

Suzanne Churchill, South Street, Statement at IB School workshop 9/24

This project, like other recent town developments, will have a major impact on residents of South St. I would like to make a plea for the establishment of residential parking only zones on South St.

South St. is a thriving multi-generation, multi-income neighborhood. It is home to lots of children and a walk and play zone for many school children.

Residents of South St. enjoy our proximity to the center of town. We accept the daily traffic from school busses and carpools.

We accept the line of cars parked in front of our houses on Sundays for the Methodist Church and many evenings for DIB school events.

We supported the connection of South Street to the Antiquity project in Cornelius, even though we didn't get the recommended traffic calming measures and even though stop signs were provided for more prestigious streets nearby — Woodland and Lorimer.

It's time for the town to recognize the needs of South St. Parking on our street will be further compromised by the Stowe's building, which is already under construction, and by the new rec center. Even if the Methodist Church lot is available, people will try to park on South St. first.

South St. is an old neighborhood. Few houses on the street have garages, and several lack off-street parking for more than one car. We do not park in our single car driveway because it serves as a neighborhood basketball court.

While residential only street parking may seem like a non-issue in car-centric developments, in our neighborhood, it's a necessity.

Residential parking zones will become even more important when the commuter rail comes to the north county. People will be parking in neighborhoods all over town, and we will need to establish resident parking in other areas as well.