

January 24, 2022

Via email to Mr. Ethan Parsons  
[ethanp@ipswichma.gov](mailto:ethanp@ipswichma.gov)

Ms. Carolyn Britt, Chair  
Planning Board  
Town of Ipswich  
25 Green Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938

Re: 55 Waldingfield Road, Traffic Impacts

Dear Chair Britt and Members of the Planning Board:

I am an Ipswich resident with an address on County Road that is close to Waldingfield Road. I am an avid equestrian and an occasional runner who truly enjoys the bucolic routes that are accessible through Appleton Farm and Waldingfield Road.

I am somewhat forced to live by the credo: live where you want to, work where you have to. I am a biochemist by training and I work in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry. I moved to Ipswich so that I could work in Boston and yet still enjoy “country life”. I have commuted into the Cambridge/Boston area for over 20 years. Yes, the commute can be brutal. But it is worth it, to me. I am very fond of the town of Ipswich and especially my neck of the woods. Ever since moving to Ipswich in 2000, I have thoroughly enjoyed my equestrian activities (carriage driving and horseback riding) and have covered miles and miles on trails and roads in Ipswich and Hamilton.

And so – the topic of my email is: traffic. Numerous individuals have commented on the effect of the proposed Ora Project on Waldingfield Road traffic. Waldingfield Road is part of my commute and I know it very well. It is a road that must be driven carefully. There are several curves that must be negotiated at a reduced speed in case there is a cyclist or pedestrian or equestrian sharing the road. I always tip my hat to the Ipswich police officer(s) that sit in the Appleton driveway, hoping that they nab the drivers that often fly by me and my horse.

I have several concerns about the proposed Ora Project and I feel that these concerns have been voiced by others, and so I will not re-visit those topics. But as a seasoned commuter, I felt the need to add to the concerns that have been made about the traffic on Waldingfield Road. If the proposed Ora Project is approved, my concern is that the mentality of the drivers on Waldingfield Road will be that of commuters and NOT residents. Commuters who are in a hurry to get to work, late for a meeting, and then in a hurry to get home.

The commuter mentality is not reflected in the traffic engineer’s models, yet it is precisely the issue for a rural road with respect to safety for non-vehicular as well as vehicular users of the road. The traffic impact analyses address vehicle to vehicle issues but ignore the safety of ALL road users. The safety issues are further exacerbated by commuters who are focused on the

next part of their daily life rather than upon the users of the designated Scenic Road. As a scientist, I understand and appreciate statistics and consequently my belief is that the increased commuter traffic will unfortunately increase the chances of accidents and possible severe injury to non-vehicular users.

Sincerely

Anne Burkhardt, PhD