

From: Helen Fox
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Planning
Subject: New developments on Nixon Road

I think it's fine to add some new houses and apartments in our area (Orchard Hills/Maplewood) but only if infrastructure improvements go along with it. Nixon Road needs to be wider, with sidewalks or at least walking paths on either side of it that make it safe for neighborhood runners, walkers, and children. The traffic circle needs to be rethought with input from engineers. Even Plymouth Road will need work - traffic lights instead of the flashing signals, and perhaps other traffic flow improvements. It has to be easier to drive out of the neighborhoods onto Plymouth without being stuck forever while cars go by. It occurs to me that while we're re-thinking this whole neighborhood we might give some thought to improving what outdoor malls should look like. In London, where I visited recently, outdoor malls are made into walking, shopping, and dining spaces with shops on either side of a pedestrians-only "street." Parking is elsewhere - underground in London, but I could imagine it above ground as well. We do have a few examples of this design in Ann Arbor - I think we need more of them. The "strip-mall look" is deadly. As we expand Ann Arbor, let's think creatively about how to make every neighborhood an enjoyable, people-friendly space.

Be like water making its way through cracks. Do not be assertive, but adjust to the object, and you will find a way around or through it. - Bruce Lee

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