

Aug. 18, 2011

**ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION**

3821 West Roosevelt Road Little Rock, Arkansas 72204-6396

(501) 296-1940 fax: (501) 296-1949

John T. Shannon, R.F.
State Forester

July 15, 2011

Mr. Jay Huneycutt
Facilities Management Planning Group
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dear Jay:

Thanks for taking the time to meet with Patti and me this morning and walking over the proposed road.

There are a number of tree preservation resources for you to use when designing construction projects around trees. One of those resources is the City of Fayetteville's very good Tree Preservation Manual. It is obvious to me and commendable that your plan has incorporated some of the manual's recommended tree preservation techniques, such as the bridge construction over the critical root zone of some of the large trees. I recommend that you continue to use this manual as a guide for tree preservation in future construction projects. I would also like to see the U of A system use this manual during construction projects.

I want to address three specific items I observed during our walk.

1) Grade change from Dickson.

There is a large oak on the east side of the proposed road in which the road cut will be inside the critical root zone of the tree. For adequate protection, the edge of the road should be outside of the critical root zone. If the road cut is made inside the critical root zone, the roots should be pruned prior to any grade cuts.

2) The 2 American hollies on the south side of Old Main.

The proposed road will pass within the critical root zone of the two hollies. In fact, I believe the road edge will be very near the trunks of the trees. I believe the road will pass so close to the trees that adequate root protection will not be possible and the canopy will have to be severely pruned to allow truck passage. I think there are 3 options; 1) remove the trees before construction begins; 2) move the road so it is outside of the critical root zone; or 3) protect the trees roots as shown in the City of Fayetteville Tree Preservation Manual. I'm concerned about the damage to the canopy by the passing trucks if option 3 is chosen.

3) Tree protection needs to be in place *before* construction begins.

On our walk over the proposed road, I saw equipment parked under trees and trees in the construction zone *without* protective fencing. Again, follow the recommendations of the City of Fayetteville Landscape Manual.

In conclusion, I would also recommend that all trees impacted by the construction receive:

- supplemental watering during dry periods
 - receive a root drench that will provide mycorrhiza and nutrients to help stimulate root growth,
 - and trees are pruned to raise the canopy so trucks will not break them off and remove deadwood and damaged branches from ice storms or wind to improve the trees health.
- Of course, always hire an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist to prune trees.

Please call Patti Erwin or me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Doug Akin

Asst. State Forester, Forest Management

cc: Senator Sue Madison
Ms. Patti Erwin