

Carey Certo

From: Robert Maul
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Carey Certo
Subject: FW: Camas Station Retail Center community feedback

From: Caren Lee [mailto:carenpenny@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Community Development Email <communitydevelopment@cityofcamas.us>
Cc: Robert Maul <RMaul@cityofcamas.us>; Steve Hogan <shogan@cityofcamas.us>; Administration Email <administration@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Camas Station Retail Center community feedback

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Hello,

Concerned Camas resident here. Just found out about the proposed gas station to go in at the Camas Station Retail Center that is literally on the same block as Prune Hill Elementary School. While I think it's a fantastic idea to get some commercial stuff happening up on the hill, I strongly feel like we need to be wise about what we allow here and to think about the future.

Having a gas station so close to an elementary school is dangerous not only environmentally but also traffic-wise--in an area that is already congested and growing. The retail center would be a great place for mixed use, maybe apartments on top and a bookstore, specialty grocery, and/or small restaurant/coffee shop below. It's not that we shouldn't have retail on the hill--we definitely should--but purposely choosing to place a "quick zip in and out" kind of business is not only a lost opportunity but an invitation to community hazard.

I live on the other side of Prune Hill, up NW 18th Loop as you come up from Crown Park, and every single year the speed limit gets ignored and accidents occur. I know from experience that it's much easier to plan for warding off a problem of traffic safety than to fix an existing one. I urge you to put extra consideration into planning what goes in right next to a bustling elementary school.

Schools inherently mean and require (at least to some degree) walkability. Whatever goes into the Camas Station Retail Center should equally serve that walkability--ideally take advantage of it. But definitely it's not the location for those rushing to work or school just needing to gas up quickly and zip on their way. There are gas stations already available for that both on Prune Hill itself (the Shell station) and on 192 within a two-minute drive of the proposed retail center.

Putting a gas station in here seems short sighted in so many ways. It doesn't take into account government recommendations put in place by the Safe Routes to Schools programs, nor scientific data (via The Scientific American) about the hazards of siting gas stations too close to schools.

Please, please stop this proposed plan. This is not what Camas wants or needs.

Thank you,
 Caren Lee
 Camas resident & mom