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UNH Listens to Neighbors, Drops Mast Road Gate Proposal

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Aug. 21, 2003

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire will not proceed with a proposal to automate a gate on Mast Road Extension following concerns from residents in the area about increased traffic from UNH shuttle buses.

Several years ago, a metal gate was installed on Mast Road Extension because of safety concerns. Mast Road is a town road with several private residences. UNH had proposed automating the gate, allowing it to open and close similar to a garage door, to provide access for campus shuttle buses to pass through as part of a revised, more efficient campus bus route. The buses would have been small, campus shuttles fueled by natural gas.

However, after discussing the proposal with Mast Road Extension residents and evaluating their concerns about the existing condition of the road, the size of the vehicles, noise the vehicles would generate and other impacts of the proposed changes, UNH has retracted its request to the Town Council to automate the gate.

"We have had frank and open discussions with neighbors of Mast Road Extension, and as a result, we have chosen not to pursue this. We are very respectful of the issues raised by our neighbors and because UNH wants to be a good neighbor with the residents of Durham, we no longer plan to pursue this project," says Douglas Bencks, director of Campus Planning and University Architect.

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