

Raleigh NC -- "Growing problems"

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Raleigh NC News & Observer, Jan. 19. Letter to the Editor:

Growing problems

Solutions to transit problems are difficult to find. Having moved here from a large city I know that light rail, HOV lanes and other measures to reduce traffic congestion and commute times were marginally effective, and eventually taxpayers had to cough up more money to continue funding them. Looking back, I realize that the best solution for these problems may have been a proactive approach: limiting development.

In the race for increased tax revenue, infrastructure requirements are sometimes ignored. Schools, additional road lanes, larger parking lots, increased utility service and other factors are important considerations in allowing development to occur. While clearing several acres of pines and slapping down a few dozen homes may yield excellent short-term financial benefits to the city and county, it eventually comes back in the form of crowded roadways, increased power demand, impacted area codes and additional social service requirements -- and oftentimes the tax revenue that was originally thought to pave the way for a better tomorrow somehow disappears in the legislative woodwork.

While officials are currently studying how other cities work toward solutions to traffic congestion, I would respectfully suggest they adopt a much more tempered approach -- not a complete halt -- to the apparently uncontrolled development now under way in Wake County.

Keith Britton

Raleigh

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"Endeavor to persevere"
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