



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 6  
126 East Ash Street / Springfield, Illinois 62704-4792

August 25, 2004

Mr. John M. Myers  
Rabin, Myers, Hanken and Durr, P. C.  
1300 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Mr. Myers:

This letter is in response to your letter dated August 5, 2004 concerning a proposed Wal-Mart store on West Wabash Avenue.

Most of the concerns stated in your letter such as, traffic in the adjoining neighborhoods, drainage, noise and other environmental impacts need to be addressed to the City of Springfield. These types of issues need to be considered during zoning, land subdivision, site development and the building permit processes. Since this site adjoins a State highway, IDOT provides input to these processes, but the final decisions are made by the City of Springfield.

The district's involvement is limited to impacts the proposed development would have on West Wabash Avenue since this is a State highway, of which IDOT has jurisdiction. The district's concern is the safe and efficient movement of traffic on West Wabash Avenue. As such, we must approve any entrance onto West Wabash and/or any needed improvements to the intersections of West Wabash with Meadowbrook and Archer Elevator. The need for any improvements at these locations is dictated by the traffic generated by the development. Although we have seen some initial traffic studies for this proposed development, we have sent these back to the consultant for further information and have not approved any studies yet. Until such time as the traffic study has been approved by both IDOT and the City, the locations and designs for any road improvements are very speculative and include several possible alternatives, with and without direct access to West Wabash.

The district has initiated a preliminary engineering study to improve West Wabash Avenue from Koke Mill Road to near Curran. This study has been initiated in response to the increase in traffic this section of roadway has experienced in the last several years because of numerous developments in the area and is needed whether or not Wal-Mart develops along this corridor. The improvement would expand the roadway to at least four lanes with turn lanes located at most of the intersections. In addition, all intersections would be improved. A public meeting will be held this year to discuss this project when we have more of the details worked out. We are still developing the geometrics of the project and the impacts to adjoining properties. There will be a public notice in the newspaper and we will mail both you and the SWSNA a notice of the meeting once the meeting details have been finalized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine M. Reed".

Christine M. Reed, P.E.  
District Engineer

WEM:mab