



Alex Torrez, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

December 8, 2015

Austin City Council
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701

Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and City Council Members,

I am writing you regarding Zoning Case C14-2014-0193, and the district's deep concern of potential hazardous traffic conditions for our students, parents and staff.

The connection of Cedar Bend Drive to Scofield Farms Drive is certain to cause a significant increase in traffic passing River Oaks Elementary School, and we are concerned about the impact this increase will have on ROES. While we understand that the Cedar Bend/Scofield Farms connection cannot be prevented, we request that there not be any additional vehicular connections that could further increase traffic on Scofield Farms. We believe additional traffic will negatively impact both the safety of our school community and the academic integrity of the school day.

Due to limited parking at the school, many parents park their cars along Scofield Farms when dropping off and picking up their children. Many if not most of these parents and kids exit their vehicles directly onto the street. Moreover, those who park on the other side of Scofield Farms from the school must then walk across the street and back – without the benefit of a crossing guard. Obviously, this is an unsafe situation that would be made even more dangerous by introducing additional traffic to Scofield Farms via the aforementioned connection of Old Cedar Lane to Cearly Drive.

Additionally, 9 buses arrive at River Oaks Elementary twice a day for student drop-off and pick-up. Additional vehicular traffic would result in delayed student drop-off, as buses would have to wait longer for an opportunity to turn left into the school parking lot. Such delays would impair our ability to begin the school day on time, and would result in disruptions to the learning environment.

Accordingly, Pflugerville ISD joins the River Oaks Neighborhood Association, MMK Ventures LLC and River Oaks Elementary School in strong opposition to the vehicular connection between Old Cedar Lane and Cearly Drive. The district requests that the Council approve the Zoning Request with the Conditional Overlay recommended by the Zoning and Platting Commission, which prohibits the vehicular connection, establishes safe connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, and provides a "crash gate" for emergency vehicular access to the Cearly Development.

Thank you for your consideration, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our concerns.

Sincerely,

Alex Torrez

Dr. Alex E. Torrez
Superintendent of Schools