

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
October 16, 2021

Subject: Complaint against Chris Lee, District Engineer, NCDOT, Division 14: District II.

The following is a continued dialog with folks at NCDOT regarding the Driveway Access Permit for the Browning Branch, LLC Development and the Complaint against Chris Lee, District Engineer, NCDOT, Division 14: District II.

This dialog picks up from my last post on www.haywoodtp.net,

[Complaint against Chris Lee, District Engineer, NCDOT, Division 14: District II, re: Browning Branch, LLC Driveway Permit. NCDOT exonerates Chris Lee \(as expected\). However, Wanda Austin, Division Engineer, indicated: "The driveway permit is still open and has not been accepted at the time of this email." WTF? 10/2/2021...](#)

or

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/211002ComplaintAgainstChrisLee.pdf>

[**Editors Note:** Access the above link by copy and pasting it into your favorite browser.]

Following my initial complaint, I had made a Request for Public Information from NCDOT which included:

"The NCDOT STREET AND DRIVEWAY ACCESS PERMIT APPLICATION, 201804404 DW, states that Neal K. Ross must "NOTIFY THE DISTRICT ENGINEER WHEN THE PROPOSED WORK BEGINS..."

The District Engineer who approved this permit is Chris Lee. Please provide any and all information relating to the proposed work that was submitted to Chris Lee, by Neal K. Ross, or anyone representing the developer of Browning Branch, LLC."

Here is where we stand right now...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Re: Complaint against Chris Lee, District Engineer, NCDOT, Division 14: District II.
Date: Fri, 15 Oct 2021 10:00:33 -0400
From: Monroe Miller
To: Austin, Wanda H <whaustin@ncdot.gov>
CC: Burch, Brian C <brianburch@ncdot.gov>, Stahl, Angela J <ajstahl@ncdot.gov>, Ronnie Keeter, Jr. <rkeeter@ncdot.gov>, Beau Memory <bmemory@ncdot.gov>, Heather Fulghum <hfulghum@ncdot.gov>

Ms. Austin,

I received the Public Information I requested from NCDOT yesterday, which was:

"The NCDOT STREET AND DRIVEWAY ACCESS PERMIT APPLICATION, 201804404 DW, states that Neal K. Ross must "NOTIFY THE DISTRICT ENGINEER WHEN THE PROPOSED WORK BEGINS...". The District Engineer who approved this permit is Chris Lee. Please provide any and all information relating to the proposed work that was submitted to Chris Lee, by Neal K. Ross, or anyone representing the developer of Browning Branch, LLC."

I have attached all of the documents I received as a result of this Request for Public Information.

As you review these documents, all plats predate the plat that was included with Chris Lee's approval on 10/15/2018, exactly three (3) years ago, and all depict the "Old Store" at the intersection of Allens Creek Road and Browning Branch, LLC. There is nothing new! Unfortunately, I did not receive any information as to whom these attachments were sent from, nor any dates.

You indicated in your last email that "The driveway permit is still open and has not been accepted at the time of this email". Well, I sure hope that this intersection will receive a careful review before any final driveway permit is approved.

You see, the problem is that the entrance to the Browning Branch, LLC development and access to the existing road, Buchanan Drive, is not big enough to accommodate both. Both streets have official street signs. The entire layout is FUBAR. The only solution I see, is to install a complex traffic light system, carefully aiming lights to traffic going and coming out of Katka Loop, and traffic going and coming from Buchanan Drive. The Buchanan Drive Right of Way extends all the way to Allens Creek Road. So you will have a nicely paved entrance for Browning Branch, LLC development, and have to retain the gravel road for Buchanan Drive. This might set a precedence for NCDOT, that of installing a traffic light for a gravel road in Western North Carolina. Can't install a Sarasota Loop vehicle detector on a gravel road, as that road washes out with heavy rains. Will have to be more creative in the type of vehicle sensor.

I have spoken to some of the folks that use Buchanan Drive, and they indicate that they have almost been T-boned with people coming out of Katka Loop and the Gravel Dump Trucks speeding down the road coming from the Gravel Pit. You know, these large, fully loaded trucks cannot stop on a dime. This is impending disaster.

So, I hope that you will all take the time to come out to this potential disaster location, and put your heads together to come up with a solution that does not result in potential fatalities and potential law suits.

Thank you,

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Re: Complaint against Chris Lee, District Engineer, NCDOT, Division 14: District II.
Date: Fri, 15 Oct 2021 17:23:05 +0000
From: Austin, Wanda H <whaustin@ncdot.gov>
To: Monroe Miller
CC: Burch, Brian C <brianburch@ncdot.gov>, Stahl, Angela J <ajstahl@ncdot.gov>, Keeter, Ronald L Jr. <rkeeter@ncdot.gov>, Memory, Beau H <bmemory@ncdot.gov>, Fulghum, Heather L <hfulghum@ncdot.gov>

Good afternoon. Public records requests are handled by various staff who search our files and respond. Therefore, there is not one particular staff that would have responded to your original request. The Department will evaluate the location once the driveway is complete.

Thank you for your continued interest in providing safe transportation.

Wanda H. Austin, PE CPM

Division Engineer