

Woodbridge Community – Discussion Points for City Council & ACHD Meeting on Traffic Relief

Acknowledgment and Appreciation

- The Woodbridge community appreciates the City Council's recent decision to **postpone the proposed development on Wells Avenue/Magic View** in light of significant traffic concerns raised by residents for many years.
- We view this as an important first step and thank you for listening to the community's concerns.

Urgent Need for Action

- As stated during the last meeting, City Council has "**kicked the can down the road**" for too long regarding cut-through traffic issues at Woodbridge.
- Now is the time to **pursue meaningful, long-term solutions** to address traffic cutting through our neighborhood from **Locust Grove to Eagle Road**

We, the residents of the Woodbridge Subdivision, wish to formally express our deep concern regarding the ongoing and worsening issue of cut-through traffic in our community — an issue we fear will not see resolution for at least another 5 to 10 year under current planning and constraints.

Summary of the Issue

Currently, there are only two viable routes from Locust Grove to Eagle Road:

1. **Leaving the road network as-is**, which results in an overwhelming volume of cut-through traffic through Woodbridge.
2. **Rerouting traffic through Locust View Heights**, utilizing the signal at Bentley to connect with the frontage road. However, this solution is legally and politically complicated. The Locust View Heights subdivision has clearly stated they would pursue legal action if this proposal moves forward, potentially tying up the project for years. Even if consensus were reached, implementation would still take a minimum of five years.

In the meantime, new development is rapidly progressing. A new commercial building has just been acquired along Locust Grove and will soon be staffed, contributing potentially more vehicles to the local traffic burden. This is on top of the already high volume of cars using Woodbridge as a bypass route.

Road Classification and Planning Flaws

Franklin and Overland are designated as **Arterial roads** and were built with the intent to manage increased traffic. **Woodbridge Drive** is designated as a **Collector street** which is designed to link local streets and residential areas to main roads or highways. We were told this designation was because there are no homes off Woodbridge Drive that face the street. The **second phase of Woodbridge (Thornwood, Woodhaven and Bowstring)** by contrast, was not — homes in this area face their streets, and these streets were never designed to handle collector-level traffic, as they are designated as **residential streets**.

We understand the classification of streets — from residential to collector — but we struggle to understand why exceptions can't be made, especially given that ACHD has, in fact, made exceptions in the past to fix planning mistakes. Why can't a similar consideration be made here when it is clear that a planning error made 25 years ago is being perpetuated to the detriment of our neighborhood?

Community Sentiment

The most common response we hear is:

“Why don't they close your entrance on Magic View like all the other subdivisions on Locust Grove?”

And we ask the same. Closing this entrance would naturally redirect traffic to designated collector/arterial roads where it belongs; relieving our streets of volume they were never designed to support.

Why Woodbridge is a Unique Case

- The traffic challenges faced by Woodbridge are **distinct and serious**.
- The issue stems from decisions made over 25 years ago when the development was first approved. At that time:
 - Street classifications between "collector" and "residential" were not major considerations.
 - No one could have foreseen the massive growth and traffic expansion the area would experience.
- While street designations on Woodbridge Drive have previously been stated that this situation would never change, now is the time for an exception.

Current Traffic Impacts

- Woodbridge is experiencing **significant cut-through traffic**, including:
 - Daily commuters
 - Commercial trucks and service vehicles
 - Employees from nearby businesses (e.g., medical offices, title companies, hotels, Hubble Homes, etc.)
 - This is evident from the signage on many of these vehicles.
- **Google Maps and GPS services route traffic directly through Woodbridge**, suggesting it as the fastest path from locations like Dairy Queen on Watertown to St. Luke's Hospital on Eagle Road.
- Traffic studies show **upwards of 2,000 vehicles per day** cut through Woodbridge.
- With the new development and expansion on **Locust Grove/Bentley area**, which includes the ICOM College and all their planned new buildings and student housing and the potential new residential housing development on Magic View and Wells Avenue, these new developments will cause a large **increase in** cut through traffic in Woodbridge.

Comparative Analysis with Nearby Subdivisions

- Woodbridge is the **only subdivision** between **Victory and Fairview** that has a **full cut-through route** from Locust Grove to Eagle Road.
- Other nearby subdivisions and residential complexes—**Sagamore, Sageland, Shellbrooke, Ingelbrooke, Raven Hill, Locust View Heights, Brookside Square, Shallow Creek Apartments, and Enclave Apartments**—**do not have similar access and therefore do not experience this volume of pass-through traffic**.
- This places an unfair and disproportionate burden on our community.

Community Requests for Temporary Relief

While long-term solutions are developed in partnership with ACHD and City Council, we respectfully request **temporary mitigation measures**:

1. Temporary Closure of Magic View Exit

- Install a gate with access only for residents and safety personnel to enter and exit through Magic View using an arm with appropriate clickers.
 - Or, install **bollards** to block the exit from Woodbridge to Magic View.
 - This will immediately reduce cut-through traffic and provide relief to residents.
2. **Install “No Outlet” Signage**
- Place clear **“No Outlet” signage at the entrance on Locust Grove**, deterring GPS-directed and non-residential through traffic.

Commitment to Explore Alternative Traffic Routes-Request for Action

We urge the City of Meridian, ACHD, and relevant agencies to:

Collaborate with Woodbridge HOA, ACHD, and the City to evaluate and implement **alternative routes** to carry commuter and commercial traffic away from residential neighborhoods.

Reassess the current traffic strategy in and around Woodbridge.

Consider interim solutions, such as restricted turns or timed closures at Magic View.

Explore long-term rerouting options *with* community input.

Recognize this as a planning issue, not a neighborhood nuisance, and act with urgency

We love our community. We are not opposed to growth. But we do expect accountability, vision, and equity in how growth is managed — and right now, those principles are not being reflected in how our subdivision is treated.

We look forward to continued collaboration and appreciate your efforts to preserve the safety and quality of life in our community.

Respectfully,

Woodbridge Subdivision Representatives