

**METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HEARING EXAMINER**

January 15, 2026

Case Number: 2025-ZON-132 (Amended)
Property Address: 5736 Madison Avenue
Location: Perry Township, Council District #23
Petitioner: Jade Investments GMS, LLC, by David E. Dearing
Current Zoning: D-1 (TOD)
Request: Rezoning 1.21 acres from the D-1 (TOD) district to the C-1 (TOD) district to provide for a day care center and office / commercial uses.
Current Land Use: Single-family dwelling
Staff Recommendations: Denial.
Staff Reviewer: Kathleen Blackham, Senior Planner

PETITION HISTORY

This is the first hearing on this petition.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Denial. 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. A technical assessment shall be conducted prior to the issuance of an Improvement Location Permit to provide for a wetlands delineation to determine the type and quality and how the area could be preserved and integrated into the development as an amenity.
2. A 56-foot half right-of-way shall be dedicated along the frontage of Madison Avenue, 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. 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.

PETITION OVERVIEW

This 1.21-acre site, zoned D-1 (TOD), is comprised of two lots and developed with a single-family dwelling. It is surrounded by single-family dwellings to the north, south and west, all zoned D-1 (TOD) and multi-family dwellings to the east, across Madison Avenue, zoned D-9 (TOD).

REZONING

The request would rezone the site to the C-1 (TOD) to provide for a day care center and office / commercial uses. “The C-1 District is designed to perform two functions: act as a buffer between uses, and provide for a freestanding area that office uses, compatible office-type uses, such as medical and dental facilities, education services, and certain public and semipublic uses may be developed with the assurance that retail and other heavier commercial uses with incompatible characteristics will not impede or disrupt. Since the buildings for office, office-type and public and semipublic uses are typically much less commercial in appearance, landscaped more fully and architecturally more harmonious with residential structures, this district can serve as a buffer between protected districts and more intense commercial or industrial areas/districts - if designed accordingly. This district, with its offices and other buffer type uses, may also be used along certain thoroughfares where a gradual and reasonable transition from existing residential use should occur.”

The Comprehensive Plan recommends suburban neighborhood typology for the site.

Recommended land uses in this typology include detached housing / attached housing / multi-family housing; assisted living facilities / nursing homes; group homes; bed and breakfast; small-scale offices, retailing, and personal or professional services; small- and large- scale schools, places of worship, neighborhood serving institutions / infrastructure, and other places of assembly; small-scale parks; and community farms / gardens.

As proposed, this request would not be consistent with the Plan recommendation of suburban neighborhood.

Overlays

This site is also located within an overlay, specifically the Transit Oriented Development (TOD). “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 Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) overlay is intended for areas within walking distance of a transit station. The purpose of this overlay is to promote pedestrian connectivity and a higher density than the surrounding area.

This site is located within the transit-oriented overlay with the nearest proposed transit stops located at the intersections of Shelby Street / Hanna Avenue and Madison Avenue / County Line Road and outside the walk sheds of those proposed stations.

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Section, has requested the dedication and conveyance of a 56-foot half right-of-way along Madison Avenue. This dedication would also be consistent with the Marion County Thoroughfare Plan.

Wetland Preservation

The aerial indicates a possible wetland located in the southwest area of the site.

The Environmental Protection Agency defines wetlands “as areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Water saturation (hydrology) largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promote the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils.”

The State of Indiana defines wetlands as “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include: (1) swamps; (2) marshes; (3) bogs; and (4) similar areas.”

Staff believes that a technical assessment that would include a wetlands delineation would determine the type and quality of the wetland based on the presence or absence of wetlands characteristics, as determined with the *Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-81-1* of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

If approved, staff would request that a wetlands delineation be conducted to determine the type and quality and how the area could be preserved and integrated into the development as an amenity prior to the issuance of an Improvement Location Permit.

Stream Protection Corridor

A stream protection corridor consists of a strip of land, extending along both sides of all streams, with measurements taken from the top of the bank on either side. The width of the corridor is based upon whether the stream is designated as a Category One or Category Two. Category One streams have a corridor width of 60 feet in the compact context area and 100 feet in the metro context area. Category Two streams have a corridor width of 25 feet in the compact context area and 50 feet in the metro context area.

Construction projects over one (1) acre are subject to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) General Permit and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP).

The vegetative target for the Stream Protection Corridor is a variety of mature, native riparian tree and shrub species that can provide shade, leaf litter, woody debris, and erosion protection to the stream, along with appropriate plantings necessary for effective stream bank stabilization.

The Stream Protection Corridor is defined as:

“A vegetated area, including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation, that exists or is established to protect a stream system, lake, or reservoir, and where alteration is strictly limited. Functionally, stream protection corridors provide erosion control, improve water quality (lower sedimentation and contaminant removal) offer flood water storage, provide habitat, and improve aesthetic value.”

Stream is defined as “a surface watercourse with a well-defined bed and bank, either natural or artificial that confines and conducts continuous or periodic flowing water.”

Stream Bank is defined as “the sloping land that contains the stream channel and the normal flows of the stream.”

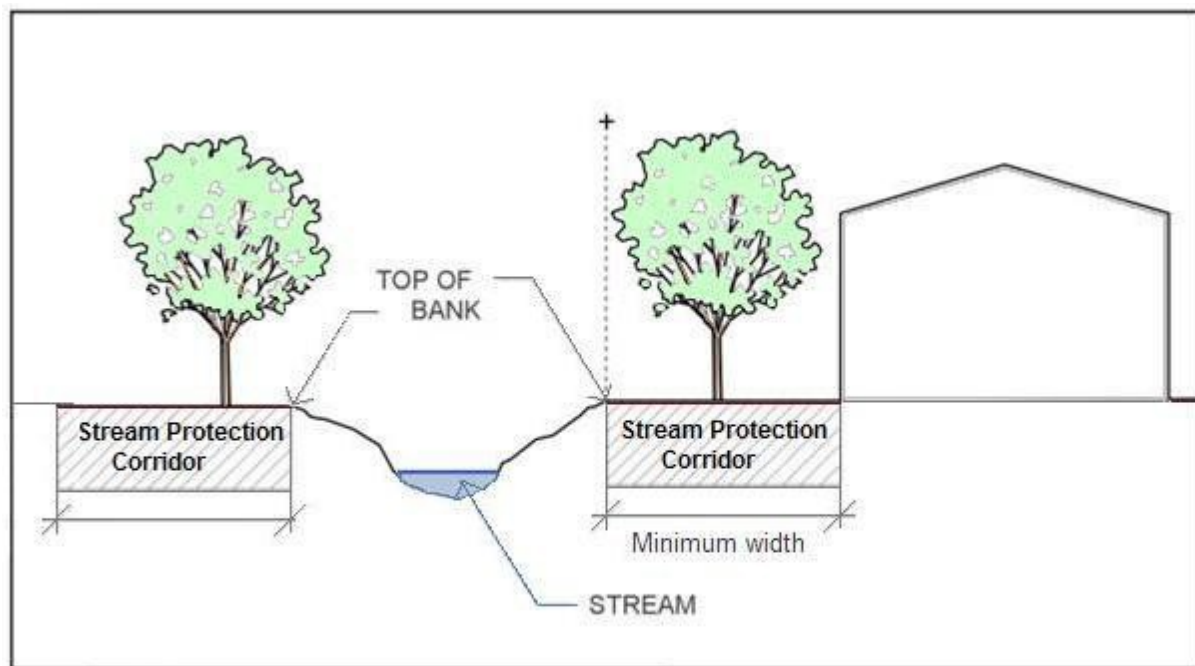
Stream Channel is defined as “part of a watercourse that contains an intermittent or perennial base flow of groundwater origin.”

There are two types of categories of Streams: Category One Streams and Category Two Streams. Category One Stream is defined as: “A perennial stream that flows in a well-defined channel throughout most of the year under normal climatic conditions. Some may dry up during drought periods or due to excessive upstream uses. Aquatic organism such as some fish are normally present and easily found in these streams. The Category One Streams are listed in Table 744-205-2: Category One Streams.”

A Category Two Stream is defined as: “An intermittent stream that flows in a well-defined channel during wet seasons of the year but not necessarily for the entire year. These streams generally exhibit signs of water velocity sufficient to move soil, material, litter, and fine debris. Aquatic organisms, such as fish, are often difficult to find or not present at all in these streams. These streams are identified on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps and on the Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils maps.”

There are 34 Category One streams listed in the Ordinance. The stream protection corridor is a strip of land on both sides of the stream whose width varies according to whether it is within the Compact or Metro Context Area and whether it is a Category One or Category Two Stream.

Fawn Run lies within the Metro Context Area and is located along the southern boundary of the site. It is designated as a Category Two stream requiring a 50-foot-wide stream protection corridor on both sides of the stream, as measured parallel from the top of the bank. Top of the bank is not defined by the Ordinance, other than by Diagram UU, Stream Protection Corridor Cross-section, as shown below.



Stream Protection Corridor

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.

Planning Analysis

Small commercial nodes are recommended in the suburban neighborhood typology. Additionally, the Pattern Book provides development guidelines to minimize the impact of commercial uses on surrounding neighborhoods and land uses.

As proposed, the commercial use would be located mid-block when the Pattern Book recommends commercial nodes be “located at the intersections of arterial streets and should be no closer than one mile to another commercial node with one acre or more of commercial uses.” The approximately three-acre commercial node to the south of this site is approximately 200 feet from this site.

No development plan has been submitted that would provide information related to whether the proposed commercial uses could be developed, without the need for variances, on this site with appropriate protections of the residential uses to the north, south and west that would include buffering and screening as recommended in the Pattern Book, while maintaining and protecting the natural features of this site.

Additionally, staff believes the commercial rezoning at this location would disrupt the existing residential land uses and neighborhood to the north, south and west and compromise the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan and the development guidelines provided in The Pattern Book, both of which

supports orderly development. Otherwise, this request would allow commercial encroachment into a solidly residential area that would not be appropriate for this neighborhood.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Existing Zoning	D-1 (TOD)	
Existing Land Use	Single-family dwelling	
Comprehensive Plan	Suburban Neighborhood	
Surrounding Context	Zoning	Land Use
North:	D-1 (TOD)	Single-family dwelling
South:	D-1 (TOD)	Single-family dwelling
East:	D-9 (TOD)	Multi-family dwellings
West:	D-1 (TOD)	Single-family dwelling
Thoroughfare Plan		
South Madison Avenue	Secondary Arterial	Existing 90-108-foot right-of-way and proposed 112-foot right-of-way
Context Area	Metro	
Floodway / Floodway Fringe	No	
Overlay	Yes. Transit-Oriented Development	
Wellfield Protection Area	No	
Site Plan	N/A	
Site Plan (Amended)	N/A	
Elevations	N/A	
Elevations (Amended)	N/A	
Landscape Plan	N/A	
Findings of Fact	N/A	
Findings of Fact (Amended)	N/A	
C-S/D-P Statement	N/A	

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS

Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan recommends Suburban Neighborhood typology. “The Suburban Neighborhood typology is predominantly made up of single-family housing but is interspersed with attached and multifamily housing where appropriate. This typology should be supported by a variety of neighborhood-serving businesses, institutions, and amenities. Natural Corridors and natural features such as stream corridors, wetlands, and woodlands should be treated as focal points or organizing systems for development. Streets should be well-connected, and amenities should be treated as landmarks that enhance navigability of the development. This typology generally has a residential density

of 1 to 5 dwelling units per acre, but a higher density is recommended if the development is within a quarter mile of a frequent transit line, greenway, or park.”

Pattern Book / Land Use Plan

The Comprehensive Plan consists of two components that include The Marion County Land Use Pattern Book (2019) and the land use map. The Pattern Book provides a land use classification system that guides the orderly development of the county and protects the character of neighborhoods while also being flexible and adaptable to allow neighborhoods to grow and change over time.

The Pattern Book serves as a policy guide as development occurs. Below are the relevant policies related to this request:

Conditions for All Land Use Types – Suburban Neighborhood Typology

- 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.
- Hydrological patterns should be preserved wherever possible.
- Curvilinear streets should be used with discretion and should maintain the same general direction.
- In master-planned developments, block lengths of less than 500 feet, or pedestrian cut-throughs for longer blocks, are encouraged.

Small-scale offices, retailing, and personal or professional services (defined as commercial uses with minimal outdoor operations, storage, or display on lots of less than 1.5 acres and a height of less than 35 feet.)

- If proposed within one-half mile along an adjoining street of an existing or approved residential development, then connecting, continuous pedestrian infrastructure between the proposed site and the residential development (sidewalk, greenway, or off-street path) should be in place or provided.
- Should be located at the intersections of arterial streets and should be no closer than one mile to another commercial node with one acre or more of commercial uses except as reuse of a historic building.
- Should be limited to an aggregate of 3.5 acres per intersection, with no one corner having more than 1.5 acres.
- Should be limited to areas and parcels with adequate space for required screening and buffering.
- Automotive uses (such as gas stations and auto repair) and uses requiring a distance of separation of greater than 20 feet under the zoning ordinance (such as liquor stores, adult uses, and drive-through lanes) are excluded.
- Should not include outdoor display of merchandise.

Red Line / Blue Line / Purple Line TOD Strategic Plan

Red Line Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan (2021).

Neighborhood / Area Specific Plan

Not Applicable to the Site.

Infill Housing Guidelines

Not Applicable to the Site.

Indy Moves

(Thoroughfare Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Greenways Master Plan)

The Marion County Thoroughfare Plan (2019) “is a long-range plan that identifies the locations classifications and different infrastructure elements of roadways within a defined area.”

The following listed items describe the purpose, policies and tools:

- Classify roadways based on their location, purpose in the overall network and what land use they serve.
- Provide design guidelines for accommodating all modes (automobile, transit, pedestrians, bicycles) within the roadway.
- Set requirements for preserving the right-of-way (ROW).
- Identify roadways for planned expansions or new terrain roadways.
- Coordinate modal plans into a single linear network through its GIS database.

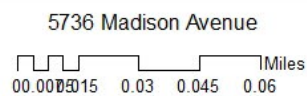
ZONING HISTORY

2012-CZN 832 / 2012-CVC-832 / 2012-CVR-832; 5700, 5727, 5735 and 5745 Madison Avenue, 1587 Gilbert Avenue (east of site), requested rezoning of 5.808 acres from the D-3 and C-3 Districts to the D-9 classification to provide for multifamily residential uses; a vacation of Lots 1-16 of Waddell's Addition recorded in Plat Book 24, Pages 275-276, including Waddell Street, easements and building setback lines, with a waiver of the assessment of benefits; and a variance of development standards to provide for a multifamily development with reduced north, east and south perimeter yards, **approved and granted**.

2006-ZON-061; 5717 Madison Avenue (east of site), requested rezoning of 0.47 acre from D-3 to C-3, **approved**.

2002-ZON-019; 5700 Madison Avenue (east of site), requested rezoning of 3.98 acres from D-3 to C-3, **approved**.

EXHIBITS





View looking south along Madison Avenue



View of site looking west across Madison Avenue



View of site looking west across Madison Avenue



View looking northwest across Madison Avenue