

Subject: Lynn Valley Plan

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A MESSAGE From Ernie Crist

I stand by the comments I made in my recent letter to the NEWS regarding the Pedestrian Oriented Lynn Volley Community Plan hoax. If it is not a hoax then what is it?

The Plan called for wider streets to encompass bicycle lanes. Have you seen the streets made wider to accommodate bicycle lanes because I have not and I live there. Are the streets wider to accommodate boulevards also promised to the public? No sir, they are narrower. The new apartment buildings on both Lynn Valley Road and Mountain Highway are, in fact, closer to the street than the buildings they are replacing, leaving no room for either bicycles lanes or boulevards.

But if you think the building are close to the street you should see the back. The space between the new buildings and the property line of the adjacent buildings has been cut to 4 feet so people can look into the kitchens of their neighbors.

Bicycle lanes? Really ? The District will paint a white line on the road and that's it, folks. LOOK Ma, they gave us bicycle lanes. The delay of the Lynn Valley Library, under all kinds of pretexts, also belongs in the hoax and hoodwink category. Construction of the Library was supposed to commence in the summer of 2001 now they are talking about starting in 2004, if then. The reasons justifying the delay ring hollow because they are hollow. They have been concocted to bide time to kill the project altogether. Still the Lynn Valley Community Association, in a recent letter to the NEWS, insisted that things are OK much to the joy of the Councillors, who have repeatedly called into question the need for the Library altogether.

That the Pedestrian Oriented Core Plan is a hoax has also been denied by a one time spokesperson of the Lynn Valley Planning Committee. He was telling Council that he is sick of listening to statements that what is happening in the Lynn Valley Core is contrary to what was promised. A District Councillor, clearly encouraged by this support, quickly joined the action, clearly without having the foggiest idea what a Pedestrian Oriented Town Center looks like.

The question is this? If things are all right then where is the Community Center and the other facilities as part of the comprehensive Pedestrian Oriented Town Center or where, at least, are the plans for them? We got the higher density but where are the shaded boulevards and the green areas for people to relax and walk about instead of having to take their cars to go from one corner to the next? And where is the financial plan making it possible? Clearly the word Pedestrian Oriented does not fit for what is nothing more than just another regional Car Mall.

Improvements to the Lynn Valley Core have indeed been made but not to accommodate pedestrians but to accommodate more traffic with more pollution, more parking problems and more noise. The Lynn Valley Community Association spokespersons may not agree with me but, as the philosopher said, facts are stubborn things. The point is that, as long as the leaders of Lynn Valley keep their blinkers on, the people of Lynn Valley will only end up further down the garden path. This point is important because the people of Maplewood too are about to get a "people oriented community redevelopment " just as the people of Seymour did before them.

