

## **AGENDA: TSC 5/7/12**

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request to permit parking on Lawrence Avenue north of Bob Billings Parkway.

Facts:

1. Lawrence Avenue is classified as a "collector" street in a residential area and is paved 26 feet wide.
2. Lawrence Avenue carries approximately 1600 vehicles per day in this area.
3. Prior to 2005, parking was prohibited along the east side of the street and along the west side of the street from Bob Billings Parkway, north 150 feet.
4. In June 2005, the Traffic Safety Commission heard a request to prohibit parking along the west side of Lawrence Avenue from 150 feet north of Bob Billings Parkway to Applegate Court; the Commission voted 4-1-1 recommending denial of the request.
5. At their October 4, 2005 meeting, the City Commission voted unanimously to prohibit parking along the west side of Lawrence Avenue from 150 feet north of Bob Billings Parkway to Applegate Court.

## **MINUTES: TSC 5/7/12**

### **ITEM NO. 4:**

#### **Consider request to permit parking on Lawrence Avenue north of Bob Billings Parkway.**

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report and noted that a number of e-mail's (attached) had been received concerning this item and forwarded to each Commission member.

Public Comment:

Douglas Romary, 2341 Massachusetts Street: When the parking was removed in 2005, there were some unintended consequences; some of the properties have to share a driveway and it gets jammed-up; the only parking in the area is on Applegate Ct and people are cutting-through yards which irritates the neighborhood; I would suggest that some of the parking be reinstated; some people have even driven across the lawn to get into driveways; it's been problematic since all parking was removed.

Mark Stoker, 1451 Lawrence Avenue: I agree with the issue of parking and where it should be reinstated; one of the real issues is speed coming down that hill; there is very limited parking in the cul-de-sac and it is difficult to have any guests over; adding some parking shouldn't be an issue for safety.

M.E. Debicki, 1445 Applegate Court: One of the main problems is, of course, speed, but when a car is heading down Lawrence Avenue, they do not realize how it curves into Bob Billings; I took some pictures (attached) showing how you cannot see down Lawrence Avenue and you do not know what is there at the bottom of the street; it is an issue of safety; I know there is a problem with parking, I can never park in front of my own house, there are just too many cars.

Dennis Moss, 1428 Lawrence Avenue: I've taken some pictures too (attached); this is not a minor curve, the curve is the problem; safety is an issue, when cars were allowed to park along the curve, they obstructed the view of cars coming off Bob Billings; the other issue, prior to 2005, was cars swinging out around parked cars and unexpectedly encounter a northbound car; sometimes they would just jump the curb to avoid an accident; my mailbox has been taken-out and I lost count at 15 times; there is no place for them to go; they have even driven across lawns when having to wait too long for a vehicle parking; there was even a head-on collision prior to the parking removal; they could not see due to vehicles parked on the curve; there were even times when traffic turning off Bob Billings was backed-up because of vehicles waiting on Lawrence Avenue; snow and ice removal was a problem also prior to the parking removal; it is an inconvenience to not have parking, but the minor inconvenience is not worth the safety issues we have had in the past.

Tod Sutton, 1404 Lawrence Avenue: The current configuration is clearly the safest configuration as I've traveled that road multiple times a day for the last 13 years.

Marita Elliott, 1447 Lawrence Avenue: If parking is allowed, my driveway and my mailbox would be affected.

Jo Anne Kready, formerly of 1447 Lawrence Avenue: When there was parking allowed, when I backed out of my driveway I could not see the cars coming up Lawrence Avenue.

Samuel Elliott, 1447 Lawrence Avenue: It is somewhat of an inconvenience, but for the safety matter we would definitely stand opposed to this proposal; we think it is just fine the way it is.

Karen Moore, 1435 Applegate Court: I represent nine (9) senior citizens that live on Applegate Ct; if cars are parked on Lawrence, it would be very difficult to see when exiting Applegate Ct; we ask that you keep the parking ban on Lawrence Avenue.

Jeanne Pees, 2905 Stratford Court: The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association supports the owner/residents in opposing the request for parking.

#### Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Harden asked if it would be possible to widen the driveways that have a problem; Woosley advised that there may be public works and development codes that would apply.

Commission Boley asked if there were any approved traffic calming devices for this portion of Lawrence Avenue; Woosley advised that there were not.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: I was on the Commission when the parking was removed in 2005; I do think the safety is probably better now; I think they sacrifice some speed; that probably hasn't gotten better.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO PERMIT PARKING ON LAWRENCE AVENUE NORTH OF BOB BILLINGS PARKWAY; THE MOTION CARRIED, 9-0.**

# parking on lawrence avenue

RECEIVED

APR 10 2012

PUBLIC WORKS

From: **Douglas Romary** (kschickpea@hotmail.com)

Sent: Sun 3/11/12 5:34 PM

To: traffic@lawrenceks.org

& attachments

P3050059.JPG (2.9 MB) , P3050060.JPG (2.8 MB) , P3080061.JPG (2.7 MB) ,  
P3080062.JPG (2.8 MB) , P3080063.JPG (2.7 MB) , P3080064.JPG (2.8 MB) ,  
P3080065.JPG (2.8 MB) , P3080066.JPG (2.8 MB)

Traffic safety commission,

1. I have enclosed some photos of this street, and one can easily see that lawrence avenue is a residential street. Please take note of all the driveways that connect to lawrence avenue.
2. About 4 years ago, on street parking was eliminated on both sides of lawrence avenue, north of bob billings parkway, up to the top of the hill.
3. Parking had not been a problem up until that change occurred, but has become a constant irritant to residents, neighbors and visitors ever since.
4. I have lived in lawrence for quite some time, and i am not aware of any other residential street that has had parking banned on it, on both sides of the street, for such a great distance.
5. I am hoping that the commission can correct this error by once again allowing residents and visitors to park on the street as it does on any other residential street.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

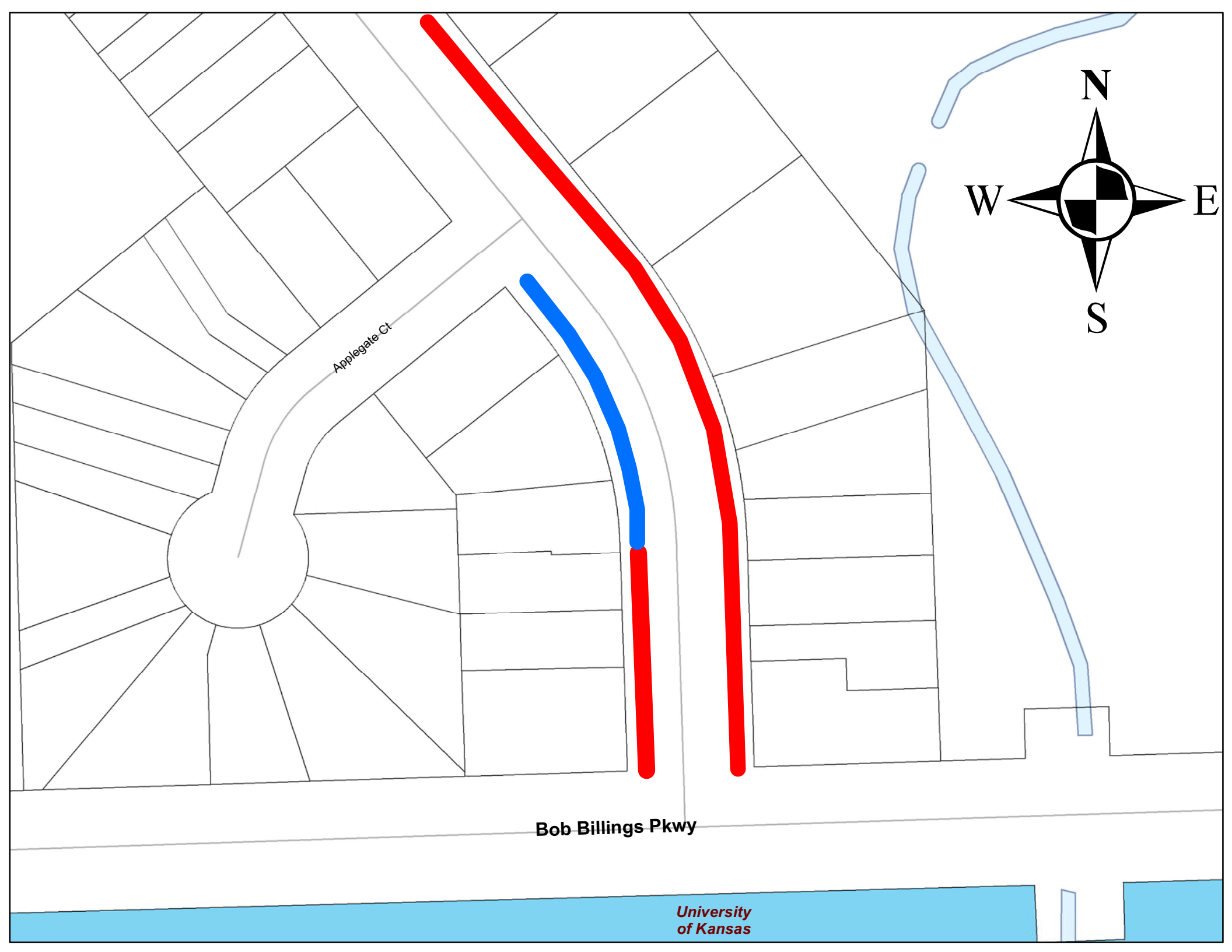
Douglas Romary

2341 Mass St.  
Lawrence, KS 66046

785. 423. 5715 cell  
785. 865. 3783 home

owner  
1453 Lawrence Ave  
Lawrence, KS 66044

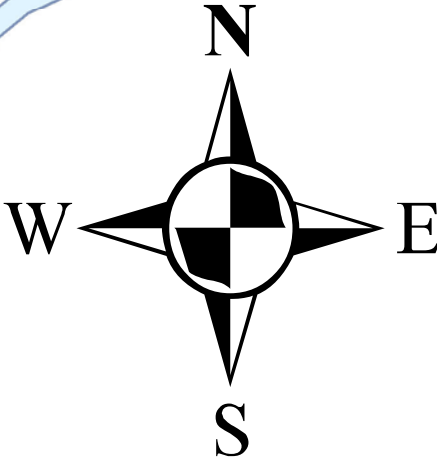




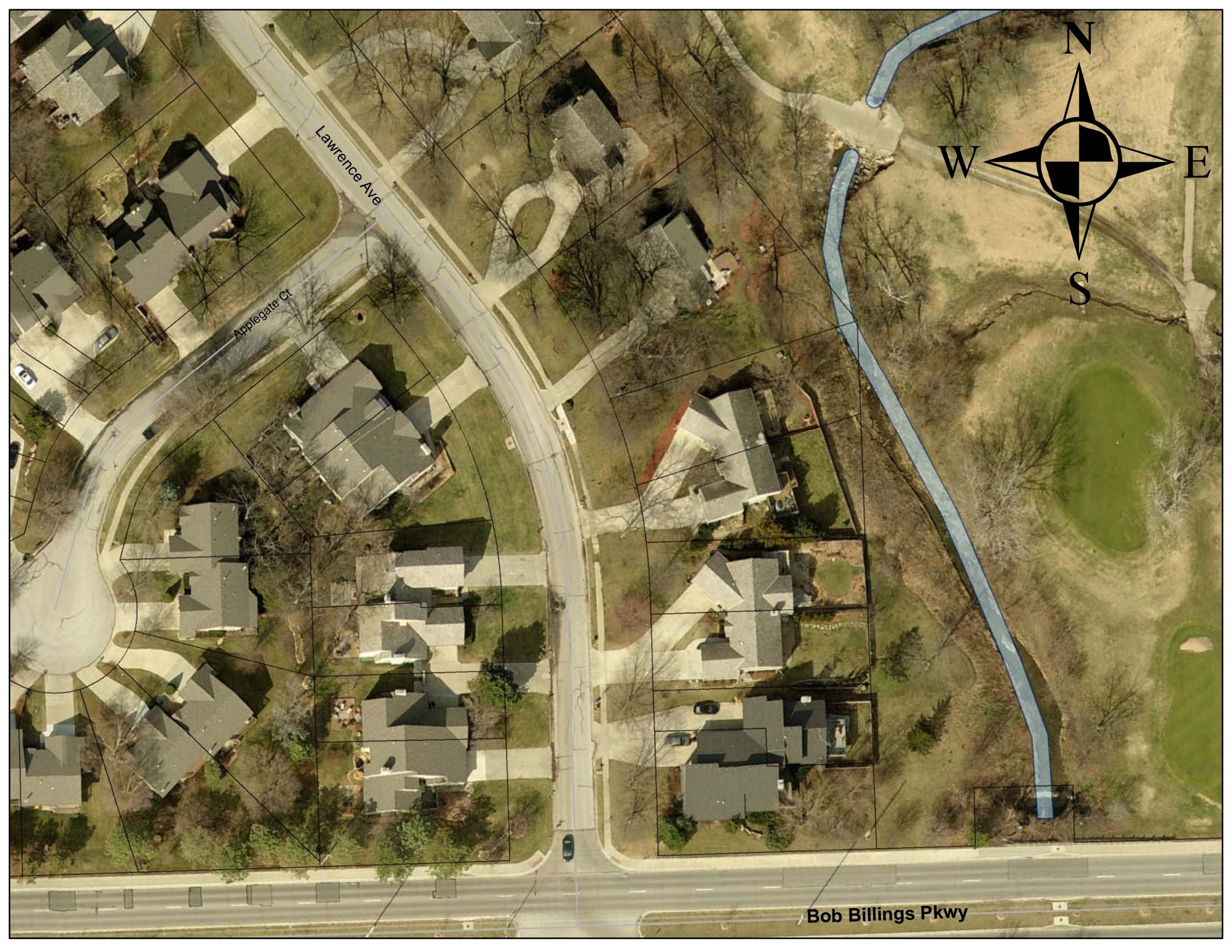
Applegate Ct

Bob Billings Pkwy

University of Kansas







Lawrence Ave

Applegate Ct

Bob Billings Pkwy





## David Woosley

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**From:** Tim Forcade [tim@forcadeassociates.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2012 4:59 PM  
**To:** David Woosley  
**Cc:** Betsy Forcade  
**Subject:** Regarding the May 7th Traffic Safety Commission Meeting - Agenda Item #3

Dear Commissioners,

We regret we are unable to attend the May 7th Traffic Safety Commission meeting. We wish to express our concern regarding "Agenda Item No. 3 - Consider request to permit parking on Lawrence Avenue North of Bob Billings Parkway."

For the past 20 years we have lived at 1440 Lawrence Avenue and also own the adjoining townhouse at 1442 Lawrence Avenue. We are writing to oppose the reinstatement of parking here. Parking should be maintained as it stands now. Parking should NOT be permitted either side of Lawrence Avenue from Bob Billings Parkway to Applegate Court. We believe that enabling people to park on either side of the street is dangerous for the following reasons:

1. The corner of Bob Billings and Lawrence Avenue is very heavily traveled.

This coupled with the tendency of people to speed along both streets makes driving in either direction or turning along this corner more of a challenge. This is further complicated by a regular flow of pedestrian traffic - students, walkers and joggers along Billings and Lawrence Avenue.

Enabling people to park will add to an already difficult situation.

2. Cars traveling west on Bob Billings and turning right onto Lawrence Avenue often swing rapidly around this corner. If a car traveling south on Lawrence Avenue swings wide to avoid a parked car, there could be a head on collision.

3. The people living on the west side of Lawrence Avenue would not be able to see cars coming south when trying to pull out of their driveway. Our neighbors, the Adams have had many close calls before parking was eliminated. This was made even more dangerous during rush hour as traffic frequently backs up a half block or more.

5. Allowing parking on this part of Lawrence Avenue would very probably encourage even more parties from the students living in the townhouses on the West side of Lawrence Avenue. Drunken kids getting in and out of cars at night on a street that has cars speeding downhill towards Bob Billings is scary. This is not a lightly traveled street and cars usually pick up a lot of speed as they approach Bob Billings. We have had numerous accidents as cars traveling south have spun out of control and ended up in our yards.

Enabling parking along Lawrence Avenue will make an already dangerous situation much more so.

Sincerely,

Betsy and Tim Forcade  
1440 Lawrence Avenue  
785.843.1605



## David Woosley

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**From:** Alderson, Betty J. [adkab@ku.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2012 11:36 AM  
**To:** David Woosley  
**Subject:** May 7 Traffic Commission meeting.

Dave,

I won't be able to attend the Traffic Commission meeting this coming Monday evening. I have looked over the agenda and would like to comment on the item regarding parking on Lawrence Ave. north of Bob Billings Parkway. I recall the problems the permanent residents were having along that stretch of street when parking was permitted. I am not in favor of seeing parking returned to the area.

I note that the person requesting the change does not live in that area and that leads me to assume that it is used as a student rental property.

Thanks.

Betty Alderson

**David Woosley**

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**From:** Dennis Moss [dennismickey@sunflower.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 06, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** David Woosley; David Woosley  
**Cc:** 'MED'; tim@forcadeassociates.com; 'Smith, Jewel M.'; 'Sidney Sutton'; samari0043@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Parking Along Lawrence Avenue  
**Attachments:** Parking Along Lawrence Ave--Issues.docx

Dear Sir:

There is a proposal before the traffic commission tomorrow evening (May 7) to once again allow parking along Lawrence Avenue between Bob Billings Parkway and Applegate Court. Several of us in the neighborhood are opposed to this proposal for safety reasons given our past experience when cars were previously allowed to park along this curve in the road. My wife and I have composed the attached document with the help of several neighbors to help illustrate our concerns if cars are again allowed to park on Lawrence Avenue in front of our homes. I have attached the item as a Word document but have also copied it below in case you had problems opening the attachment.

Thanks you for your consideration of these issues.

Dennis & Mickey Moss  
1428 Lawrence Ave.  
842-6035  
[dennismickey@sunflower.com](mailto:dennismickey@sunflower.com)

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## Safety Issues If Parking Is Again Allowed On Lawrence Ave

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Public safety is the primary concern many of us have if parking is again allowed on Lawrence Avenue between Bob Billings Parkway and Applegate Court. Lawrence is a very busy street, and the curve in the road as shown in pictures gives rise to two safety issues if cars are again allowed to park on the street. We who have lived on the street can provide many examples to support these two concerns. The two safety issues are:

- Cars parked along the curb obscure and hinder the view of drivers to see oncoming traffic in either direction because of the curve in the road, and
- The curve has the effect of narrowing the road when cars are parked along the curb as drivers naturally swing out to avoid them. Thus, it is more difficult and hazardous for drivers to pass oncoming traffic while avoiding the cars parked along the curve.

Some personal experiences help illustrate these concerns:

- Backing out of driveways on either side of the street becomes a hazard when cars are parked along the curve on Lawrence Ave. The view of oncoming traffic is blocked by cars for those trying to back out on the west side of the street. This was one of the reasons parking restrictions were requested in the first place. Cars backing out from residences on the east side of the street have a better view, but they still find it difficult and time consuming to

maneuver out of the driveway when cars are parked right behind them on the curve as the street is much more narrow. These issues can also tie up traffic along the curve.

- Drivers have unexpectedly encountered oncoming traffic because cars parked along the curve have blocked their view. Without sufficient room to maneuver or ability to stop to avoid accidents, some have jumped the curb and entered into the yards on the east side. All of us along the east side of the street have had our mail boxes destroyed on a fairly frequent basis (at least once or twice a year in some cases) when cars were allowed to park on the curve. In addition, several of our yards were driven through by cars trying to avoid oncoming traffic. On at least one occasion, traffic in the street was tied up because a car was trying to park along the curve, and at least three drivers coming off Bob Billings drove over our yards on the east side of the street to avoid the congestion. Over time, we have lost more than one bush and had to reseed parts of the yards because of similar actions. This problem has diminished significantly since parking was restricted on the road as visibility has greatly improved and there is room to maneuver through the curve since parked cars are not blocking part of the street.
- There was at least one head-on collision on Lawrence Avenue that we recall when cars were allowed to park on the west side of the street. This took place late at night when a car was parked or stalled on the east side of the road with no lights on. A car swung out to pass the parked cars on the west side of the street and could not see the car parked along the east curb soon enough to stop or safely pass. We are unaware of any injuries, but the issue remains that cars parked along the curve hinder a driver's ability to see cars that may be in the other traffic lane.
- Cars at the stop sign on Lawrence Avenue (waiting to enter onto Bob Billings) are backed up at times. This is not a problem at present as there is plenty of room. But if cars are again allowed to park along the curve on Lawrence Avenue, the backed up traffic at the stop sign may impede cars trying to turn off Bob Billings onto Lawrence. We have seen this problem in the past because cars parked on the curve narrow the traffic lanes for cars travelling in either direction. With cars backed up at the stop sign, the congestion impedes traffic and the resulting slow down has even extended onto Bob Billings Parkway in the past. At least two residents reported that they have had to stop on Bob Billings before turning onto Lawrence Avenue because of traffic congestion that had been caused by cars parked along the curve on Lawrence Avenue.
- Snowplows have a much more difficult time clearing the road and providing clear passage when cars are parked on the curve. Years ago, we had a 17 car pileup when ice and snow were on the road and cars were parked on the street. In addition, the mail box at 1428 Lawrence Avenue was taken out by a snowplow trying to negotiate the curve with cars parked on the other side of the street. (The city replaced the mail box and post.)
- If the city goes to some kind of mechanized garbage pickup as has been discussed, cars parked along the curve are going to present another problem that will have to be resolved as access to the garbage bins will have to be cleared.
- We would also like to point out that the person who has requested parking along the street doesn't even live in the neighborhood and thus will not have to live with any negative change in road safety.

Parking restrictions along Lawrence Ave are sometimes inconvenient for everyone living along that part of street, but the safety concerns as expressed above far outweigh the periodic inconvenience in our opinion. In addition, the use of Bob Billings Parkway has increased significantly over the years and will jump even more when the projected connection is made to the Southwest Trafficway, thus making Bob Billings a gateway to KU. With this expanded usage, traffic on Lawrence Avenue will find it ever



harder to turn onto Bob Billings, and the frequency of traffic backups will increase even more. At present, this is not a problem because there is plenty of space since cars are not parked along Lawrence Avenue. But if cars are again allowed to park on the curve, traffic congestion and associated tie-ups and accidents along Lawrence Avenue will become an ever increasing problem.











## David Woosley

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**From:** Jerry Pees [peepod@sunflower.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2012 8:13 AM  
**To:** David Woosley  
**Subject:** parking on Lawrence Ave

Dear David,

The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association request that you keep the "no parking" on Lawrence Avenue from Bob Billing Parkway to Applegate Ct. as it stands. That stretch is blindly dangerous as 4 driveways and one street exit onto Lawrence Ave. at an extreme curve . Traffic on Bob Billing Parkway has increased so that entering and exiting Lawrence Avenue has become more difficult therefore with only one lane the situation would become worse. The hill has always been treacherous during the winter with snow and ice not to mention that cars gain speed as they traverse up and down the hill, all making the curve a dangerous maneuver.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jeanne Pees, Pres., SHNA

South  
~~West~~



14<sup>th</sup> St

West

East

Lawrence Avenue

north

A driver entering this intersection from West, heading south toward B. Billings cannot see Applegate Court or B. Billings



Photo taken at 4:00 p.m. - Strong Shadows



↑  
South

X  
↓  
Applegate Ct

EAST

WEST  
↓

north ↓

Red X shows  
where Applegate Ct  
Enters Lawrence  
Avenue

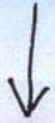
Intersection of 14th St +  
Lawrence Avenue



South

Photo taken  
at noon

X = Applegate Ct

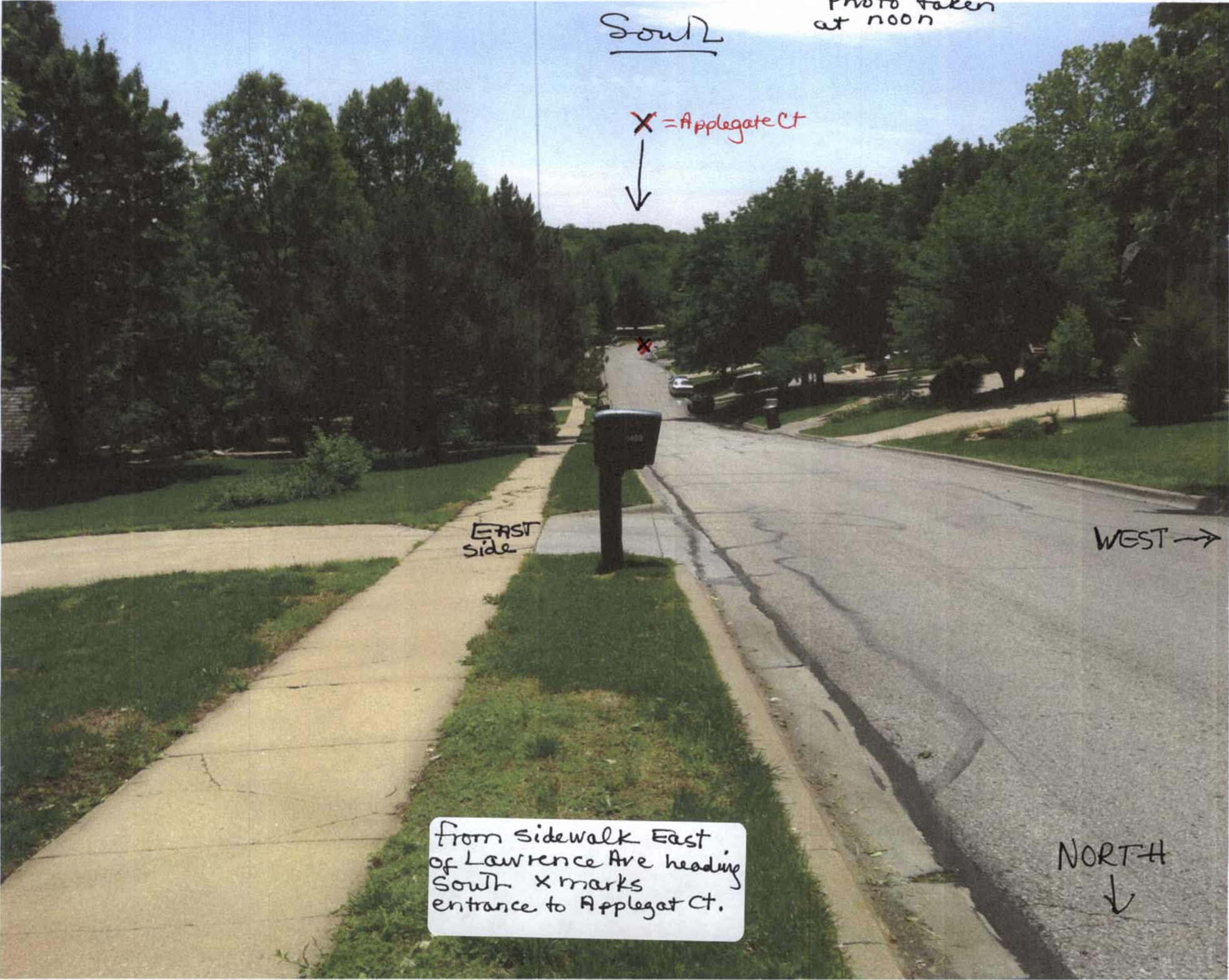


EAST  
side

WEST →

From sidewalk East  
of Lawrence Ave heading  
South X marks  
entrance to Applegat Ct.

NORTH  
↓





South

Center of  
Lawrence Ave

East  
↑

North

Leaving intersection  
just past 14<sup>th</sup> Street.  
You cannot see  
Applegate + curve, much  
less Bob Billings

West →