

From: [Janice Aviza](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#)
Cc: [Michael Behrendt](#)
Subject: 19-21 Parking, Toomurfs
Date: Sunday, February 14, 2021 8:21:55 PM

Dear Karen,
Would you please forward the below message to the Planning Board
I have copied Michael Behrendt here.

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Re: 19-21 Main Street Parking Plateau

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Planning Board

I have earlier written to your board with my concerns about this proposed, novel parking mesa. So I will endeavor to be brief, and non repetitive here. --Except I will repeat that I am entirely opposed to this happening to our downtown.

On Saturday, February 13, my daughter and I took a little local stroll. As we walked past the yellow student apartments on Main Street (formerly Orion, now Torrington) there were two cars lined up, preparing to enter the road. As we approached the waiting lead car, I noticed that the driver had apparently decided to use that interval to look down and check her phone. A dangerous distraction.

Recall that this particular property does not have parking. They only have a drive-through loop for drop-off and pick up. Now extrapolate that to a 180-car parking lot with one entrance onto Main Street. It's going to be very dangerous. Consideration of this behavior should be factored in to any realistic, informative traffic study that might be commissioned.

With all that's wrong with this proposal, . . . both at the entrance/exit end (i.e.: the potential for frequent auto mishaps), --and the back end (the height, the light, the noise, the huge wall, the loss of vegetation,-- I am simply at a loss to understand: **What is RIGHT about it? How in the world is this project good for the town of Durham?**

The only positive I can think of for this project is tax revenue. But, for sure, that revenue would come at a very high price, There would be a disproportionate offset -- environmentally, visually, logistically, . . . and very likely in use of police services. Durham has always been willing to forego tax revenue in favor of quality of life considerations. This project more than validates that philosophy.

Because of my wish not to be repetitive, I will not mention again that, when the apartments downtown were allowed to be built (just a few years ago) there was full intention and cognizance by the town that there would not be associated parking included in the plans. This was meant to encourage a village concept---walking to class and utilizing the bus system. In fact, many of the downtown complexes have made space accommodations for bicycle storage for tenants. As for parking, West Edge exists, the Depot lot exists.

Thank you for reading, and thank you for your service for the good of Durham.

Janice Aviza

Two Garden Lane, corner of Faculty.