

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER

March 28, 2024

Case Number: 2024-CZN-806 / 2004-CVR-806

Property Address: 4896 Kentucky Avenue

Location: Decatur Township, Council District #21

Petitioner: Taco Bell of America, LLC, by Josh Graber

Current Zoning: C-5

Rezoning of 0.6735 acres from the C-5 district to the C-4 district to provide for

a restaurant use.

Variance of Development Standards of the Consolidated Zoning and Request:

Subdivision Ordinance to provide for a drive-through within the front yard of

Subdivision Ordinance to provide for a drive-through within the front yard of High School Road without the required exclusive bypass lane, (not permitted within front yards along rights-of-way greater than 30 feet wide, exclusive

bypass aisle required).

Current Land Use: Commercial uses (used car sales)

Staff

Recommendations: Approval, subject to the following commitment:

Staff Reviewer: Kathleen Blackham, Senior Planner

PETITION HISTORY

The Hearing Examiner continued these petitions from the March 14, 2024 hearing, to the March 28, 2024 hearing, with notice, at the request of staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approval, subject to the following commitment being reduced to writing on the Commission's Exhibit "B" forms at least three days prior to the MDC hearing:

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

REZONING

This 0.18-acre site, zoned C-5, is developed with a used car dealership. It is surrounded by commercial uses to the north, zoned C-4; commercial uses to the south, across South High School Road, zoned C-4; commercial uses to the east, across Kentucky Avenue, zoned C-5; and railroad right-of-way to the west, zoned C-5.

This request would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation of Community Commercial typology. This typology is contemplated to be located within the C-3 or C-4 districts, depending upon the location and surrounding land uses. This area is heavily commercial and the proposed rezoning to the C-4 district would have minimal impact on surrounding uses. Furthermore, the C-4 district would be less detrimental than the existing C-5 district. Staff, therefore, supports this request.

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 receptables for proper disposal of trash and other waste

VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

This request would allow a drive-through within the front yard of High School Road without the required exclusive bypass lane.

The Ordinance prohibits drive-throughs within the front yard along rights-of-way greater than 30 feet wide and requires an exclusive bypass aisle.

Staff supports these variances due to the configuration of the parcel, the elevation of the existing railroad right-of-way (approximately seven feet) and the drainage feature associated with the intersecting streets. This results in a practical difficulty in the use and development of the property.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Existing Zoning	C-5	
Existing Land Use	Commercial uses	
Comprehensive Plan	Community Commercial typology	
Surrounding Context	Zoning	Land Use
North:	C-4	Commercial uses
South:	C-4	Commercial uses
East:	C-5	Commercial uses
West:	C-5	Railroad right-of-way
Thoroughfare Plan		
Kentucky Avenue South High School Road	Primary arterial Secondary arterial	Existing 160-foot right-of-way and a proposed 102-foot right-of-way (Indiana State jurisdiction) Existing 100-277-foot right-of-way and a proposed 80-foot right-of-way
Context Area	Metro	
Floodway / Floodway Fringe	Yes – 500-year unregulated floodway fringe of Little Dollar Hide Creek	
Overlay	No	
Wellfield Protection Area	No	
Site Plan	February 7, 2024	
Site Plan (Amended)	N/A	
Elevations	N/A	
Elevations (Amended)	N/A	



Landscape Plan	February 7, 2024
Findings of Fact	February 7, 2024
Findings of Fact (Amended)	N/A
C-S/D-P Statement	N/A

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS

Comprehensive Plan

• The Comprehensive Plan recommends village mixed-use typology. The Community Commercial typology provides for low-intensity commercial, and office uses that serve nearby neighborhoods. These uses are usually in freestanding buildings or small, integrated centers. Examples include small-scale shops, personal services, professional and business services, grocery stores, drug stores, restaurants, and public gathering spaces. Enter all comprehensive plans applicable to this proposal.

Pattern Book / Land Use Plan

- 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.
- 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.)
 - Outdoor display of merchandise should be limited.
 - If adjacent to residential uses or a Living Typology, outdoor display of merchandise is not recommended.
 - Should be located along an arterial or collector street.
 - 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.
 - All development should include sidewalks along the street frontage."

Red Line / Blue Line / Purple Line TOD Strategic Plan

Not Applicable to the Site.



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 describes 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
 - o Coordinate modal plans into a single linear network through its GIS database



ZONING HISTORY

2009-APP-093 / 2009-VAR-006; **4896 Kentucky Avenue**, requested modification of Commitments, related to petition 2004-ZON-163, to terminate commitments S9xteen requiring installation of permanent concrete curbs along the Kentucky Avenue right-of-way line and a variance of use to legally establish a single-family dwelling, **approved and granted**.

2004-ZON-163; **4896 Kentucky Avenue**, requested rezoning of 0.88 acre from the D-3 district to the C-5 classification, **approved**.

71-UV3-130; 4896 Kentucky Avenue, requested variance to provide for pole sign, to identify nearby bank building, **granted**.

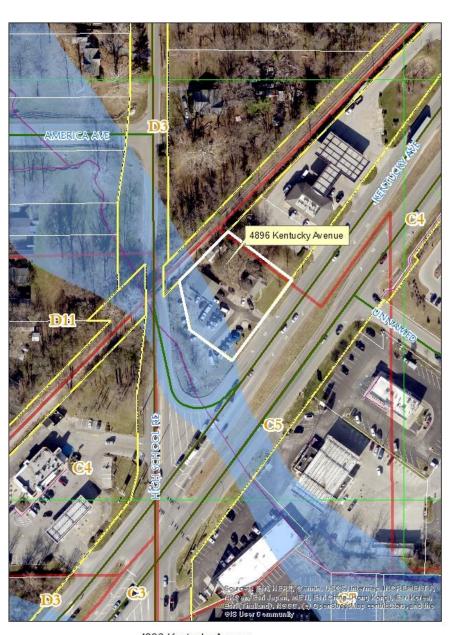
Vicinity

2006-ZON-023; 4892 Kentucky Avenue (abutting site to northeast), requested rezoning of 0.38 acre from D-3 to C-1, **approved**.

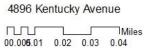
2001-ZON-020; **4884 Kentucky Avenue (northeast of site)**, requested rezoning from D-3 to C-4, approved.



EXHIBITS









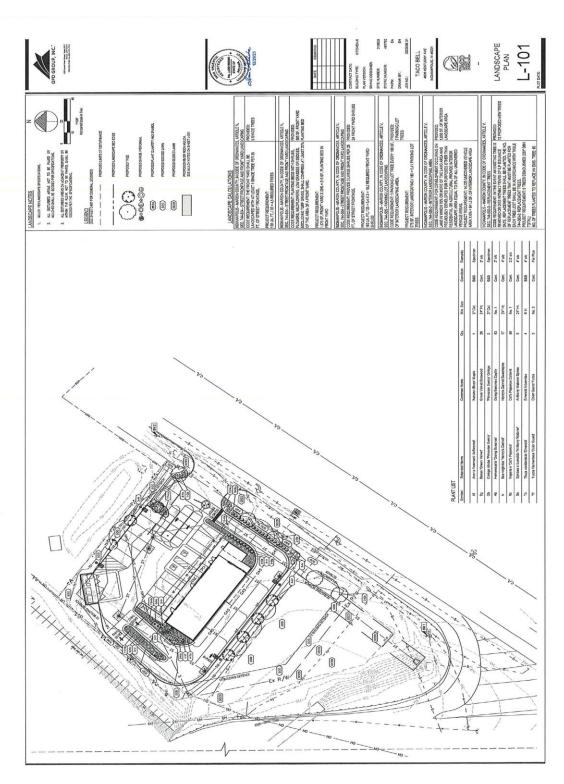
Petition Number

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION			
HEARING EXAMINER			
METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division			
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA			
PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS			
FINDINGS OF FACT			
 The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because: 			
As discussed in more detail within the enclosed narrative, it is our position that the deviations requested to the standards better promote public health, safety, and gen			
welfare of the community than if the standards were strictly edhered to in this context. The site as proposed maximizes efficiency of the drive thru to maintain site			
circulation. Additionally, the site layout maximizes drive thru stack to not affect Kentucky Ave, which is a thoroughfare. Due to site characteristics, the primary driveway			
for access to the site is set and thus informs the site layout.			
2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because:			
As discussed in more detail within the enclosed narrative, the adjacent uses are currently as follows: to the west is a large ROW width for High School Rd and an INDOT drainage			
ditch, to the south is Kentucky Ave with a guardrail and partial INDOT drainage ditch, to the east is a currently unused parcel owned by Speedway (that is proposed to			
eventually have a connection point to the Speedway for vehicles traveling north), and to the north are railroad tracks owned by Indiana Southern Railroad. As proposed,			
we are limiting the effect to all property sides. Additionally, the businesses at the intersection of High School Rd and Kentucky Ave consist of a BP gas station/McDonald's,			
a Speedway gas station, a Burger King, a Subway restaurant, and a Wai-Mart, among others. Taco Bell fits the context of the area and its uses.			
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3. The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the			
use of the property because: As discussed in more detail within the enclosed narrative, the existing site size, characteristics, and layout constraints due to an INDOT drainage ditch, gas easement through			
As discussed in more detail within the enclosed narrative, the existing site size, characteristics, and layout constinuing the or in record oraning of the first the property, and two frontages preclude the site from being designed practically while maintaining ideal and safe traffic circulation, traffic stack, and drive thru			
operation efficiency. In context with the adjacent property uses and overall layout, the proposed site is designed to meet the intent of the ordinance as much as possible			
while designing for safety as the primary objective.			
Write designing for seriety as the printerly dependent.			
DECISION			
Bellion			
IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.			
,			
Adopted this day of , 20			













View looking south along Kentucky Avenue



View looking north along Kentucky Avenue





View looking north along North High School Road



View of site looking north across South High School Road



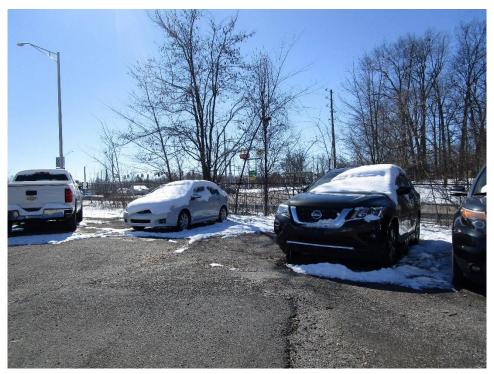


View looking north across intersection of South High School Road and Kentucky Avenue

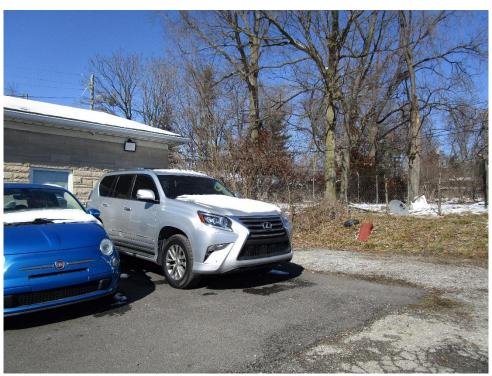


View of site looking west across Kentucky Avenue



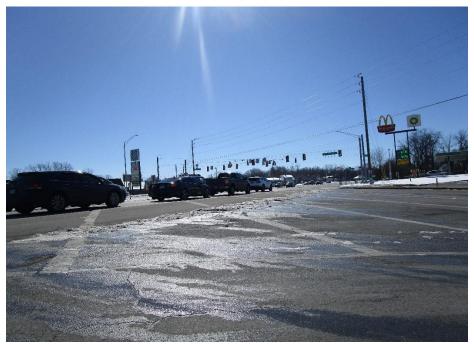


View from site looking south



View from site looking northwest





View from site looking southeast across intersection of Kentucky Avenue & South High School Road



View from site looking south across South High School Road