

September 5, 2010

Ann Arbor City Council, Planners or Whomever

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I am mailing this before we leave Ann Arbor so that I do so while it is fresh on my mind.

We came to AA this weekend, as we have for 11 years now, for the opening of the Big House and our first game. It was a great game indeed, and the stadium additions are fantastic. Both offset the absolutely miserable shape the city of Ann Arbor is in, but even that, barely!

How embarrassing to have a city so unprepared for such a big weekend. We come to about half the home games and have for years. We give my daughter in Lansing the rest of the tickets and she had warned us that the roads and the city were a mess. How right she was!!! This weekend, we brought two longtime friends from Detroit with us and picked them up on the way into AA. Not that Detroit is without its issues, but AA has actually managed to take top honor for blithering idiot planning and city management.

Perhaps not surprising after seeing it all these years-but this one you truly outdo yourselves! The student council at my alma mater now promoted to real jobs and clearly incapable of handling it.

How in the world could you have so many roads torn up and traffic so snarled for opening weekend? Did no one tell you when the game was or is this just p---poor planning and execution that you are famous for? While AA babbles about planting trees or whatever, no one can get into or around the city to actually get anywhere. I imagine the commerce in town is elated that so many roads, Plymouth, Geddes, almost all of them downtown, are all torn up. My party assumed you folks still think you are living in a bubble of some sort that insulates you from the rest of the woes in Michigan. Not so.

On a normal weekend we do several dinners, at least two breakfasts and shopping. This weekend, we stayed close to the hotel on Friday night and left first thing Sunday morning. We'd all had enough of waiting in traffic to move a light at a time. It is one thing to have to deal with traffic leaving a game, quite another to have the same issues trying to get out of your hotel!

My wife has told our daughter she can have the rest of the tickets until late in the year. We have no intention of going through this mess again and frankly pity the poor folks- students and others- who have to put up with the mess you've created. Glad we don't have anyone at the U right now.

We assumed, in our conversations, that AA has jumped on the federal funny money wagon and is trying to use every penny it can- our tax dollars- to rebuild roads. Ok, I have issues with the funny money to begin with, but if that is so, how about getting a planner who can manage a calendar and either get some jobs done before starting new ones or at least take into account getting things done before 100,000 folks descend on the city.

What a sad joke AA has become. Congrats!

Steve Blankenship, Class of 1979

