campus and a different configuration on how cars enter and leave the parking lot on the campus."

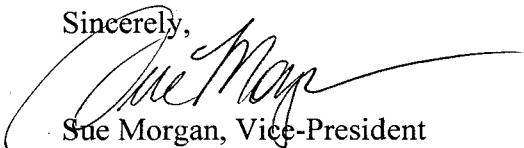
The Board of Education and District Administration would like to refer to the Journal World article of December 20, 2005, in which it was reported that you would be recommending to the city commissioners that the following improvements be made to this intersection:

- Lengthening the existing left-hand turn lane for the westbound lanes on 19<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Adjusting the traffic light to allow motorists to make a left-hand turn onto southbound Louisiana Street only if they have a green arrow;
- Creating a center turn lane on 19<sup>th</sup> Street west of Louisiana Street which would stretch to the westernmost LHS entrance, and making the easternmost LHS exit a right-out only;
- Adding a bus turnout lane along Louisiana Street.

We are supportive of these recommendations and believe they would make a positive contribution toward improving, if not completely resolving, the traffic flow and safety in and around this intersection. The roundabout option still causes us concern in terms of pedestrian safety at this intersection, particularly at peak times.

Again, we appreciate being included in the discussion of options and solutions for this intersection and we look forward to working cooperatively with the city to improve the situation for the future safety and convenience of our students, patrons and all city residents.

Sincerely,



Sue Morgan, Vice-President  
Board of Education USD 497

## Charles Soules

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**From:** Rick Gammill [rgammill@usd497.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 05, 2006 7:19 PM  
**To:** Charles Soules  
**Subject:** Fwd(2): 19th & Louisiana

Chuck, this is from Kim Bodensteiner, principal at Cordley Elementary. FYI.

Rick

----- Original Message -----

Thursday, March 02, 2006 12:01:36 PM

Message

**From:** Kim Bodensteiner  
**Subject:** 19th & Louisiana  
**To:** Sue Morgan  
**Cc:** Randy Weseman  
Steven Nilhas

Sue

You asked for feedback about 19th and Louisiana. Please let me know if you have further questions or need clarification.

The major concerns, for the Cordley Elementary Site Council, about 19th and Louisiana intersection are 1) child pedestrian safety and 2) impact on traffic to the east on 19th Street.

Both proposed improvements present significant concerns for elementary-age pedestrians, however, the current intersection is also difficult for children to cross. If we have an increase in the numbers of children walking from that direction I'll request another crossing guard study. Right now we don't have enough students crossing there to warrant one. It is a "catch-22" because parents don't let them walk because it isn't very safe to cross there alone.

Neither of the proposed improvements appear to have much impact on 19th & Kentucky or 19th & Vermont.

So based on the two primary concerns we identified we would not recommend one proposal over the other.

As an aside, a number of our parents are opposed to the round about. They do not believe that people know how to use them safely.

Kim Bodensteiner  
Principal  
Cordley Elementary School  
1837 Vermont Street  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
785-832-5640  
kbodenst@usd497.org

4/17/2006

## **STATEMENT ON IMPROVEMENT TO 19<sup>TH</sup> AND LOUISIANA INTERSECTION**

On Wednesday, February 1, 2006, Site Council members from Lawrence High School and Cordley Elementary School met in a joint meeting at Lawrence High School. In attendance at the meeting were the principals of both schools, representative members of the Site Councils from both schools, Rick Gammill, Director of Transportation, Safety, and Facilities Planning for USD #497, Charles Soules from the City of Lawrence, and Jason Hoskinson and David Hamby from BG Consultants, Inc. As a result of that meeting and with additional input from members of the Lawrence High School administration, staff, students, and patrons, the following statement is being submitted.

The construction of a roundabout at the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> and Louisiana to improve traffic flow is not supported. However, it is agreed that the intersection needs upgrading and signage. Upgrading should include improvements to curbing and the grade on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. In addressing traffic issues, the district may need to look at additional parking on the Lawrence High School campus and a different configuration on how cars enter and leave the parking lot on the campus.

## Charles Soules

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**From:** Mike Wildgen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2005 1:25 PM  
**To:** Charles Soules  
**Subject:** FW: 19th and Louisian

Mike Wildgen  
City Manager

See [www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org) for important city information

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**From:** Betty Alderson [mailto:adkab@ku.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2005 1:22 PM  
**To:** Mike Wildgen; dcorliss@ci.lawrence.ks.us; boog@lawrence.ixks.com; mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; suehack@sunflower.com; mike@mikerundle.org; david.schauner@knea.org  
**Subject:** 19th and Louisian

Dear Mike,

I was astonished when I picked up the Journal World this morning and read the plans for the intersection at 19th and Louisiana. I had understood at the public meeting at Lawrence High School last summer that the new consultant would bring any recommendations back to the neighborhood before any decisions were made. I see by the press that this is not the case.

As a resident of the neighborhood, I object to this kind of disregard for any consultation with those who live near and travel that route almost daily. When the plans were developed for a round-about at that location there had been months of study by several neighborhoods along Louisiana St., several public meetings, hearings and presentations before the city commission before any decisions were made. I realize that the funding was not included when the city commission at that time approved those plans. And only recently did the funds become available. As I recall, the consultants at the meeting last summer were not at all interested in all of that effort--only in what they were hearing at that time. I realize that there are new approaches to traffic situations today but to wipe out all the former input and get little public input today seems almost insulting to those who so faithfully gave of their time to develop the plan that was approved. So much time has elapsed since then that there are new members of the city commission and an entirely different make-up of the school board and a new LHS principal, many of these persons evidently were not informed of all of the earlier studies.

I do hope that this unannounced, until today's paper, addition to the agenda of the city commission tonight is deferred to a committee that includes representatives of the earlier studies and not acted upon this evening when some of us may have other commitments that prevent our attending this meeting on such short notice and at this holiday time. In my opinion, any decision needs to take into account the entire length of 19th St. from Massachusetts to Iowa, for the traffic congestion and problems are not confined to the area from Ohio to the west entrance to the LHS parking lot.

Betty Alderson