

STAFF REPORT

Department of Metropolitan Development Division of Planning Current Planning Section

Case Number: 2023-ZON-086
Address: 6185, 6421, 6423 and 6441 East 34th Street (*approximate addresses*)
Location: Warren Township, Council District #13
Petitioner: Ben Singh Bashal
Request: Rezoning of 4.3 acres from the D-3 and C-S districts to the I-3 district to provide for truck/trailer parking and repair.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff **recommends denial** of this request. If approved, staff would request that approval be subject to the following commitments being reduced to writing on the Commission's Exhibit "B" forms at least three days prior to the MDC hearing:

1. The site and improved areas within the site shall be maintained in a reasonably neat and orderly manner during and after development of the site with appropriate areas and containers / receptables provided for the proper disposal of trash and other waste.
2. A 24-foot half right-of-way shall be dedicated along the frontage of East 34th Street, as per the request of the Department of Public Works (DPW), Engineering Division. Additional easements shall not be granted to third parties within the area to be dedicated as public right-of-way prior to the acceptance of all grants of right-of-way by the DPW. The right-of-way shall be granted within 60 days of approval and prior to the issuance of an Improvement Location Permit (ILP).
3. Access drives, internal drives and parking areas shall be paved and striped prior to the operation of the proposed use.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The following issues were considered in formulating the recommendation:

LAND USE

- ◇ This 4.30-acre site, zoned D-3 and C-S is developed with a single-family dwelling and accessory buildings. It is surrounded by a single-family dwelling to the north across East 34th Street, zoned D-3; a single-family dwelling to the south, zoned D-A; single-family dwellings to the east, zoned D-3; and industrial uses to the west zoned I-3 and C-S.

REZONING

- ◇ This request would rezone the site from the D-3 and C-S Districts to the I-3 (Medium Industrial) classification. "The I-3 district is an intermediate district for industries that present moderate risks to the general public. Wherever practical, this district should be away from protected districts and buffered by intervening lighter industrial districts. Where this district abuts protected districts, setbacks are large, and enclosure of activities and storage is required."

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- ◇ The Comprehensive Plan recommends heavy commercial typology for the northern portion of the site and light industrial typology for the southern portion of the site.
- ◇ The following elements of the Pattern Book apply to this site:
- ◇ “The Heavy Commercial typology provides for consumer-oriented general commercial, and office uses that tend to exhibit characteristics that are not compatible with less intensive land uses. They are often dominated by exterior operations, sales, and display of goods. Examples include vehicle sales and commercial lumber yards.”
- ◇ “The Light Industrial typology provides for industrial, production, distribution, and repair uses conducted within enclosed structures and unlikely to create emissions of light, odor, noise, or vibrations. This typology is characterized by freestanding buildings or groups of buildings, often within industrial parks. Typical uses include warehousing, self-storage, assembly of parts, laboratories, wholesaling, and printing. Industrial or truck traffic should be separated from local/residential traffic.”
- ◇ The Pattern Book lays out a land use classification system that guides the orderly development of the county, protects the character of neighborhoods, and serves as a policy guide for development or redevelopment of a site.

Conditions for All Land Use Types

- All land use types except small-scale parks and community farms/gardens in this typology must have adequate municipal water and sanitary sewer.
- All development should include sidewalks along the street frontage.

Light Industrial Uses (These industrial uses create minimal emissions of light, odor, noise, or vibrations. Examples include warehousing and logistics facilities. These land uses do not use, store, produce, emit, or transport hazardous materials)

- Industrial truck traffic should not utilize local, residential streets.
- Streets internal to industrial development must feed onto an arterial street.
- Removed as a recommended land use where they would be adjacent to a living or mixed-use typology.

Heavy Commercial Uses (Heavy commercial uses generally include outdoor operations, storage, and/or display.)

- Removed as a recommended land use where they would be adjacent to a living typology.

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Overlays

- ◇ The eastern portion of this site is also located within an overlay, specifically the Industrial Reserve Overlay. “Overlays are used in places where the land uses that are allowed in a typology need to be adjusted. They may be needed because an area is environmentally sensitive, near an airport, or because a certain type of development should be promoted. Overlays can add uses, remove uses, or modify the conditions that are applied to uses in a typology.”
- ◇ The Industrial Reserve (IR) overlay is intended for areas that are prime for industrial development due to factors such as large parcel size, proximity to compatible uses, and/or interstate access.

Environmental Public Nuisances

- ◇ The purpose of the Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County, Sec.575 (Environmental Public Nuisances) is to protect public safety, health and welfare and enhance the environment for the people of the city by making it unlawful for property owners and occupants to allow an environmental public nuisance to exist.
- ◇ All owners, occupants, or other persons in control of any private property within the city shall be required to keep the private property free from environmental nuisances.
- ◇ Environmental public nuisance means:
 1. Vegetation on private or governmental property that is abandoned, neglected, disregarded or not cut, mown, or otherwise removed and that has attained a height of twelve (12) inches or more;
 2. Vegetation, trees or woody growth on private property that, due to its proximity to any governmental property, right-of-way or easement, interferes with the public safety or lawful use of the governmental property, right-of-way or easement or that has been allowed to become a health or safety hazard;
 3. A drainage or stormwater management facility as defined in Chapter 561 of this Code on private or governmental property, which facility has not been maintained as required by that chapter; or
 4. Property that has accumulated litter or waste products, unless specifically authorized under existing laws and regulations, or that has otherwise been allowed to become a health or safety hazard.
- ◇ Staff would request a commitment that emphasizes the importance of maintaining the site in a neat and orderly manner at all times and provide containers and receptacles for proper disposal of trash and other waste.

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Department of Public Works

- ◇ The Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Section, has requested the dedication and conveyance of a 24-foot half right-of-way along East 34th Street. This dedication would also be consistent with the Marion County Thoroughfare Plan.

Planning Analysis

- ◇ The request would generally be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation of heavy commercial and light industrial uses, but The Pattern Book expressly states that both uses should not be located adjacent to living typologies, not use local streets and feed onto arterial streets.
- ◇ Residential uses are located directly north of this site, East 34th Street is classified as a local street and this site does not feed onto an arterial street. Additionally, the pavement width of East 34th Street in this area is 20 feet, which would not be able to appropriately accommodate large trucks and trailers.
- ◇ The site plan, file dated August 22, 2023, provides for stone surface of the access drives and all parking areas. The Ordinance requires paved surfaces consisting of bricks, concrete or compacted aggregate base and surface with an asphaltic pavement. This would be particularly important given the proposed use involving heavy equipment and vehicles.
- ◇ As development on this site occurs, recommendations of the Pattern Book should be considered, as well as compliance with the Ordinance to mitigate negative impacts on surrounding residential development. In other words, development standards variances should be minimal and based on practical difficulty in the use of the property, rather than desires of the developer.

GENERAL INFORMATION

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USE

D-3 / C-S Single-family dwelling / accessory buildings

SURROUNDING ZONING AND LAND USE

North -	D-3	Single-family dwelling
South -	D-A	Single-family dwelling
East -	D-3	Single-family dwelling
West -	I-3 / C-S	Industrial uses

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Indianapolis and Marion County (2018) recommends heavy commercial and light industrial typologies.

Marion County Land Use Pattern Book (2019).

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THOROUGHFARE PLAN	This portion of East 34 th Street is designated in the Marion County Thoroughfare Plan as a local street, with an existing 40-foot right-of-way and a proposed 48-foot right-of-way.
CONTEXT AREA	This site is located within the compact context area.
OVERLAY	The eastern portion of the site is located within the Industrial Reserve Overlay.
SITE PLAN	File-dated August 22, 2023

ZONING HISTORY

2023-ZON-085; 6531 East 34th Street (east of site), requested rezoning of one acre from the D-3 district to the I-2 district to provide for light industrial uses, **pending**.

99-Z-77; 6147-6423 East 34th Street (west of site), requested rezoning of 6.51 acres from the D-3 District to the C-S classification to provide for a construction business, **approved**.

99-V1-34; 6423 East 34th Street (west of site), requested a variance of use to provide for a construction business with outdoor storage and parking of six commercial vehicles, three equipment trailers, and a backhoe, **withdrawn**.

97-Z-206; 6105 East 34th Street (west of site), requested rezoning of five acres from the D-3 District, to the C-S classification to provide for an excavating and sewer construction business, **approved**.

95-Z-87 / 95-CV-17; 6361 East 34th Street (east of site), requested rezoning of 35.748 acres, being in the D-A District, to the C-S classification to provide for heavy construction equipment sales, rental and service and other I-2-@ industrial uses and a variance of development standards of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance to provide for development of a heavy construction equipment sales, rental and service and other I-2-S industrial use operations, with access to be gained by way of an easement to Elizabeth Street, **approved and granted**.

94-UV3-2; 6423 East 34th Street (west of site), requested a variance of use of the Dwelling Districts Zoning Ordinance to provide for the continued operation of an existing construction business with outside storage of materials and the construction of a 50- by 30-foot garage resulting in the square footage devoted to the accessory buildings exceeding the square footage of the primary building, **granted**.

93-Z-94; 6141 East 34th Street, (west of site), requested rezoning of 5.14 acres, being in the D-A District to the C-S classification to provide for a combination self-storage facility and existing contractor office / utility building, **approved**.

91-UV3-16; 6607 East 34th Street (east of site), required a variance of use and development standards of the Dwelling Districts Zoning Ordinance to permit the continued operation of a plumbing business within an existing garage with outdoor storage, **granted**.

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89-Z-140; 6669 East 34th Street (east of site), requested rezoning of 34 acres, being in the A-2 District, to the I-2-S classification to provide for light industrial uses, **withdrawn**.

88-UV1-90; 6141 East 34th Street (west of site), requested a variance of use to permit construction of a utility building for the storage of equipment and vehicles related to a concrete construction business, **granted**.

86-Z-340; 6601 East 34th Street (east of site), requested rezoning of office acres, being in the I-3 U District, to the C-ID classification to provide for outside storage of fences and an office and warehouse, **approved**.

79-Z-150; 6105 East 34th Street (west of site), requested rezoning of five acres, being in the D-3 District to the C-7 classification to provide for an office building with a shop for heavy and light equipment rental, **denied**.

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6185, 6421, 6423 and 6441 East 34th Street



0.000 0.015 0.03 0.045 0.06 Miles



View looking east along East 34th Street



View looking east along East 34th Street



View looking west along East 34th Street



View from site looking east at adjacent single-family dwellings



View of site looking northeast



View looking east



View looking east



View of site looking east



View of site looking south



View from site looking west at adjacent uses