

# Don't punish Brookdale students in fight to block road widening

I am writing in response to the June 25 commentary "Brookdale commuters make Route 520 unsafe." The writer is so wrong about her answer to Route 520's congestion problems.

Her suggestion of charging stiff parking fees is unjust to the students and a hardship for many. Many students go to Brookdale because they cannot afford to spend more to go away to college. Some are already having trouble paying to improve their lives by getting an education. It would be very unfair to increase their costs so needlessly.

As to her suggestion of car pooling, again that's a very poor suggestion. Very few students live close enough to other students and have the same schedule as they have. Both of my sons, at separate times, went to Brookdale to start their college education. There was no one they could have car pooled with. I also attended Brookdale

for a couple of courses. Although I did car pool for one class, I took it with my son. I had no choice but to drive alone for the other course.

The suggestion of widening Route 520 makes sense, but it does not have to be a major widening. Just add one extra lane going west on the east side of the entrance and expand the left-turn lane on the west side of the entrance. These would allow the non-Brookdale traffic to pass.

But the best suggestion would be to increase the entrances into Brookdale. Having a separate entrance for traffic coming from the west would get the traffic off Route 520 and into Brookdale's parking lots faster.

Please give our students a break. Getting an education is tough enough.

*Marlene O'Grady*  
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