



neighborhood

Ms. Grace Crunican
Director
Seattle Transportation,
600 - 4th Avenue,
4th Floor,
Seattle, WA 98104-1879

March 28, 2002

Dear Ms. Crunican,

Thank you for agreeing to come to the April 4th Miller Park Neighborhood Association meeting at Miller Community Center. Here are a few notes on transportation issues that may come up.

Map 1 shows the boundaries of our neighborhood. East Madison Street and 23rd Ave/23rd Ave E. are major, heavily traveled, arterial routes. 19th Avenue E. is a “local arterial” taking traffic from Madison into the neighborhood.

Map 2 and Map 3 summarize the zoning in the parts of the neighborhood around Madison. Map 2 is from our neighborhood plan and shows the general zoning on each block. Map 3 shows the rezoning that was recently approved by City Council.

In summary (see map 1) most of the area north of John/Thomas is single-family zoned, that between John and Madison is multifamily (L3 and L4) and that along Madison is neighborhood commercial (mostly NC3-65'). The area between Madison and Pine is either multifamily (L3) or single-family which has been rezoned to allow “cottage housing”.

Our great concern is the enormous amount of development planned or in construction in the NC properties along East Madison Street: we can expect ~ 600 new housing units in the next couple of years, to add ~ 1,000 people to our neighborhood of (say) 3,000 to 4,000 people. Several of us have been to the Design Review Hearings for these projects. Some themes emerge:

Zoning essentially requires underground parking for residents and for customers. The customer parking often exits onto Madison, but the residential parking typically exits into the side streets. This will put much rush-hour traffic into the already fully occupied [full parking on both sides] side-streets near Madison. Our experience also shows that the parking provided in these new projects is never adequate and so new residents will exacerbate the already tight parking.

The L3/L4 part of the neighborhood(just north of the new developments) is also rapidly developing with both large condos and smaller townhouses/apartments: streets between Madison and John are already typically full of parked cars on both sides and do not allow two-way traffic.

Each development is, of course, planned separately, but we (as residents) will suffer the combined impacts of all these almost simultaneous projects. **It is clear that we need a master transportation plan for the Madison corridor and surrounding area.** Can you help us make it happen while the projects are being built, rather than scrambling to produce one when the impacts have already become evident?

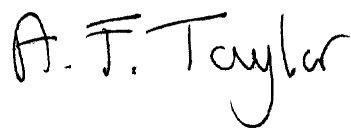
The good news is that we have excellent Metro transit connections (Map 4, also from our Neighborhood Plan,), and are very conveniently situated for access to both the Eastside and downtown. The bad news is that many commuters have figured this out and use our neighborhood as a parking area for their cars prior to their taking Metro to their downtown jobs (I believe this is known as “park and hide”). While not illegal, it does create some parking issues in our neighborhood. I have noted commuters arriving in two cars and then heading downtown in one of them, gleefully brandishing a “carpool” parking permit [ask me which City Department they were from!]

Other transportation issues:

- Holy Names Academy (a Girls’ High School just north of our neighborhood) generates student traffic, but the School’s self-imposed parking plan seems to help.
- Meany Middle School is in the midst of our neighbor: most of the teachers park in the adjacent Parks Department 50 space lot, but those who park on 21st Ave E. make life difficult for the residents of that street [steep hill, no garages, no alley].
- Weekend and evening parking by sports players using Miller Playfield can be a problem. Parks is trying to address this with a new master plan, but we are not optimistic. We’d like them to use the Parks department parking lot.
- The RPZ around Group Health Hospital [15th & Denny] ends at 19th: we clearly get some parking impact from Group Health employees.
- The very popular Kingfish Café (~600 block 19th Ave E.) generates a peculiar parking problem: it does not take reservations, so often has as many patrons waiting as are actually eating. It has no parking lot and so severely impacts adjacent parking during the time when residents are coming home from work.
- Other concerns include overly-fast travel along 19th Ave E. (parents going to/from St Joseph’s School?): and too-fast cut-through traffic on the streets near 23rd Ave.
- People who cannot turn left from Northbound 23rd onto John (westbound, 7 - 9 , 4 - 6?) go 1 block North (Thomas) & zoom down the narrow streets (Thomas, 22nd). Lots of kids live in area.
- People seem to like speeding down 22nd - VERY narrow with many parked vehicles. One neighbor has lost 2 side mirrors in about 1 year (hit & run).

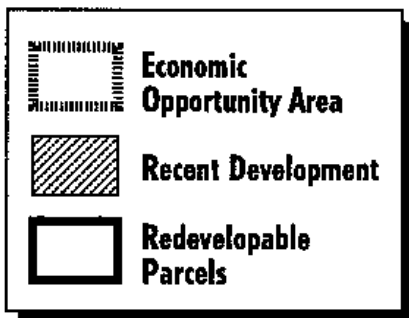
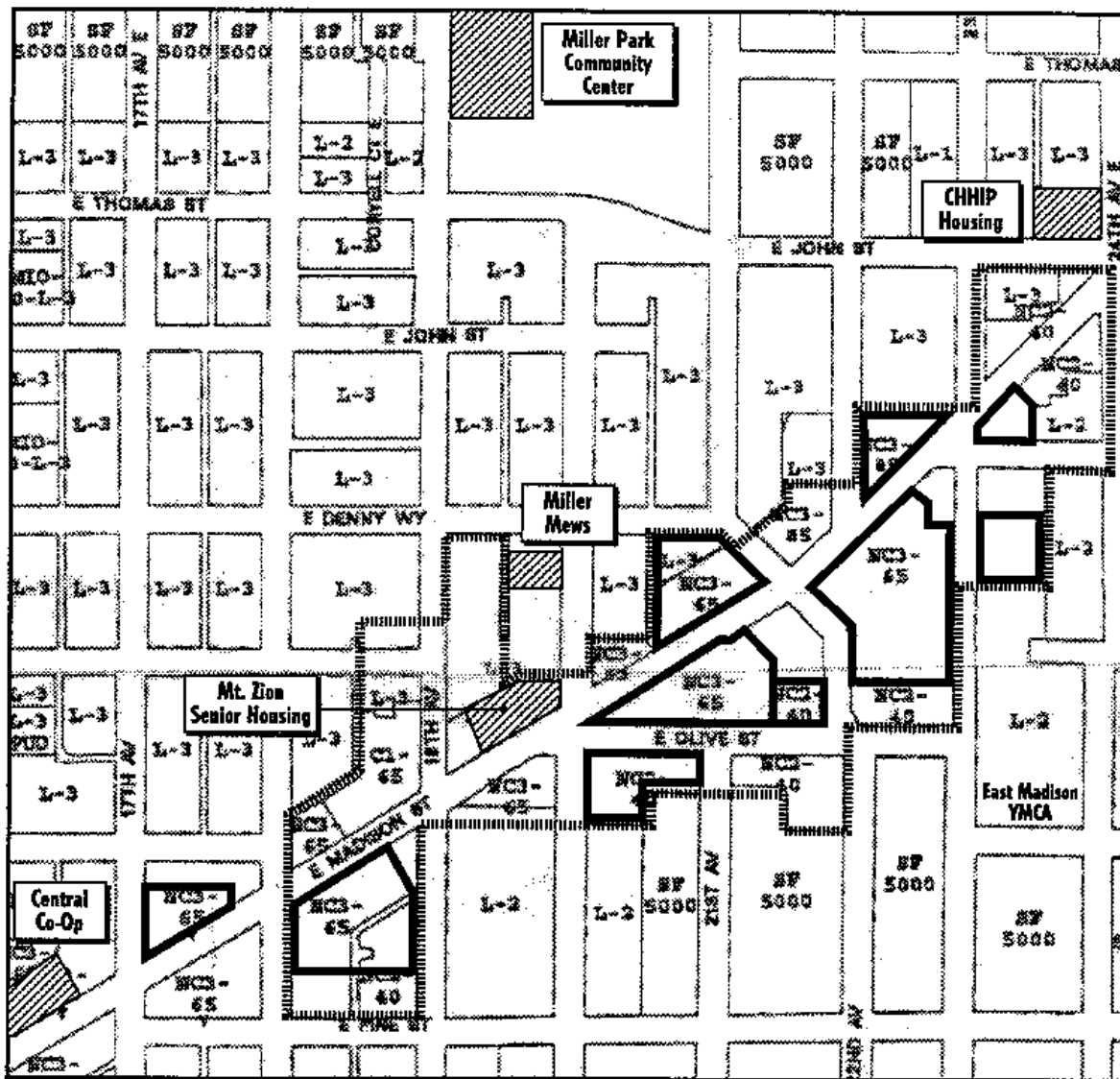
I hope this gives you a flavor of our traffic concerns. We hope that you and your department will be able to help us find creative ways to minimize their impacts, so that we can continue to enjoy our wonderful, eclectic, diverse and still (relatively affordable) neighborhood.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. T. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

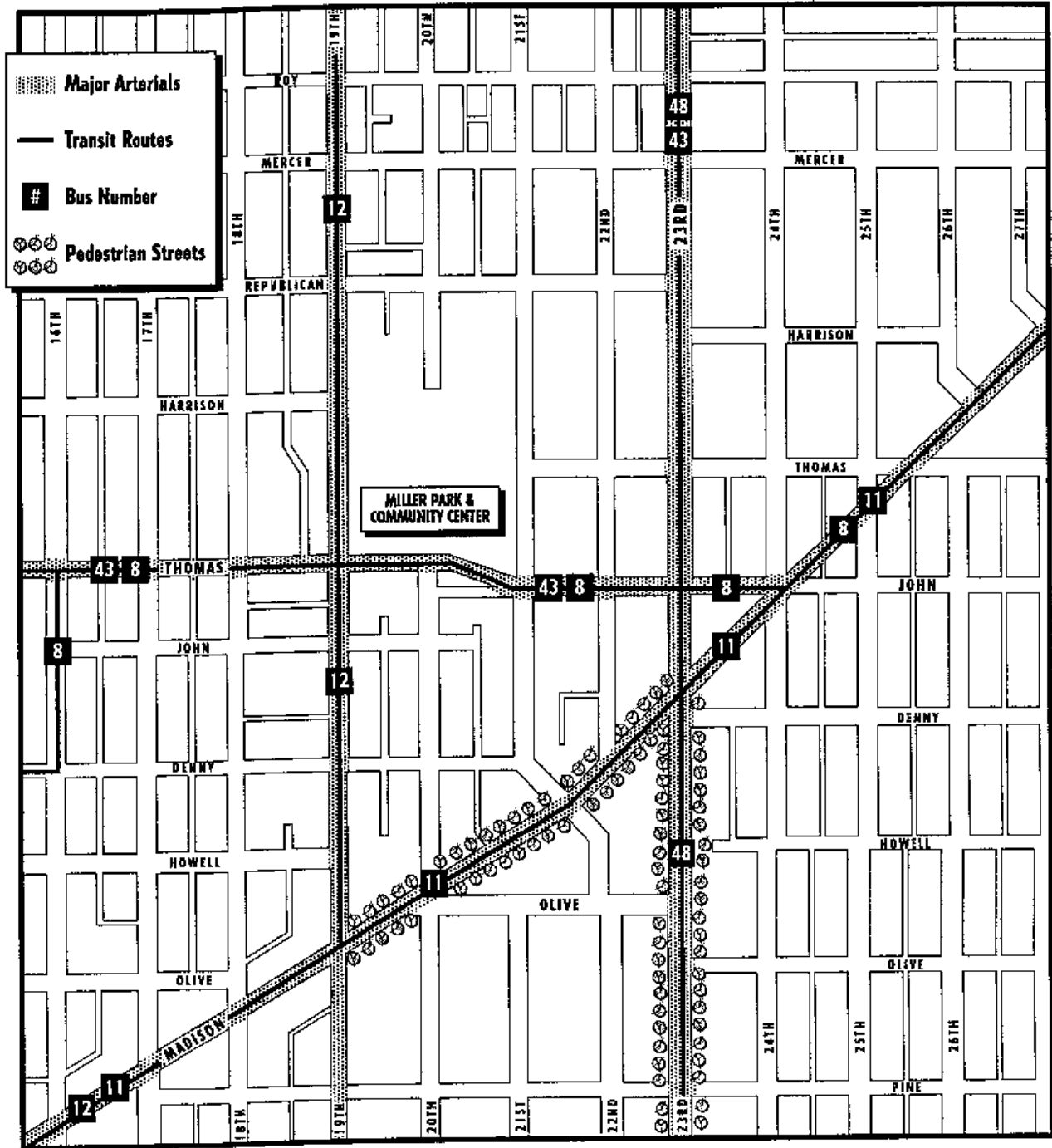
Andrew Taylor
Chair, Miller Park Neighborhood Association

Map 2



NO SCALE

MAP 4



NO SCALE

Madison * Miller

NEIGHBORHOOD MASTER PLAN

Figure 4
Madison-Miller
Transportation Network