



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metropolitan District
Waters Edge Building
1500 County Road B2 West
Roseville, MN 55113

May 16, 2013

Mr. Tom Beach
City of St. Paul DSI
375 Jackson Street
Suite 220
St. Paul, MN 55101

SUBJECT: Buffalo Wild Wings, MnDOT Follow-Up Comments
SE Corner of TH 51 (Snelling Ave.) and Ashland Ave.
City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County
C.S. 6215

Dear Mr. Beach:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the potential closing of the Ashland Avenue access to the proposed Buffalo Wild Wings. MnDOT is concerned with the closure of the Ashland Avenue access since it would create safety problems for motorists on TH 51 (Snelling Avenue). MnDOT's concerns are as follows:

Motorists traveling southbound on TH 51 (Snelling Avenue) can currently access the site by queuing in the left turn lane for Ashland Avenue and waiting for a gap in the northbound TH 51 traffic. Thus they are safely separated from the main lane of traffic. Without the Ashland access, southbound motorists will queue within the main lanes of TH 51 (Snelling Avenue). This increases the potential for rear end crashes, queues extending to the intersection, and motorists trying to turn left with inadequate gaps within the oncoming traffic.

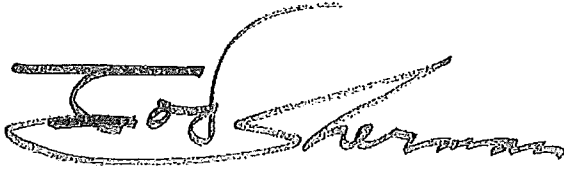
Motorists traveling either eastbound or westbound on Ashland Avenue can currently access the site on Ashland Avenue. Without the Ashland Avenue access, these motorists would be required to turn onto TH 51 (Snelling Avenue), travel a very short distance and again wait to turn left until there is an adequate gap in the oncoming traffic. This section of TH 51 (Snelling Avenue) has a current average daily traffic volume of 24,000 vehicles per day, thus often making these left turns difficult.

A Two Way Left Turn Lane (TWLTL) has not been proposed, but would not operate satisfactorily due to the volume of traffic on TH 51 in this area. A TWLTL would also be inconsistent with the rest of the TH 51 (Snelling Avenue) corridor.

MnDOT and the City of Saint Paul have worked together to improve safety through the management of access along TH 51 (Snelling Avenue) for many years. MnDOT strives to reduce access to the trunk highway system. The Ashland access would be inconsistent with this effort since it would increase traffic accessing the site by way of a state trunk highway. Hopefully we can continue to make sound access decisions together.

MnDOT will not support a plan that closes the Ashland Avenue access. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please feel free to contact me at (651) 234-7794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tod Sherman'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'T' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tod Sherman
Planning Supervisor

Copy sent via E-Mail:

Buck Craig, Permits

Nancy Jacobson, Design

Mark Lindeberg, Area Engineer

Gayle Gedstad, Traffic

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