

## Reasons “not” to approve rezoning request on HWY64

Good evening Mr. Chairman and fellow Chatham County commissioners. My name is Walt Lewis and I am the owner of The Extra Garage I, II, and III, which provides covered boat and Motor Homes storage services. On behalf of my customers, I am here this evening to speak out against the proposed rezoning request on HWY 64. We are very concerned about the proposed location and the dangerous traffic hazard that this business would create.

As I understand it, the proposed businesses will cater to customers who tow boats and other trailers. But, due to the location of this business, these customers traveling west bound on HWY 64 will be required to make 2 dangerous U-TURNS to use this business.

The applicant acknowledges a 2012 traffic count of 17,000 autos per day. Fast forward to 2014, and I’ve been told that well over 20,000 autos travel this highway per day.

Let me describe the U-Turns:

**U-Turn #1** will be required at the crossover at Bob Horton Rd, which is currently used by my customers as well as the customers and employees of several other businesses:

- Builders First Source
- ST Wooten
- John Deere Landscapes

These companies use 18 wheelers, dump trucks, and pickup trucks with trailers and operate 6 or 7 days a week.

Across the Highway, the following businesses also contribute to the traffic at Bob Horton Road: Kelly Erosion Control, Ferrells, and D and H RV sales.

NONE of the current business customers are required to make any dangerous U-TURNS on HWY 64.

**U-TURN #2** will be required at the 64/751 intersection. Trucks with boats will be required to make a U-TURN directly into the west bound oncoming traffic. Complicating the matter is a concrete medium that is on HWY 751. In essence, you will be competing with oncoming traffic plus the right turning traffic on S 751 all the while trying not to damage your vehicle when forced to go over a concrete medium.

Furthermore, the applicant states that:

- “The boat sales/repair business peak times will be on the weekend.” This is the busiest time for the people heading to Jordan Lake, forcing these customers to make U-TURNS during heavy traffic times.
- The DOT long term highway 64 proposals indicate that the future improvements are not scheduled. Quoting: “improvements are expected to be 30 – 40 years away”.

I do feel it is import for the commissioners to know that currently over 550 +/- boat and RV storage spaces have

recently been approved for construction in the area. NONE of these facilities will require a forced and dangerous U-TURN.

In closing, I am encouraging the Commissioner to do the following:

1. Request the applicant to provide a TIA (Traffic Information Analysis) so we can better understand how the applicant will handle the traffic at this parcel.
2. As a requirement of rezoning, the applicant should provide another HWY 64 crossover at the entrance of the proposed driveway. This would move them away from the very busy and unsafe Bob Horton Rd. crossover traffic.

Thank You!