

Mrs. Diane Catotti,

If you will look through the attachment you will see that the original plans for the East End Connector was alternate 3. Federal officials were the ones to suggest looking at other alternatives due to the wetlands. I was also told by one of the DOT officials that alternate 4 would have a greater negative impact on the environment and the wetlands than alternate 3. This is something that Mark Ahrendsen denied when speaking to me.

I have noticed your support for the Eno River and your opposition to the Eno Loop being built. Why would you be in support of the wetlands in one part of the city and opposed to the wetlands in the other part of the city? It is especially troubling when you consider the Federal government has problems with building in the area. Are you too closely tied to the Eno association to see the damage that could be done to a historically black community?

I understand that the money intended for the Eno Loop would be diverted to the East End Connector if it is built. Is there fear that if the East End Connector is not built that the only viable alternative is to go back to the Eno Loop - if you want to keep the funded transportation money?

Pastor Sylvester Williams

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

From: Catotti, Diane [mailto:Diane.Catotti@durhamnc.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2007 4:06 PM

To: Williams, Sylvester

Cc: Ahrendsen, Mark

Subject: RE: East End Connector

Thanks for sharing your concerns and for speaking last night.

On what basis would you suggest I recuse myself? I have nothing to gain financially or otherwise from any decision regarding the East End Connector.

I have maps and know where the different alternatives go. I was asking what streets comprise the Hayestown community. That was an appropriate clarification. There are 100s of neighborhoods in Durham. I don't (nor do any other council members) know the boundaries of all of them.

Re alternative 3 being off the table, we have not been informed of such. What is your source for that information?

Best regards,

Diane N. Catotti

Durham City Council

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From: Williams, Sylvester [mailto:sylvester.williams@firstcitizens.com]
Sent: Tue 2/6/2007 9:13 AM
To: Council Members
Cc: sylbar@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: East End Connector

I thank you for the opportunity to speak last night. However I am upset and embarrassed by the misrepresentation and misinformation submitted last night.

The person representing the local DOT lied. First, he did not have a consensus agreement (as he said he did) from the community as you could see by the turn our last night. Second, I talked with Kevin Moore, Project Design Engineer, and he said that no studies had been done on widening existing roads, contradicting the local official again. Third, I was told at one of the first DOT meetings that alternate 3 had been rejected because of environmental concerns. The Federal government told the DOT to consider other alternatives because of the impact to the environment. Once again the official denied that alternate 3 had been rejected. Why would you recommend after 20 years and \$300,000 later the same plan that has already been rejected. Fourth, option 5, the No Build option was not a part of the original discussion. Also the widening of existing roads as an alternative never came up.

I was embarrassed that only Howard Clement knew where Hayestown or alternate 2 is located. How could you as city officials make such a decision without knowing the impact to your constituents. I believe that Eugene Brown and Ms Cattoti should recuse them from voting due to conflict of interest.

I am in touch with a reporter from a local paper, but I am hoping that before proceeding to the newspaper with the egregious dereliction of duties that you our representatives will rectify the injustices. Also, on the advice of counsel, I have been told that there have enough misrepresentation of the fact to table the whole project.

Instead, we the community would love to work with you to build a consensus palatable to all of Durham.

Thank You,

Pastor Sylvester Williams

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Williams, Sylvester

> Sent: Friday, February 02, 2007 8:31 AM

> To: 'council@ci.durham.nc.us'

> Cc: 'sylbar@hotmail.com'

> Subject: East End Connector

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> I am Sylvester Williams the Pastor of The Assembly at Durham Christian Center and the President of Hayestown Community. I and the community love Durham. When the number of homicides in Durham increased to historical highs we began to pray to the Heavenly Father in the name of His Son King Jesus for a halt to the senseless murders. Last year the Lord honored our prayers, but we are continuing to pray until homicides in Durham are eliminated.

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> We as a community are against all 4 options that include building the Highway Connector through our community. and East Durham. The fifth option which is the no build option is the option that we support. The DOT told us that another alternative, widening existing roads has not even had an impact or feasibility study. We also suggest that this option be looked into more closely.

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> Hayestown Community has a long history that speaks to the pride and hard work of a black community that has endured Jim Crow and racism. I am a third generation living in Hayestown. My grandmother came to Durham to build a home after seeing her mother's land stolen from her on her death bed. Mr. Lee, who is 84 years old, recalls the C.R. Woods Park as being his playground while young. His family has lived in this community over 100 years.

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> How long will the policy of benign neglect go on toward the older established black communities. The request to put a library in East Durham was rejected, request for improvements to the park have been largely ignored. We that are old enough, remember Hayti and what it contributed to the community. However the decision made to dislocate the businesses in Hayti to run Highway 147 was also part of the same plans to run the East End Connector through the heart of another Black community. >

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> We as a Black community believe that the decision to dislocate the businesses in Hayti was racist. All of the road plans were born out of a racist past that had no respect for the contributions made by low paid hard working African Americans. Things that we as a community are proud of. Indeed we still see vestiges of this racist past and the annihilation of long standing African American businesses. Consider Pan Pan Diner and Scarborough Funeral Home.

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> Eighty percent of the people in attendance at one of our community meetings are senior citizens or retired. Many of these people own their homes and/or have no mortgage. Where do they go, what type of life will they live if forced to relocate. For many of the residents, as with my grandmother, real estate is all they have to pass on to the next generation. Will you continue to insult them and take away this last bit of dignity for those that have worked so hard to leave something to their family members.

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> Though our community may not be the richest, it still has people that matter. It was Abraham Lincoln that intimated during the Civil war when both sides were praying to God for victory, that God through His Son King Jesus is on the side of right, not might.

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