



Charles Martin
Acting Commissioner of Environmental Quality and Public Works
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
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Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Facilities Management
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April 26, 2014

RE: Washington Avenue

Dear Mr. Martin,

I am writing on behalf of the University of Kentucky with a request to transfer ownership of Washington Avenue to the University of Kentucky and to permanently close the eastern most portion as shown on the attached map. In our most recent Campus Master Plan, dated November 2013, we have designated this portion of campus to become a greenway and pedestrian corridor over the long run. Currently we have put in a request for temporary closure of the road for construction of an electric duct bank project that will commence shortly. However, we would like to pursue permanent closure in order to follow through on our plans to reclaim green space and provide safe pedestrian corridors that connect our expanding campus core.

Washington Avenue is an LFUCG-owned street that begins at Limestone and runs east to Rose Street. The properties on both sides of the road are owned by UK and contain UK academic buildings. It runs parallel to Huguelet Drive, which carries the bulk of the through traffic. Although we are asking for closure of the street to become privately owned by UK, we only plan on permanently closing a portion of the street to traffic at this time. We will need access to the center of our campus for service and emergency vehicles for several years to come and will keep access from Limestone to Gladstone and Graham Avenues open to internal traffic until such time that we rebuild in that area and create new access to the campus core.

At this time we would like to close the portion from Gladstone to Rose Street permanently. We have demolished several green houses in that area and have plans to demolish the building at 147 Washington Avenue this summer. We will then commence with strategies to improve the pedestrian access to this area with sidewalks and full landscaping, as shown on the attached landscape plan. This will begin to fulfill our long range goals for this area.

Preliminary discussions between UK staff and LFUCG planning and transportation officials have already begun. We understand that "closure" of a public street is a detailed process that requires official action and takes time. We are submitting this letter to formally initiate that process. Please advise as to what the next step will be for us. We would be glad to provide any additional information that you might need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Wiseman".

Bob Wiseman
Vice President for Facilities Management

c. Eric Monday; Derek Paulsen; Tom Harris