



Ted Shekell
Director of Planning and Zoning
City of O'Fallon, Illinois
255 S. Lincoln
O'Fallon, IL 62269

RE: Pedestrian Crossing
Southview Plaza Shopping Center and Proposed McDonald's

Dear Ted,

On Monday, July 23, 2007, the Community Development Committee asked Walpert Properties and Hoelscher Engineering to study the possibility and cost to construct a lighted pedestrian crossing as part of the redevelopment of Southview Plaza Shopping Center. The purpose is to provide a defined crosswalk to allow individuals to cross Highway 50 to get to the new McDonald's. This letter will act as our response to your requested inquiry.

Highway 50, which runs east and west along Southview Plaza and the proposed new McDonald's, is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Accordingly, we contacted RuAnna Stumpf, Permits Unit Chief for IDOT, District 8, regarding a mid-block pedestrian signal (i.e., "pedestrian crossing") along Highway 50, and explained to Ms. Stumpf that it was at the request of the O'Fallon Community Development Committee reviewing the proposed new McDonald's. Summarized below are the conversations with Ms. Stumpf relating to IDOT's description, position and recommendations for installation of a pedestrian crossing on Highway 50:

Description of a pedestrian crossing

1. A mid-block pedestrian signal (i.e., "pedestrian crossing") would entail a fixture including poles and mast arms with a 3-light red/yellow/green signal and an accessible crosswalk. A pedestrian would push a button on the pole, which would turn the light to yellow and to red, stopping traffic and permitting a pedestrian to cross, then return to green to continue traffic flow.
2. The signal must be tied into the main control box and traffic signal at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Highway 50. These lights must be synchronized in order to avoid major traffic delays.
3. The approximate cost to construct the signal and crosswalk is \$100,000 to \$150,000.
4. IDOT will not fund the cost to install the signal and crosswalk, nor any cost associated with the maintenance of the signal and crosswalk. All costs would be the responsibility of the City of O'Fallon.

IDOT's position on the pedestrian crossing

1. IDOT believes it is not wise to construct a pedestrian crossing across Highway 50 at the proposed new McDonald's or at Southview Plaza for the following reasons: (1) it is too close to the signal at Lincoln Avenue and Highway 50, and (2) it will back up traffic, in both directions, along Highway 50.
2. IDOT indicated this is not Walpert Properties' or the City of O'Fallon's decision to install a pedestrian crossing on Highway 50. The ultimate decision is within IDOT's jurisdiction.

IDOT's recommendation for inquiry of a pedestrian crossing

1. Given that IDOT governs any decisions regarding signals and crosswalks on Highway 50, Ms. Stumpf stated that any requests concerning this matter should be made directly to her by the City of O'Fallon and not by Walpert Properties or McDonald's.
2. Ms. Stumpf further suggested that the City contact her directly to arrange a meeting to discuss in more detail your interest in the installation of a pedestrian crossing.

We believe that we have met the City's request to inquire about a pedestrian crossing on Highway 50 as suggested at the Community Development meeting. Walpert Properties and McDonald's would certainly attend your meeting with IDOT; however, someone from the City should contact Ms. Stumpf as soon as practicable to arrange this meeting.

Finally, we ask that the pending approval for the Planned Use for McDonald's at Southview Plaza not include any stipulations regarding pedestrian crossings. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Kindest regards,



Loren I. Ettinger