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## Important Issue/Suggestions

## Most Important Issue Facing Cary and Suggestions to Improve Cary

An open-ended question asked respondents what they feel is the most important issue facing the Town of Cary. The responses show that problems related to growth were perceived as the most important issue (Appendix E). This is evident in the number of statements concerning growth (178 comments), including the related issues of overpopulation (16 comments) and construction (13 comments). This was followed by traffic/improving roads (77), schools/school rezoning (63 comments), water concerns (14 comments), and public transportation (10 comments). The top three major issues are identical to the ones raised in the 2004 comments.

A second open-ended question asked the respondents if they could act as the Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Council all rolled into one, what one action would they take to improve Cary. The responses shown in Appendix F indicate the primary action suggested by the respondents was to work to slow down growth and development in Cary. This was mentioned 93 times this year (35 in 2004). The second most common action called for the improvement of roads/traffic mentioned 68 times (45 in 2004). Within the roads/traffic comments were numerous remarks directed at problems with stoplights and their synchronization in Town. The respondents also called for improvements to the school system in a total of 51 comments (20 in 2004). Several of the school comments focused on rezoning and Cary starting their own school system. Other suggestions include the need for better public transportation (13 comments), water concerns (11 comments), making developers pay more of the burden for development (10 comments), improving downtown Cary (8 comments), the need for more teen activities (7 comments), and maintaining greenspace/trees (7 comments).

Overall, growth/development, roads/traffic, and schools continue to be the major areas the respondents suggested the Town should focus their efforts. Note that growth and development moved from the second most important issue in 2004 to the most important issue this year switching places with traffic/roads. There was also a significant increase in the number of responses for slowing down growth and development (from 35 in 2004 to 93 this year). In addition, there was also an increase the number of comments for improving traffic/roads (from 45 in 2004 to 68 this year) and improving schools (from 20 to 51 this year).

Appendix G includes additional comments made by the respondents during the survey not in relation to any particular open-ended question. The street names and closest intersection for the respondents are shown in Appendix H.



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