

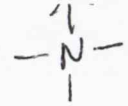
MAY 11 2023

Rhonda Mitchell

CITY CLERK

- Owner of the KinderCenter 4389 Wabash Ave. since 2005 (1 lot over from 4355 Wabash).
  - Lived in Woodridge Subdivision since 2000
  - Drive this stretch of Wabash numerous times a day
  - Contact (812) 872-2377
  - I am here to express my concerns about the safety of travel on Wabash and the proposed development at 4355 Wabash.
1. Purchased the KinderCenter property in 2005.
    - US Highway 40 at time of purchase – owned and maintained by the state at that time
    - INDOT stated that no cuts between 4389 Wabash & Keane Lane would be made due to safety reasons.
    - City Engineer stated that the easement that exists between 4389 (KinderCenter) & 4361 (Family Dentistry) is due to INDOT's ruling on this safety issue.
    - So, my question is: What has changed? Besides the fact that there is more traffic and faster drivers? The road is now owned and maintained by the City of Terre Haute. The safety issue as stated by INDOT still remains.
  2. This development adds more traffic and congestion in that small area
    - most dangerous stretch – between the pond at Woodridge and Keane Lane.
    - Numerous accidents while I have been at this location – some fatal.
    - Within the last month, I had a client who was turning left into the KinderCenter - a Mom & 3 small children – who was rear ended. Luckily no one was hurt but could have had a very different outcome.
    - Also, accidents from people turning into and out of Highland Cemetary (across Wabash Ave. from the KinderCenter).
    - We have also sustained property damage several times due to accidents on Wabash.
    - When making a left turn into the KinderCenter and waiting for eastbound traffic to clear, I am constantly checking my rear view mirror to see if the traffic behind me is going to stop.

3. In 2005, we were told that 27,000 vehicles a day pass the KinderCenter. I am sure that number has increased in nearly 20 years.
4. The only way I can see that this development could be added safely, would be to make Keane Lane two way and add a stoplight at the Keane Lane/Wabash Ave. intersection.
  - Mr. Shalgley proposed a cut at 4355 Wabash so that eastbound traffic could enter Wabash. This cut is inconsistent with the INDOT safety concerns at that location.
  - (Refer to map) The cut would be approximately 150 feet from the KinderCenter entrance onto Wabash. KinderCenter families and Family Dentistry clients who are turning west out of the KinderCenter driveway would be met on Wabash by residents of the townhomes turning east onto Wabash. An accident (or more accidents) waiting to happen on this road.
  - Previously Keane Lane was two way. Due to numerous accidents, it is now one way from Wabash to the entrance of Woodridge. The cut would be no more than 50 feet from Kean Lane.
  - Is this the best solution?
5. Need to start thinking of this stretch of Wabash more like we think of SR 46 or US Highway 41 (3<sup>rd</sup> Street).
  - Need to be proactive vs. reactive
  - There need to be more lights to slow down the traffic and allow people to enter and exit the highway safely.
  - There are 3 large subdivisions on this part of Wabash: Woodridge, Phoenix Hills & Robinwood.
  - Police run Wabash occasionally but unless there was a police presence every day for at least a year, it isn't going to change driving habits.
  - I was told by the City Engineer that a light could initially cause more accidents. There are "line-of-sight" concerns with any lights on this part of Wabash. My parents live in just south of Louisville. There are two stop lights with line-of sight concerns on this road. This problem has been solved with additional warning signs and flashing yellow lights providing ample warning well before these lights.



HIGHLAND  
LAWN  
ENTRANCE

← WABASH WESTBOUND ←

→ WABASH EASTBOUND →

200 ft.

KEARNE  
LANE

↓  
ONE  
WAY

PROPOSED CUT  
EAST BOUND ENTER  
EAST BOUND EXIT

KINDERCENTER  
+  
STALEY ENTRANCE

4361  
WABASH  
STALEY  
DENTISTRY

4389  
WABASH  
KINDER  
CENTER

4355 WABASH

DEVELOPMENT

NOT TO SCALE

May 11, 2023

Dear Terre Haute City Council members:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the proposed plan to develop a townhome community on Keane Lane, adjacent to KinderCenter on Wabash Avenue. While I cannot attend this evening's meeting, I wanted to add my voice to those who have spoken about the potentially deleterious effects this could have on KinderCenter. Due to the high likelihood that the construction and completion of a townhome development on Keane Lane would alter traffic patterns and create safety issues near KinderCenter, I ask that the city council reconsider this plan.

Both of my children have completed KinderCenter's Kindermusik program. My eldest began attending classes in September 2012 when she was four months old and my youngest started in September 2016 when he was five months old. They graduated in April 2019 and April 2023, respectively. I therefore spent ten-and-a-half years traveling to and from KinderCenter, making the trip hundreds of times. I speak from experience, then, when I say that turning left into KinderCenter from Wabash, or turning left onto Wabash from the KinderCenter parking lot, can be a nerve-wracking experience.

Most people who drive the stretch of Wabash that is a four-lane highway would acknowledge that vehicles often travel over the posted speed limit, and that vehicles turning off Wabash—especially those making left-hand turns—slow the flow of traffic. This can create dangerous situations if drivers are not paying close attention. Every time I turned left into KinderCenter—which I have done since September 2015, when we moved to the east side of Vigo County—I hoped there would be no incoming eastbound traffic so that I could turn without completely stopping. Of course, that didn't always happen, so when I stopped on Wabash waiting to turn, I would keep glancing in my rearview mirror to make sure westbound traffic in the left lane was either slowing down or switching to the right lane. When vehicles passed me on the right, my vehicle would usually shake from the speed. I have been driving for nearly two-thirds of my life and rarely get nervous behind the wheel, but making that left turn made me nervous.

People turning left into KinderCenter from Wabash have children in their vehicles, ranging in age from a few months to seven years. I'm relieved that no one ever rear-ended me while I was waiting to turn, but on the last day of my youngest child's Kindermusik class—a graduation celebration—just last month, his classmate's mom was rear-ended severely as she was waiting to turn. Thankfully, everyone involved in the wreck was OK, although it was obvious that my child's classmate and her mom were both upset. This is just one of many reasons why adding another potential hazard to an already hazardous stretch of road is a bad idea.

While not as stressful as turning left into KinderCenter, turning left out of its driveway is also sometimes challenging for several of the same reasons: fast-moving traffic, turning vehicles, and lack of traffic lights between the intersections of Wabash with Fruitridge/Blakely and US 40/SR 46. When making that left, it sometimes took several minutes of waiting for it to be safe for me to go, and I have seen the same thing happen to others who had to go west on Wabash instead of east. Both of these scenarios—turning left into KinderCenter from Wabash and turning left from

KinderCenter onto Wabash—will become more dangerous if a new townhome development is created on Keane Lane, and if a new cut will have to be made from Wabash into the development.

Additionally, a new townhome development might have a negative impact on KinderCenter as a business and as a place of learning. If parents feel unsafe driving in that area because of new traffic patterns and a higher volume of vehicles, KinderCenter might lose students. More significantly, Mrs. Mitchell is a fantastic educator. My children love her, and my wife and I enjoyed taking part in our children's early music education with her. KinderCenter is a safe and welcoming environment, and that is due to Mrs. Mitchell's talents.

If the townhomes are completed, traffic will increase in the area and a new ingress/egress into the development will disrupt current traffic patterns and perhaps jeopardize public safety. I hope you will seriously consider the Mitchells' and my fellow Kindermusik parents' concerns regarding this matter. Thank you for taking the time to read/listen to this letter.

Sincerely,

Corey Taylor  
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