



ENGINEERING SUCCESS TOGETHER

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 31, 2021
To: Ms. Katie DeLuca, Planning Director
From: Kaethe V Podgorski, PE, PTOE

BETA Project #: 4972

Subject: 53 Forest Avenue, Greenwich, CT

BETA Group, Inc. (BETA) has reviewed the materials submitted by the Applicant to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the proposed new access driveway and additional parking spaces at 53 Forest Avenue. The following documents have been reviewed for traffic operational and safety considerations:

- Narrative; *53 Forest Avenue*; Fogarty, Cohen, Russo, & Nemiroff LLC, December 14, 2020
- Traffic Report; *53 Forest Avenue*; Kimley Horn; December 14, 2020
- Civil Plan Set; *53 Forest Avenue*; Redniss & Mead; December 14, 2020

The following comments/questions are offered for consideration:

1. It appears that sound access management principles were used in planning the existing layout for the site, since the access driveway is approximately equidistant between intersecting cross streets and aligned with Brown House Road. The operational analysis included in the Traffic Report (Table 1) indicates that the intersection of Forest Avenue and Brown House Road/Site Driveway operates acceptably, with the sidestreet stop-controlled approaches operating at Level of Service C or better during the AM and PM peak hours. However, the traffic report states:

“Once on the property, the existing driveway bifurcates into an east and west leg. Both legs are relatively narrow and have areas of reduced site distance. During weekday peak periods there is a conflicting mix of entering office traffic with existing residential traffic in the morning and the reverse in the afternoon. These opposing traffic flows during weekday rush hour periods, combined with the reduced driveway width and sightlines, has raised operational and potential safety concerns. To improve operations on the existing driveway, a new driveway is proposed on Forest Avenue to provide ingress and egress to/from the office.”

Since the Forest Avenue and Brown House Road/Site Driveway intersection seems to be operating acceptably and reasonably safely, has the Applicant considered modifications to the drive aisles on-site to address the operational and safety concerns for internal site circulation that were noted in the section above?

2. The proposed new access driveway does not meet Town Standards. Section 6-189 of the Code states that “Access drives should cross sidewalks and enter public streets at right angles.” This is to prevent a number of potential safety and operational problems that are well documented for skewed intersections. The Town Code also indicates that the minimum width to facilitate two-way circulation shall be 20 feet.
3. Crash data for the entire State of Connecticut for all classifications of roadways is available online via UCONN’s Connecticut Crash Data Repository. A few additional relevant crashes are shown for the study area (besides those listed in the traffic report), including Crash ID 46024 which occurred on February 21, 2015 at 4:24 PM in approximately the location of the proposed access driveway. It was a rear-end crash that involved two eastbound vehicles and was listed as an “intersection-related”

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crash. Snow was a contributing factor, but this crash could indicate that queueing on the eastbound approach to the stop-controlled Tomac Avenue intersection may need to be evaluated in more detail. Can the Applicant provide additional information about the queueing observations that were done to calibrate the queueing calculations (see pages 24-25 of the traffic report)? Were only the AM and PM peak hours observed? There may be a need to review mid-day conditions as well. An additional issue related to queueing is the potential for queued vehicles on the eastbound Forest Avenue approach to Tomac Avenue to obstruct the site distance for vehicles exiting the proposed access driveway.

4. Will emergency and delivery vehicles be able to access the site via the proposed driveway? Please provide turning templates.

CC: Patrick LaRow, Town of Greenwich
James Michel, Town of Greenwich
Scott Marucci, Town of Greenwich
Bianca Dygert, Town of Greenwich