

From: [RobinM](#)
To: [Rick Taintor](#)
Subject: Pedestrian traffic studies | Orion and Madbury Commons | why not Mill Plaza?
Date: Monday, May 03, 2021 8:53:20 PM

Greetings, Rick --

Please forward this email to the Planning Board. Thank you.

*

This evening (Monday, May 3) a resident spoke during the Town Council's Public Comments period, observing that the Planning Board has received and discussed a traffic study for the Mill Plaza but that it did not adequately cover the issue of pedestrian traffic.

She noted, appropriately, that the addition of 258 beds means at least 258 students plus their guests will be walking through the site. They will be crossing the site several times a day -- most likely related to (a) UNH class schedules, and (b) socializing in the evenings, particularly Thursday (peak time after 11pm) and Friday nights. So the change of use on the site (the addition of a residential use, which is, in essence, an off-campus UNH dorm) surely means significant incremental pedestrian trips.

Site plan reviews for other large downtown student housing projects -- Madbury Commons, at 21 Madbury Road, with 525 beds, and Orion (25-35 Main Street), with 197 residents -- required pedestrian traffic studies. Those can be viewed at the Planning Board's website for completed projects.

Why has the Planning Board NOT required a pedestrian traffic study for Mill Plaza?

I hope that at the May 19th meeting dedicated to the Mill Plaza application the Board will discuss and agree to requiring such a study. To omit this data would be a sore lapse. At the very least, it would provide information. It could also yield -- as the previously mentioned student housing project studies have -- suggestions for pedestrian improvements related to the addition of such a large number of pedestrians.

Regards,

-- Robin

Robin Mower
Durham, NH

* * *