

**From:** Brian Demczyk  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 22, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** Customer Service <[customerservice@a2gov.org](mailto:customerservice@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable Commerce

Read a piece in the recent (May, 2022) edition of the Ann Arbor Observer, dealing with the (continued) vacancy of the former Arby's restaurant building site on Washtenaw Avenue. The conclusion reached was that the site "isn't feasible for a national chain" because it doesn't have enough parking or room to add a drive-thru. Never mind that the restaurant survived fine for a decade or more in its present form before being shuttered (presumably) for a lack of business. A similar comment related to the vacancy of the former Pizza Hut on Carpenter Road was that "like all older Pizza Huts, Ann Arbor's weren't designed to accommodate takeout". In the same piece, however, Chipotle was lauded for refurbishing the old Burger King building on W. Stadium, to enable takeout - "the line of cars waiting to pick up orders at the "Chipotlane" wrapped around the building and out onto Stadium.

Anybody see anything wrong with this picture? In an era of increased scrutiny over GHG emissions and ever increasing gasoline prices, why is the city encouraging drive thru service, which is known to increase both emissions and fuels usage (i.e. idling) and take out, that may well do both, depending on whether the trip was an "extra one" or as part of being "out and about" Both modes also greatly increase the volume of solid waste generated, most of which is not properly recycled.

We do know, however, that both of these modes are actively promoted by the fast food industry, as they enable reduced restaurant staff, and thus, increased profits - but at what environmental costs?

It's time that that both consumers and the city step up to their commitment to the environment by minimizing, not actively encouraging these unsustainable practices.

Sincerely,

B. Demczyk, PhD