

You all may have read that the City of Decatur is adding all-way stop signs on West Hill St at McKoy and on Hilldale Drive at Derrydown. Both additions were driven by concerns about speeders and pedestrian safety. David Junger, Assistant City Manager, has contacted us and offered for the City to add cross walks, curb cuts, and all-way stop signs on E Parkwood at Upland Rd. This would improve pedestrian connectivity by providing a safe pedestrian crossing in the middle of the neighborhood to Upland Road. This would be done in conjunction with the repaving of E. Parkwood Rd. Mr Junger has offered to come and meet with anyone with concerns or questions. Unless there are objections by the neighborhood, the proposal will be presented to Council for their approval the Monday, October 19 meeting.

It may be useful to review some background on traffic calming, repaving, sidewalk repairs, etc.:

For a number of years, there have been informal conversations within our neighborhood about the amount of traffic, speeding, volume of trucks, etc., which has been collectively been grouped under the title of "Traffic Calming." These concerns have been exacerbated by the addition of stop signs and a dedicated turn lane into our neighborhood at the East Lake entrance.

The following was sent by Sean Pruett, PGC President, Sep 19, 2014:

*Dear Ms. Merriss,*

*First let me say how much we appreciate the great services that the whole of our neighborhood is now receiving from the City of Decatur. I write concerning traffic issues in our Parkwood Garden Club (PGC) neighborhood (E. Parkwood Rd., W. Parkwood Rd., Parkwood Lane, and Upland Rd.).*

*We are concerned about the amount and composition of traffic using our neighborhood streets as a cut-through between Eastlake Road and West Ponce de Leon/Scott Boulevard. It appears we are experiencing a marked increase in the amount of traffic as a consequence of the City of Decatur's efforts to reduce the north-south traffic going directly through the city. Additionally, it seems likely that the turn lane and stop signs being installed at the Eastlake entrance into our neighborhood as a consequence of the roadwork on Eastlake will further increase our neighborhood traffic.*

*Finally, the truck traffic that uses our neighborhood, ignoring the "no through trucks" signs that are posted at each entry point, not only create a safety concern, but do incremental damage to our roads above and beyond normal vehicular use.*

*We strongly feel that a traffic study would be appropriate as a first step towards further traffic mitigation efforts and would appreciate any help the city could provide.*

*We continue to be delighted by the quality of service the city of Decatur provides and appreciate any resources that can be offered towards reducing traffic in the Parkwoods and making our neighborhood a safer and more desirable place to live.*

*I am copying both Bryan Bell and Tom Bell, two of our PGC board members. They have agreed to be the points of contact with the City with respect to this issue.*

*Respectfully,  
~SKP*

*Sean K. Pruett,  
President, Parkwood Garden Club*

It took several months to get a reply. In November 2014 I met with a number of city employees and submitted the following report to the PGC Board:

*Report to the PGC Board    Traffic Calming Meeting                    November 4, 2014*

*I met with David Junger, Assistance City Manager, Public Works; John Maximuk, Director, Design, Environment, and Construction; Lena Stevens, Resource Conservation Coordinator for the City Manager; and John Madajewski, Senior Engineer, Design, Environment, and Construction, Engineering at 8:00 am Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at the traffic circle at West Parkwood and East Lake.*

*The purpose of the meeting was to solicit help from the City of Decatur to address traffic issues in our neighborhood as a follow up to Sean's Sep 19, 2014 email to the City Manager. Specific concerns raised were the volume of traffic that uses the Parkwoods as a cut through, the impact of the changes to East Lake (especially the proposed turn lane) to traffic through our neighborhood, the fact that trucks ignore the "no trucks" postings, and GPS routings through our neighborhood. It was good that we were at the traffic circle at eight in the morning so that they could appreciate the traffic volume.*

*We discussed a lot of possible ideas. There are a few things in the works that may help our situation. The remake of the railroad crossings at McDonough and Candler will improve traffic flow through the city that may help us. The repaving of East Parkwood may include ADA sidewalk crossings to include all way stops at Upland and the cut through. Following the meeting, I sent David a link to the DOT plans for East Lake.*

*There is a working group with in the city government for issues like ours. We will be added to list of neighborhoods that they will look at.*

*It took a while to get this meeting, but I believe that the City now appreciates our concerns and is going to address them.*

Subsequent to this meeting, little has happened. Various inquiries were answered with the statement that the City wanted to wait until the repaving of E. Parkwood was completed before suggesting any changes. It seems that the repaving may be getting close

It was suggested at a recent Board meeting that although traffic calming has been a Board topic for a while, it has not been well communicated with the neighborhood. It is probably time to remedy that. I suggest a PGC email which publicizes the Oct 19 proposal to Council to add the stop signs/curb cuts/crosswalks at Upland and E Parkwood (could use the first para of this) and solicits members interested in forming an ad hoc committee to address traffic calming issues.