

REQUEST TO SPEAK BEFORE THE
COUNCIL CONCERNING CLOSURE OF
GEORGE BROCK ROAD

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SC

May 4, 2015

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Jimmy R. Sutherland
Anderson County Fire Chief



April 2, 2015

*Roads and Bridges Department
735 Michelin Boulevard
Anderson, SC 29626
Attn: Tony Owens*

Subject: George Brock Road Closure

Dear Mr. Owens:

On behalf of the Anderson County Fire Department this closure will impact our emergency vehicle response time to the Citizens in this area. George Brock Road is a short cut and we oppose to the road closure.

We appreciate your time and consideration. Please advise if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jimmy R. Sutherland', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*Jimmy Sutherland
Assistant Fire Chief
Anderson County Fire Protection Commission*

Anderson County, South Carolina

Geographic Information Systems





SUMMARY OF OUR TIME WITH CHIEF JIMMY SUTHERLAND ON
THE MORNING OF MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015

Chief Jimmy Sutherland was kind enough to come out and check the distance data which Chief Jamie Hanks of Ebenezer Fire Department was assuming would support his assertion that George Brock Road was an essential shortcut to reach the George Brock/Troy Murdock intersection. Chief Sutherland and his assistant took the measurement data from the front seat of his truck, and they graciously allowed my wife Judy and I to ride along in the back seat.

Chief Sutherland used the trip odometer of his truck to measure various routes multiple times. He was able to positively ascertain that none of the houses in the area around the contested intersection (GREEN STAR on map) would be negatively affected either by an increased insurance consideration, or by a diminished emergency response time, because the distances and actual travel times of the three alternate routes were either the same as the George Brock Road route (RED ON MAP), or better. George Brock Road itself is GREEN ON MAP.

The route that Chief Hanks says is a short cut and is essential to fire protection below the Geo. Brock/Troy Murdock intersection was measured at 4.4 miles (RED ON THE MAP).

An alternate route that totally avoids Geo. Brock Rd. was also measured at 4.4 miles (YELLOW ON MAP).

We measured a third route that proved 20 seconds faster than the previous two alternate routes and the distance was 4.8 miles (BLUE ON MAP). Local homeowners can use the 4.4 mile shorter route (YELLOW) to prove their insurance reduction

elibility, and the fire dept. can use the faster route to provide emergency services (BLUE).

A fourth route is available (BROWN ON MAP) to provide yet another emergency route. This route was not driven and measured by Chief Sutherland.

My wife and I spent one hour and eighteen minutes with Chief Sutherland this morning. Because of my declining memory, I did not want to not recall the data we collected, so my wife record our data collections and conversations on her iPhone.

I will conclude my remarks reading a transcript toward the end of our morning together.

BRENT: (1:11:44) I don't think by what we've learned now, and we were in there and we saw it, it, the closing George Brock Road has no respect upon either insurance rates (sic 'identical distances for insurance tabulation purposes) nor response time. I just don't see how that assertion could be defended.

JUDY: Would we be accurate in assuming that?

BRENT: I mean, just with what you know now, I mean if this was all the information you had, wouldn't that be an accurate assertion? ...

So really, by what we've learned this morning is that we have exactly equal travel time (sic "distance"). Both ways are 4.4 miles and we've even got multiple ways to get there, so if there's trees over the road, Chief Hanks can still get there in a timely way. So that, that assertion that this is essential for response time, I..., can you still make that, just giving what we know now ?

CHIEF JIMMY SUTHERLAND: Just what I've got here is giving me two different ways to go with the same amount of miles is what it's doing, you know, if you understand what I'm saying. I mean if it's on this end, they wouldn't want to go all the way down to Alewine Road and come in that way .

BRENT: Well, the fire, you're coming out at the same spot that you would go if your going down George Brock Road but it's irrelevant where the fire would be, you're going to get to that spot.

CHIEF JIMMY SUTHERLAND: That's just a ... a ... I guess it's opinion now, I guess, you know. I'm still going to do some research and I'll get with Jamie and talk with him and see what he says.