# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of July 8, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Kroger Grocery Store Site Plan for Planning Commission Approval

400 South Maple Road (Project No. SP10-007)

#### PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby approves the Kroger Grocery Store Site Plan for Planning Commission Approval subject to (1) approval by the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, (2) corrected existing conditions sheet and variance notations, and (3) removal of construction material and equipment prior to finalization of building permits or certificate of occupancy as applicable.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the petition be proposed **approved** because the contemplated development would comply with all applicable state, location and federal laws, ordinances, standards and regulations; no natural features would be disturbed; and the development would not cause a public or private nuisance and would not have a detrimental effect on the public health, safety or welfare.

#### LOCATION

This site is located on the west side of South Maple Road between West Stadium Boulevard and Winewood Avenue (West Area, Allen Creek watershed).

## **DESCRIPTION OF PETITION**

The petitioner requests approval to create a drive-thru lane on the south side of the building where some parking spaces, walkway and landscape areas are currently located to support the existing pharmacy within the grocery store. The 10.4-acre site is zoned C3 Fringe Commercial District and currently contains an 80,501-square foot grocery store and 363 vehicular parking spaces. The site also contains a wireless communications monopole tower in the rear.

Fourteen of the 22 existing parking spaces along the south side of the building are proposed to be removed to accommodate the drive-thru lane. The site currently has 56 spaces more than the maximum allowed by code (a maximum vehicular parking limit was adopted after the grocery store was developed) and will have 42 spaces over the maximum limit after the drive-thru lane is installed. The existing walkway and landscape areas between the parking stalls and building will be relocated to an island separating the drive-thru lane from the main circulation aisle.

The grocery store was recently expanded (with administrative amendment approval for small building additions to the front of the store) and renovated. As part of this work, the pharmacy area of the store was moved to the south side of the building. Reconfiguring the parking lot requires approval from the Planning Commission.

#### **COMPARISION CHART**

		EXISTING	PROPOSED	REQUIRED/PERMITTED
Zoning		C3 Fringe Commercial	C3 Fringe Commercial	C3 Fringe Commercial
Gross Lot Area		451,828 sq ft (10.4 acres)	451,828 sq ft (10.4 acres)	6,000 sq ft MIN
Floor Area as % of Lot Area		17.8% (80,501 sq ft)	17.8% (80,501 sq ft)	50% MAX (225,914 sq ft MAX)
Set-backs	Front (Maple)	70 ft to parking 365 ft to building	70 ft to parking 365 ft to building	40 ft MIN
	Front (I-94)	28 ft to parking * 265 ft to building	28 ft to parking * 265 ft to building	40 ft MIN
	Side	14 ft to north 80 ft to south	14 ft to north 80 ft to south	None
Height		25 ft 8 in (building) 150 ft (wireless tower) *	25 ft 8 in (building) 150 ft (wireless tower) *	35 ft / 3 stories MAX
Vehicle Parking		363 spaces	349 spaces	1/310 sq ft MIN (260 spaces MIN) 1/265 sq ft MAX (307 spaces MAX)
Bicycle Parking		26 Class B spaces	26 Class B spaces	1/3,000 sq ft MIN (50% Class B, 50% Class C)

<sup>\*</sup> Variance to allow parking in the front open space granted on November 15, 1995.
Variance to allow increased height for wireless communication tower granted on March 22, 2000.

# SURROUNDING LAND USES AND ZONING

	LAND USE	ZONING
NORTH	Commercial	C3 (Fringe Commercial District)
EAST	Commercial	C3 and M1 (Limited Industrial District)
SOUTH	Office, Commercial, Entertainment	C3
WEST	Interstate Highway	C3

# **HISTORY**

The Kroger Company began arrangements to relocate the existing store in the Westgate Shopping Center to land immediately south in 1995. An annexation petition and zoning petition for two parcels and an area plan for a new freestanding Kroger Store and new Moose Lodge on three parcels (one of which was already annexed and zoned C3) was approved in 1995. A site plan for a 74,000±-square foot Kroger Store and a 12,000-square foot Moose Lodge on separate parcels was approved on December 4, 1995. Variances to allow parking in the front open space along I-94 for both sites were granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on November 15, 1995. An administrative amendment to the Westgate Shopping Center was also approved in 1995 to relocate some parking spaces to accommodate a new access between the new Kroger Store and the existing center.

An administrative amendment to the Kroger Store site plan was approved in September 1997 to add a 4,067-square foot mezzanine and one additional bicycle hoop. A revised site plan for the Kroger Store was approved on May 1, 2000 (with a height variance granted by the ZBA on March 22, 2000) for a 150-foot wireless monopole tower within a 3,450-square foot area at the rear of the site.

Another administrative amendment to the Kroger Store site plan was approved in 2009, allowing construction of three additions under and in line with the south canopy of the store, totaling 1,162 square feet.

#### PLANNING BACKGROUND

The Master Plan – Future Land Use Element (2009) recommends commercial uses for this site and the surrounding area.

## SERVICE UNIT COMMENTS

<u>Land Development</u> – Comments pending.

Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner – Storm water detention requirements have been reviewed and approved.

Systems Planning - A City of Ann Arbor Geodetic Reference System (AAGRS) Coordinate Transformation Worksheet shall be submitted for review and approval.

Planning – Staff noted that most of the parking spaces at the rear of the site, between the store and I-94, were blocked with significant amounts of construction materials and equipment while reviewing the proposed drive-thru lane. Many of those items have since been removed but no amount of construction materials or equipment are appropriate for long term storage. Staff recommends that approval of the proposed petition conditioned upon removal of all construction materials and equipment from past projects and the proposed drive-thru lane prior finalization of building permits or issuance of certificate of occupancy as applicable.

Before the final plans are sealed the existing conditions sheet must be fully updated to reflect all existing conditions, specifically showing the wireless monopole tower, accessory buildings and enclosure. Also, the comparison chart must note all variances that have been previously granted for this site

Prepared by Alexis DiLeo Reviewed by Wendy Rampson jsj/7/1/10

Attachments: Parcel/Zoning Map

Aerial Photo Site Plan

Landscape Plan

# Kroger Drive-Thru Page 4

c: Owner: Glacier Hills Inc.

1200 Earhart Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2768

Petitioner: Robert Zabowski

Edmund London & Associates, Inc. 20750 Civic Center Drive, Suite 610

Southfield, MI 48076

City Attorney Systems Planning File No. SP10-007



# Parcel and Zoning Map:

Kroger Drive-Thru Window Site Plan for Planning Commission Approval 400 S. Maple Rd

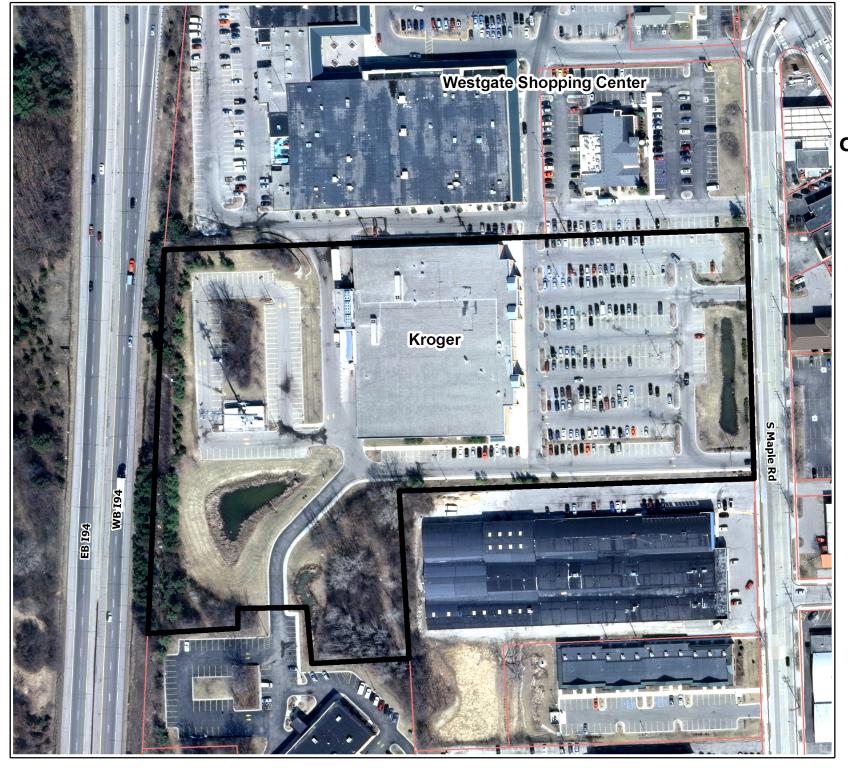




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# 2009 Aerial Photo:

Kroger Drive-Thru Window Site Plan for Planning Commission Approval 400 S. Maple Rd





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