BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Regular Meeting August 27, 2024 —MINUTES—

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Foose called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

ANNOUNCEMENT; Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A.10:4-6. On January 9, 2024 proper notice was sent to the Courier News and the Star-Ledger and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. Please be aware of the Zoning Board of Adjustment policy for public hearings: No new applications will be heard after 10:15 pm and no new testimony will be taken after 10:30 pm. Hearing Assistance is available upon request. Accommodation will be made for individuals with a disability, pursuant to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), provided the individual with the disability provides 48 hours advance notice to the Planning Department Secretary before the public meeting." However, if the individual should require special equipment or services, such as a CART transcriber, seven days advance notice, excluding weekends and holidays, may be necessary.

3. SALUTE TO FLAG:

4. ROLL CALL

Donald Sweeney-	Present	Jeff Foose-	Present
Bruce Bongiorno-	Present	John Gayeski-	Present
James Weideli-	Present	Claudio Vescio-	Present
Jeffrey Sicat-	Present	Andrew Fresco-	Present
Pushpavati Amin-	Present	Chris Gabbett-	Present
John Kulak	Present		

Others present: Board Attorney Rich Oller, Esq., Board Planner Katherine Sarmad, Board Engineer Bill Burr, Board Traffic Engineer John Jahr, and Roger Dornbierer, Zoning Officer.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Foose opened the meeting to the public. With there being no members of the public wishing to speak, the Board closed this portion of the meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for adoption.

7. RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions for adoption.

8. LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Application #23-023-ZB; Bridgewater Realty II LLC (Starbucks) Block 222, Lot 6.01 (1288 & 1298 Rt. 22 & Morgan Lane) Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan, Use Variance, Bulk Variances

See attached transcript provided by

This application was carried to the Tuesday November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting pending new notice.

#24-005-ZB; 821 Bridgewater LLC & JCC of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Block 477, Lot 45&46 (821 & 831 Route 202-206) D(1), D(4), D(5) Variances

Application #23-014-ZB; CX Towers Block 163, Lot 6.01 (719 Route 202)

Preliminary & Major Final Site Plan with D Variance, C Variance (s)

This application was carried to the Tuesday September 10, 2024 Regular Meeting pending new notice.

Application #23-011-ZB; 1200 Route 22 Land Investors & 1200 Route 22 LLC Holding Block 221; Lots 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 2 & 2.01 (1210 & 1220 Route 22)
Preliminary & Final Site Plan Approval with D Variance(s), Bulk Variance(s)

This application was carried to the Tuesday December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting pending new notice.

Application #23-010-ZB; Bellie Holdings LLC Block 249, Lot 40 (19-21 Mount Pleasant Ave D Variances, Bulk Variances

This application was carried to the Tuesday December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting without further notice.

<u>9. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS</u> There was no other Board business.

10. ADJOURNMENT
The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately at approximately 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo-Ann M. Ricks

Certified Board Secretary

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1	TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
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3	In the Matter of: : Transcript CASE 23-023-ZB :
4	: of
5	BRIDGEWATER REALTY II LLC : (STARBUCKS) : Proceedings
6	: :x
7	
8	Tuesday, August 27, 2024 100 Commons Way Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
9	Commencing at 7:06 p.m.
10	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
11	JEFF FOOSE, Chairman
12	JAMES WEIDELI, Vice Chairman ANDREW FRESCO, Secretary
13	DONALD SWEENEY BRUCE BONGIORNO
	JEFFREY SICAT
14	PUSHPAVATI AMIN JOHN KULAK
15	JOHN GAYESKI CLAUDIO VESCIO
16	CHRIS GABBETT, Alternate
17	WILLIAM BURR, Board Engineer KATHERINE SARMAD, Board Planner
18	JOHN JAHR, Board Traffic Engineer ROGER DORNBIERER, Zoning Officer
19	
20	MICHAEL LOMBARDOZZI,
21	Certified Shorthand Reporter
22	AB COURT REPORTING, LLC
23	Certified Court Reporters 26 Algonquin Terrace
24	Millstone Township, New Jersey 08535 Tel: (732) 882-3590
25	angelabuonocsr@gmail.com

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1	APPEARANCES:
2	RICHARD OLLER, ESQUIRE Attorney for the Board
3	FOX ROTHSCHILD
4	BY: HENRY KENT-SMITH, ESQUIRE Attorneys for the Applicant
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CHAIRMAN FOOSE: We have Bridgewater
Realty. Good evening, Mr. Kent.

MR. KENT-SMITH: Good evening,
Mr. Chairman, members of the board, I'm hen
Kent-Smith, I'm with the firm of Fox Rothschild,
and I'm here tonight on the continued application
of Bridgewater Realty. This is the property on
Route 21 and Morgan Lane.

As this board hopefully is well aware, and remembers, that we have been in the process of presenting an application for a use variance, several bulk variances, and multiple design exceptions for a proposed Starbucks on the corner of Route 22 and Morgan Lane.

The application began in February.

We had a hearing in March, then came back to the board in May with a further revised design. And, tonight, I hope to be able to conclude our direct presentation to this board.

Just to give the board some of the background, the applicant has presented their site plan engineer, a representative of Starbucks, to discuss the Starbucks operation, and our project architect.

The board, at the last meeting, had

several questions. Some of them related to the operation of the drive-through in particular, which I have a witness to address operational questions that the board may have, and clarify a couple of points that the board had.

Once that witness, who is Mr. Cruz, once he's concluded his testimony, Elizabeth Dolan, who is our traffic engineer, she will be testifying on the traffic analysis. She has submitted a revised traffic analysis, as promised in our -- at the end of the May meeting, that has been reviewed by the board's traffic engineer.

And, finally, Michael Tobia is our professional planner; will present the planning basis for the special reasons to support the grant of the variance, as well as the Modici proofs for positive and negative criteria.

So, Mr. Chairman, unless I missed something, then I'm ready to proceed.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I'm ready too. I got a lot of Starbucks in me.

MR. KENT-SMITH: So Carlos Cruz, please, come forward.

CARLOS C R U Z, having been 1 duly sworn, testified as follows: 2 MR. OLLER: Would you state your full 3 name, please? 4 MR. CRUZ: Carlos Cruz. 5 MR. OLLER: C-R-U-Z? 6 MR. CRUZ: C-R-U-Z, correct. 7 MR. OLLER: Thank you. 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION 9 BY MR. KENT-SMITH: 10 Mr. Cruz, can you please describe 11 to the board your position with Starbucks, what 12 13 you're responsible for, your time with the 14 company, and what you do? 15 I'm a construction manager for 16 Starbucks --COMMISSIONER KULAK: Excuse me. 17 Yeah, you're going to have to talk into the 18 microphone. I just want to remind you. 19 MR. CRUZ: I'm not used to it. 20 MR. KENT-SMITH: Be a rock star. 21 MR. CRUZ: Be a rock star. 22 I'm a construction manager for 23 Α. 24 Starbucks. I run the New Jersey market and some 25 Manhattan stores and boroughs. I've been with

1 Starbucks for almost six years now. I've been 2 doing this work for over 35 years. With Starbucks or with --3 0. With other retailers. 4 Α. 5 Q. Okay. Starbucks for six years. 6 Α. And you're familiar, then, with the 7 Q. Starbucks operation? 8 Α. I am. 9 Okay. So have you had a chance to 10 review the application that's before the board, 11 and in particular the site plan design? 12 I have. 13 Α. And there was a question raised by 14 the board, and we've had numerous discussions 1.5 16 relative to the operation of the drive-through, 17 and the adequacy of the queueing or stacking proposed for the -- for this location. You are 18 19 familiar with the New Jersey Starbucks throughout the state? 20 21 Α. I am. We are proposing 24 cars as a queue 22 Q. 23 stack for this location. You're familiar with 24 that?

25

Α.

I am.

1	Q. How does that compare to other
2	Starbucks throughout New Jersey?
3	A. I can safely say it's the largest
4	queue in the state.
5	Q. And in normal operation, what do
6	you anticipate, and what does Starbucks
7	experience, with what would be a normal
8	A. An average day for a Starbucks, we
9	have a seven-car stack to the order point;
10	usually averages nine to ten cars on a daily.
11	You know, on a peak, it probably goes up to 12
12	cars.
13	Q. And then, from the order point to
14	the pickup window?
15	A. That's seven cars.
16	Q. Okay. All right. Got it.
17	So, then, the total stacking of,
18	like, 14 or 15 would be what you would
19	anticipate as a
20	A. Typically, we've been doing 15
21	cars, correct.
22	Q. All right. And so this proposed
23	Starbucks has greater stacking, by far, than
24	what you normally would design for. Correct?

25

Α.

It does.

Q. Okay. Now there was some

discussion about things like when there are

problems with a drive-through operation. Like,

let's look at an example. Say that, for

whatever reason, the drive-through window gets

backed up. How would you close off a

drive-through lane, operationally?

- A. We put a camera at the corner of the building, where the interior POS station has a view of the back or the tail of the drive-through. If it backs up to that point, the store manager will opt to close the lane, or put a cone on the lane, until they go through that lane.
- Q. Now, one of the other things that we've discussed with this board, and we've agreed to, is that we actually have two lanes that go from the point of entry into the drive-through lane, up through the order point, and then a single lane into the pickup window. One of the reasons we did that was to address what happens if the drive-through lane gets backed up. Does having a second drive-through lane operate -- to allow you to operate the drive-through window more efficiently, if

1 there's a backup in one of the lanes?

- A. It does. It allows overflow to go into the secondary lane.
 - Q. And then, the point would be, when the cones are placed there, the customer would go into the other lane?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. Now, another thing that we've done, and we've agreed to with this board, is that you have a location in Madison, New Jersey. Are you familiar with that?
 - A. I built that store.
 - Q. So are you, then, very familiar with -- there is a -- what I'll call a traffic control light system.
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Can you just describe what you did -- what you did in Madison to the board?
 - A. Right. Basically, the town requested that we put an open/closed signal at the entry point, and a "do not block the box" at the drive-through lane, so the stack won't go beyond that point. When a car is stacked to that sign, there's a sensor that turns the lane closed. So, basically, our employee doesn't

1 have to go out there to do that.

Q. Now, this would be, then, the same type of situation -- or control device that we would be putting in this location. So you're familiar, then, with how that would operate?

A. I am.

Madison, by the way, is the only store that has that in the state. We don't have another signal like that.

Q. Understood. Okay. Got it.

And then, you talked about a detector. One of the questions the board has is where would you locate that detector that would sense when to close that lane?

A. It's like a garage. It's a photocell. When a car's in front of it, there's a switch, a relay switch, that turns it to open or closed, or we can put a loop in the ground. Either way — there's many ways we can do that, just so long as that's a relay. And the whole point is, when a car's stacked to that point, it's over the loop or into the photocell, and it turns the lane closed.

Q. And in terms of the review of the plan, the two lanes -- so if one lane gets

backed up, are you confident that there's sufficient -- there would be sufficient capacity in that second lane to continue to operate the drive-through?

1.3

- A. I'm pretty confident, yes.
- Q. Is there ever a situation where you close a drive-through?
- A. If it overstacks, we could close the drive-through. If there's a staffing issue, we might close the drive-through, if we don't have enough staff to operate the drive-through, we'll close it.
- Q. And how would that be accomplished, same, with the cones?
- A. We'd put cones and close the lane, and some signage as well.
- Q. Now, I've just been advised,
 because I read Bloomberg, that Starbucks has a
 new ordering system that is on the internet,
 where you can order and pick up. Is that right?
 What do you call that?
- A. So it's called a mobile order platform. I'm sure a lot of people have it on their phones. It's an app. You order your coffee or your product through the app. We have

parking stalls at the front of our store, which 1 we call quick park. People park in front of the 2 store, they go in, pick up their order, and 3 4 leave. And what's the impact of that on 5 Q. your drive-through demand? 6 7 Well, it's been tremendous. mean, from post-pandemic, what we're seeing is 8 9 that the MOP percentage of sales is actually very high, it's up to 40 percent, reducing our 10 drive-through percentage down to 50. 11 Pandemic -- pre-pandemic and pandemic, our 12 drive-through percentage business was up to 75 13 14 percent. And in terms of your actual 15 operation, what is your service time target 16 timeline for your customer? What's the time --17 So if the customer goes to the --18 Α. 19 orders the product, goes to the window, 45 20 seconds is the time waiting at the window. And that would be for each car, Q. 21 then? 22 That would be for each car. 23 Α. COMMISSIONER WEIDELI: Well, can --24

that's once you get to the window, it's 45

1 seconds? 2 MR. CRUZ: Correct. 3 So if you're COMMISSIONER WEIDELI: car number 13, you could be 12, 13, 14 minutes 4 5 away, then. 6 Well, we count it from the MR. CRUZ: 7 order point. So if you're at the order point, 8 you place your order, it's about five and a half 9 minutes from the order point. And you're talking 10 about the tail -- it would go 45 seconds to 11 that -- you know, yes. 12 COMMISSIONER WEIDELI: Okay. 13 just to stop it one second, you talk about the 14 app -- before I forget my question later -- can 15 you order on the app and go to the drive-up, or 16 you have to physically go inside? 17 MR. CRUZ: You could. You could 18 order on the app and go through the 19 drive-through, which that time will be guicker 20 and the average will go down. 21 COMMISSIONER WEIDELI: Okay. Thank 22 you. 23 MR. CRUZ: Yep. 24 MR. KENT-SMITH: I have no further. 25 These were the questions that I had questions.

written down from the last meeting that the board wanted to have addressed.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Cruz, could you describe your position more? When I hear construction manager, I kind of think of a guy wearing a hard-hat, and going out there and talking cement trucks. Why don't you tell us more about what you do for Starbucks and how it relates to the planning and logistics.

MR. CRUZ: So it's a little bit more than that. So what I do is total development, from site recognition, budgeting, site design, hiring the architects and engineers, hiring the general contractor, to open. So from A to Z, pretty much. It's just not managing the construction site.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Okay. And you've been with Starbucks for six years. Were you on board when they constructed the Cranford location?

MR. CRUZ: Cranford was built, I think, 20 years ago.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: John, what was the location you mentioned today that the town had to shut down for having a drive-through spillover?

MR. JAHR: I'm sorry, Chair, what'd you say?

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: When we spoke on the phone, you mentioned a Starbucks that had to be shut down because it had a drive-through that was spilling over.

MR. JAHR: The Cranford location had significant challenges with the drive-through, and the state and the town had worked with them extensively.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Cruz, I guess

I'll just come clean and tell you where I'm at here. So I got up this morning, and instead of going to work, I went to the Madison Starbucks, where I was greeted at 8:45 a.m., which, according to Google is not your busiest time, but I went there nonetheless.

I pulled up in the spot next to the drive-through, and I saw your red light/green light go and stop. When I pulled up this morning, the queue was full, this sign was not operational, and all the cars were spilling out.

And what makes Madison an interesting location, it is a newer location, it is the only Starbucks that has one of these logistical green

light/red light, which wasn't operational, but what I found fascinating -- and according to your traffic engineer, they were kind enough to, basically, put 35 different Starbucks together, and show us how much queue each location has. So according to this map -- and I don't know if this is right -- Madison is about 310 feet of queueing space.

What I saw a lot of this morning, aside from the nonfunctioning queue light, was a lot of people didn't pull up to the next car in front of them. So I saw a busy moms, busy dads, basically, with one, two, even three car lengths open in front of them. So what happened was, you could have space for 25 cars, you could have space for a 100 cars; if a quarter of the traffic don't pull up to the car in front of them, you've exceeded your available queue space.

In my 20s, I followed the Grateful
Dead, and that was a lot of fun, and it seems
like, this last two weeks, I've been following
Starbucks around New Jersey. Someone's going to
get killed at this location, because it's
different than every single one of these other
locations, because the queueing doesn't load from

1 | the main thoroughfare.

So egress, in every one of these situations, Piscataway, I visited, ingress is from the side and loads from the back.

Madison, same. Chatham, ShopRite road, 646, Route 646, loads from the back; has a space for error. If these cars don't queue, it's fine, they end up in the mall parking lot; they end up in space already existing.

Flemington, times two, went to both locations, Route 202/206, loads from the side, doesn't load from the circle. Ingress not affected if you're wrong.

South Brunswick, same exact situation.

Green Brook, you get off Route 22 and you've got to go to the side of the building; it -- the drive-through loads from the back.

Time and time again, Oakland,

Hackettstown, East Brunswick, West Caldwell,

Skillman, Parsippany, Hillsborough.

Hillsborough's the really interesting one.

202/206, you come off, you make a left. Ingress
not affected. Loads from the back and has a

spillover to the side.

Every single location, 35 1 locations -- and you can take this if you want, I 2 don't need it anymore -- every single one of 4 these has space for error, except for Bridgewater. If you're wrong, the cars back up 5 onto Route 22 East, and we know, from the last 6 case that we heard in front of this board, which 7 was a digital billboard, how absolutely dangerous 8 9 Route 22 East is as we approach 287 South. So, Mr. Cruz, if your equipment and 10 your digital lights don't work at your Madison 11 location, and you don't have ingress here that is 12 not on the main road, how can we possibly have 13 safety, which is paramount to this board, 14 assurances? 15 Well, I -- that's 16 MR. KENT-SMITH: 17 actually for our traffic engineer. CHAIRMAN FOOSE: No, it's not. 1.8 it's not. Mr. Cruz just talked about his light 19 that he installed himself, and he was so proud. 20 He put the stake in the ground. This light's 21 going to work and it's going to make Bridgewater 22 23 better. That light is operational MR. CRUZ: 24 right now, if you go by there. The switch was 25

1	off
2	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: So why didn't
3	why didn't it work at 8:45, and I was there until
4	9:35?
5	MR. CRUZ: They had a staff
6	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I watched car, after
7	car, after car, Mr. Cruz, back up into the lot.
8	So either you're full of crap, or you went and
9	somebody tipped you off?
10	MR. CRUZ: Did you
11	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Which is it, are you
12	full of crap or did somebody tip you off?
13	MR. CRUZ: Did you speak to the
14	manager when you were there, to ask why the light
15	wasn't working?
16	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: How do you know the
17	light wasn't working?
18	MR. CRUZ: I'm asking. You just told
19	me the light wasn't working.
20	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Yeah.
21	MR. CRUZ: Did you go did you go
22	to the manager inside and ask them why the light
23	wasn't working?
24	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: No.
25	MR. CRUZ: Okay.

1	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I don't know the
2	manager
3	MR. CRUZ: Safety is paramount
4	(Indiscernible cross-talk.)
5	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: All I know is that
6	we've had multiple witnesses, including
7	Kent-Smith, and now you, tell this board that you
8	had a light that was operational for safety, and
9	it wasn't on for an hour this morning.
10	MR. CRUZ: It's that particular
11	store I don't know what you saw there. I
12	wasn't with you.
13	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I took pictures.
14	Would you like to see them?
15	MR. CRUZ: No, I
16	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I'm going to show
17	Mr. Kent-Smith and anyone else that would like to
18	see them. Here's your sign with no lights on it.
19	And if we swipe up, there's your timestamp. All
20	right? And then, I took one when I left too,
21	Mr. Kent-Smith, if you'd like to see it.
22	MR. KENT-SMITH: No, I trust you,
23	Mr. Chairman.
24	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: It's an hour later.
25	MR. CRUZ: Do you have a picture of

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1
       the queue --
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Sure do.
2
                    MR. CRUZ: -- that -- the cars
3
       stacked all the way to the back?
4
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Absolutely do.
5
                    MR. CRUZ: This isn't the back of the
6
7
              This is halfway down --
       lane.
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE: That's where I was
8
                  I was at the back of the queue.
9
       standing.
                    MR. CRUZ: This is not the back of
10
                   It doesn't go all the way to the
       the queue.
11
       outer point.
12
                                     All right.
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE:
13
                    MR. CRUZ: Well, I can tell you it's
14
       not the back of the lane. You have about three
15
16
       cars beyond that to get to the back.
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Well, they were
17
18
       filled.
                    MR. CRUZ:
                               It didn't fill up.
19
20
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Well, Mr. Cruz, I
       think the more important part here is your light
21
22
     . didn't work.
                               The light's working now.
                    MR. CRUZ:
23
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE: How do you know?
24
                               Because I spoke to the
                    MR. CRUZ:
25
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1	store manager about it.
2	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Why would you speak
3	to the store manager about it, if you didn't know
4	it wasn't working until just now?
5	MR. KENT-SMITH: Mr. Cruz
6	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Cruz
7	MR. KENT-SMITH: I understand, Mr.
8	Chairman
9	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: You can answer the
10	question, Mr. Cruz.
11	MR. CRUZ: I was told it wasn't
12	working.
13	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: By who?
14	MR. CRUZ: I don't recall.
15	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: So, now, it works?
16	MR. CRUZ: It's working now.
17	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Will it work
18	tomorrow?
19	MR. CRUZ: It will be on.
20	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Will it work a week
21	from Thursday?
22	MR. CRUZ: It will be on.
23	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Will it work in
24	Bridgewater?
25	MR. CRUZ: If you require one to be

1 there, it will work. 2 COMMISSIONER BONGIORNO: Do you know 3 why it didn't work this morning? MR. CRUZ: The store manager 4 5 neglected to turn it on. MR. FOOSE: How many other days did 6 7 they neglect to turn it on? This is a good 8 MR. KENT-SMITH: 9 point: Is there a way in which this can be done 10 automatically? 11 MR. CRUZ: We can override that 12 switch, and the store manager won't have anything 1.3 to do with it. 14 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: So, Mr. Cruz, when 15 you get it wrong in Madison, or Chatham, or Flemington, or Hillsborough, or Green Brook, you 16 17 have room for error. When you get it wrong in Bridgewater, you back up Route 22 East. 18 And I 19 don't know where you live, but I don't know if 20 you've been the corridor --MR. CRUZ: Can I make a statement? 21 Ι mean, you're making a statement. Can I make a 22 23 statement? I don't think --24 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I'm not done 25 speaking.

1 MR. CRUZ: Okay.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: When you make an error in each of those locations, there's a place for the cars to go. In Bridgewater, when your queue is filled up, because moms and dads are busy with the backseat or not paying attention, it spills onto Route 22 East. You have no room for error.

MR. CRUZ: Are you done?

MR. KENT-SMITH: So to fix the problem, problem -- no statements -- to fix the problem, you have indicated to this board that there exists an ability to make this an automated -- automatic system, in which, then, the manual would -- in case the automatic doesn't work, the manual --

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Kent-Smith, he just told us he installed a light that was automatic in Madison, but it wasn't turned on.

MR. KENT-SMITH: Well, what we're trying to do is solve the problem, Mr. Chairman, and the problem is human error.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Well, why don't you solve the problems before you come in and take up the board's time? So would you like a half hour

1	to fix your problems? Because this is a load of
2	crap.
3	MR. KENT-SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I
4	think, understood. May we have a recess?
5	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Got it.
6	We're in recess for five minutes.
7	(Whereupon, there is a brief pause in
8	the proceeding.)
9	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: All right. Quick
10	roll call there, please, Roger.
11	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Foose?
12	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Here.
13	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Weideli?
14	COMMISSIONER WEIDELI: Here.
15	MR. DORNBIERER: Ms. Amin?
16	COMMISSIONER AMIN: I'm here.
17	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Sweeney?
18	COMMISSIONER SWEENEY: Here.
19	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Fresco?
20	COMMISSIONER FRESCO: Here.
21	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Bongiorno?
22	COMMISSIONER BONGIORNO: Here.
23	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Gayeski?
24	COMMISSIONER GAYESKI: Here.
25	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Sicat?

1	COMMISSIONER SICAT: Here.
2	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Kulak?
3	COMMISSIONER KULAK: Here.
4	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Vescio?
5	COMMISSIONER VESCIO: Here.
6	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Gabbett?
7	COMMISSIONER GABBETT: Here.
8	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Oller?
9	MR. OLLER: Here.
10	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Burr?
11	MR. BURR: Here.
12	MR. DORNBIERER: Ms. Sarmand?
13	MS. SARMAD: Here.
14	MR. DORNBIERER: Mr. Jahr?
15	MR. JAHR: Here.
16	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: All right. We're
17	all here.
18	MR. KENT-SMITH: Thank you,
19	Mr. Chairman.
20	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Yep.
21	MR. KENT-SMITH: So, unfortunately,
22	we didn't have a whole heck of a lot of time, but
23	we understand, Mr. Chairman, your and the board's
24	concern, which is paramount to you, from the way
25	I understand it, and that is

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: It should be paramount to you. It's safety. Why isn't this getting through? I don't want people to die.

MR. KENT-SMITH: Understood. And our testimony is they won't, and that it's an adequate design. But you have the power to say yeah or nay, and it's clear that you're not satisfied, 100 percent.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I'm just one member.

I'm only one vote.

MR. KENT-SMITH: Well, I would trust that the board -- and my sense of 35 years of doing this is that your concerns are concerns not just of yourself, but of the board in general.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Kent-Smith, this board votes against me all the time, and I'm proud of it. We don't ever talk. We don't exchange emails. This board is independent. I don't know how they're going to vote. I don't want to know how they're going to vote. So I take a lot of pride in the fact that we have a lot of four-threes, five-twos, six-ones, and I'm the one many, many times. And I'm okay with that. So don't assume that.

MR. KENT-SMITH: Okay. Understood.

Understood.

However, the concerns raised are concerns that, in the brief time that we had, we believe we can evaluate an alternative option that would address those concerns conclusively, such that you, Mr. Chairman, raise in your own discussion about other sites, how other sites don't spill out onto the state highway, and have no ability to obstruct the state highway. And there are options that would enable us to do that on this site. We cannot commit to anything right now. We have to evaluate. We have to understand what those — what the implications of those options would be.

But it is a significant concern, obviously, Mr. Chairman, and if it's that significant, we need to make certain that we can propose, with this board, a solution that no one on this board is going to be concerned relative to impact on public safety.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Kent-Smith, I talked a lot, I talked fast, I raised my voice, but I want you to be very clear in some things:
I visited multiple Starbucks. Not a few. Like, a lot. Almost --

1 MR. KENT-SMITH: No, I understand. 2 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: -- half of these. Ι 3 care about our town. And as a board member, I don't want, on my conscience -- and worst of all, I don't want a friend, a family member, getting hurt. MR. KENT-SMITH: Understood. 8 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: This case (sic) 9 hears a lot of Route 22 East applications, so 10 we're constantly bombarded with the fatalities on 11 Route 22 East. Doesn't mean there will be, but I 12 just want you to understand that the sites I went 13 to, which are not all of them on this, all had 14 room for error. 15 And this is why, MR. KENT-SMITH: 16 Mr. Chairman --17 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: That's what I want 18 to leave you with. 19 MR. KENT-SMITH: No, but that's why 20 we, just in the short period of time that we had, 21 have identified options that there is no -- you 22 know, it's clear --CHAIRMAN FOOSE: But you're talking 23 24 like you're blind-sided by this. And I want our 25 board professionals, Bill and Katherine, just to

get on the record really quick, because we ended the last meeting with questioning from Bill and from our planner Katherine about this very issue, and you guys blew it off. And I thought -- honestly, I thought there was going to be a revision coming into today's meeting.

Bill or Katherine, grab if mic, and why don't you talk about lines of questioning at the last meeting, the last Starbucks meeting, and why don't you remind Mr. Kent-Smith the questions you asked.

MS. SARMAD: Sure. The last thing I left with is a comment, and I think it was carried over from a previous comment, was, I think when you were here in March, I said I don't know if those signs are going to work if they're only at the entry point from 22, because people can still come in from Morgan Lane and then bypass any kind of closure, from a sign perspective. You know, and then, the people coming off of 22 are going to say they're going to the drive-through, why can't I? And that wasn't addressed at the last meeting.

At the last meeting, board members asked questions, said what if the drive-through's

closed? Does someone manually have to go put a one out there? Can we do a -- can there be a lift gate or something like that?

And I said this is getting chaotic, you know, this is starting to get to be levels of needing to intervene for something, just to avoid the issue off of 22. And my perspective was we got to figure out something more streamlined.

I'm pretty sure that was my final statement, was let's figure it out, and if there isn't a tool, one tool, that will automatically happen, let's look at the site design.

I understand plenty of time, plenty of, you know, brilliant minds have gone into the site plan, but there has to be another opportunity to do exactly what the chairman said, to redesign it so the overflow never looks to 22, never even comes close to 22, because we shouldn't -- we shouldn't even have that risk. And the one -- the one time it happens, it should never happen.

So let's look at the site design,
let's see how we can reconfigure the
drive-through, find queueing where it's in a
lane, but also has overflow elsewhere, in a safe

And that's what we've always asked. 1 MR. KENT-SMITH: I did not understand 2 your comment at the end of it, because I looked 3 4 through the transcript, and I did not -- it didn't resonate to me to that level of concern; 5 rather, what we presented was, okay, here's an 6 7 answer to your question, the way I read it in the 8 transcript. 9 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: You also put on testimony -- and I don't know which expert it 10 was -- that this light, open/close light -- would 11 be photovoltaic, and it would be automatic, and 12 13 14 MR. KENT-SMITH: And that's what you heard tonight. 15 Except in Madison, 16 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: 17 New Jersey. 18 MR. KENT-SMITH: Madison, it's the first one, Mr. Chairman --19 20 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: So, Mr. Kent-Smith, I called Rich Oller. I was furious this morning. 21 22 I called him, and I said I don't think we should 23 let you know what went on, and I think I should walk in tonight and blind-side you. He's the one 24 that talked me into calling you, and letting-25

him -- letting you know. So I'm sure you told 1 Mr. Cruz, and Mr. Cruz called Madison. 2 Had that 3 not happened, I quarantee that light would be out I guarantee that light would be out 5 tomorrow and the next day. MR. KENT-SMITH: Understood. So you owe CHAIRMAN FOOSE: 8 Mr. Oller, at a minimum, a holiday card, because 9 he didn't even want to --MR. KENT-SMITH: I do. I understand, 10 And -- but, Mr. Chairman --11 I do. CHAIRMAN FOOSE: We want to approve 12 13 this; we just want it safe. And I -- and I hear MR. KENT-SMITH: 14 15 you, I do. What I didn't hear before, and I don't think any of our other witnesses heard, was 16 17 the absolute zero probability of error versus we've so over-designed this that we are very 18 19 comfortable at Starbucks, as a national company that would be the first one to be sued for 20 21 anything, that we were comfortable --You're a national 22 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: 23 company that just fired your CEO, has a Wall Street Journal article 10 days old talking about 24

the shitshow your app is, and how people show --

1 and I shouldn't be cursing, I apologize -- the 2 insanity the new app has caused. That was in the 3 Wall Street Journal, August 16th. New York Post has 40-minute wait 4 5 times, on the front cover, of Starbucks, that was July 24th. 6 7 June 10th, another article talking about moshpits at Starbucks. 8 That's a national company doing this. 9 So it does happen. So to engineer to safety, and 10 11 to eliminate the tail risk, the 1 percent, I 12 think that's pretty reasonable in this case for a 13 national, hundred-billion-dollar company. 14 MR. KENT-SMITH: Understood, and 15 there are solutions; I just don't know which one 16 we can implement in the most effective manner. But there are solutions. 17 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I don't know that, 18 19 I'm not an expert in that. 20 There are. MR. KENT-SMITH: Just in 21 the time we looked, there are options that we 22 can -- it would be a comprehensive redesign. 23 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: And I'll tell you, 24 in the meantime, I probably will hit the rest of

the Starbucks that I haven't hit, to prove my

point, which is that the point of egress and the drive-through spillover do not impact major thoroughfares in any of these locations.

MR. KENT-SMITH: I understand that.

I absolutely understand that, Mr. Chairman.

So, at this juncture, if this board would be so kind -- and I know you have been patient beyond belief with this application, and we appreciate that -- but please give us one last shot to come back to this board with a redesign that addresses conclusively your concern.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Why didn't you pull the rip cord at 9:30 this morning, when Mr. Oller called you, and we could have saved breakfasts, and dinners, and all the headaches that were missed today? I missed two meetings at work today. I missed my breakfast. I missed my family going off. All these guys missed their dinner tonight. So you come here to have me yell at you? What a waste of time this was.

MR. KENT-SMITH: I'm laughing, only because, Mr. Chairman, I wish I was as persuasive as you are, but I am not.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Mr. Smith, you're pretty persuasive. I've seen you in action, sir.

MR. KENT-SMITH: I hear you loud and clear, but I'm not as persuasive as you are. And these fine folks who've come for this applicant, quite frankly, needed to hear it from you. They heard it from me already, but they really needed to hear it from you. And I apologize to all of you board members for taking your time, but this did have the desired effect, Mr. Chairman, of making us go back to make certain that there is a 100 percent, no-margin-for-error solution. And we will pursue that.

And I apologize to the board for -but, again, you may think I'm a persuasive guy,
but, you know, I have limits, in terms of my
persuasiveness. And I do appreciate the board's
time, I really do. This has been a difficult
application.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Any questions from the board on the testimony we've --

COMMISSIONER WEIDELI: Yeah, I'm going to add a little bit to -- not continue, but I'm going to add a few comments to the overflow to 22. I've lived in Bridgewater for a little over 30 years. I live not far off of 22. I drive that area probably about 30 to 40 times a

week, at minimum; probably half a dozen today.

When you're up further west, which is a combination of Bridgewater and Somerville, and there happens to be a Dunkin' Donuts there, my friend owns the Exxon two doors down or three, you have Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken, all that, you have the mall traffic coming from the far left at one point, you have the center left lane, whatever you want to call it, and the right lane.

When I drive the right lane, I never get above 25, 30 miles an hour, because people are coming in, they're coming out, in and out.

And I'm very courteous to people. So I'll let them in. I have come in from where Immaculata is, off from there under 22, people let you merge in, they don't honk. If you're in the left lane, you could be going 40, 45 miles an hour.

When you get down further, and you're near the property you want the Starbucks on, and the restaurant which will eventually open, my speed is up to that 50, 55 miles an hour. You're out of that big congestion area. I'm very concerned that people are going to just zoom in, do that, and then you start backing up on 22, you

have a real problem when you're going 50, 55 1. miles an hour. There's a difference between 2 going 25 and 30, and going 55 miles an hour. 3 And I intentionally drove it twice 4 today, to see that, and it would be -- in my 5 opinion, like Mr. Foose has said, it's a problem. 6 And I really want that on the record, that I -- I 7 seriously have a problem with that. 8 MR. KENT-SMITH: I appreciate the 9 10 comments. COMMISSIONER BONGIORNO: I have a 11 12 question. Have there ever been any accidents, either egressing or going into or out of 13 Starbucks in New Jersey? 14 MR. KENT-SMITH: I'm --15 COMMISSIONER BONGIORNO: Either from 16 you or from our traffic guy. 17 I'm certain there MR. KENT-SMITH: 18 probably have been somewhere, but, again, I don't 19 -- I'd have to have my traffic -- and quite 20 honestly, I think the solution is to eliminate 21 22 that possibility. That, Mr. Chairman, I think is 23 your point. And there is a way to eliminate --CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I think there's 24

always going to be accidents, and I don't mean to

give the impression that you can engineer out stupidity. But what we can engineer out are people not lining up, people not queueing. And I appreciate the fact that this is going to be one of the largest queueing drive-throughs of any Starbucks in New Jersey, but, also, you need to appreciate this is one of the busiest thoroughfares in New Jersey.

. 1

MR. KENT-SMITH: And there is a balancing that must occur. And I -- and trust me when I say my folks needed to hear it from this board. And I think we have. My point is that --

COMMISSIONER BONGIORNO: Did you have something you wanted to add?

MR. JAHR: I wanted to make a small request, though. In our review memo, there are a few items that weren't yet covered in the last -- if we're going to come back another day, can we request that they try to send a written response --

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Yeah, the New Jersey DOT, even though I think Mr. Moschello said that wasn't required, that's something I'd like to see an effort in, because I think that would give another layer of safety to this, and whatever

else you think is applicable here.

MR. JAHR: There's four or five pretty important comments in our comment letter, and I'd love to have the written response; this way, it's much easier to cover at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I agree.

MR. JAHR: I'm new to the application a little bit, so when I read through it, there's some technical stuff that would be helpful not to have to go through the testimony on, if possible.

MR. KENT-SMITH: So what I would suggest is that, we -- I think, virtually, every solution that we're proposing would constitute a pretty significant change to the application. I think we're at a point now where I think I would renotice it. Rather than carry it to a date specific, why don't we just adjourn this, allow us to take the time --

MR. OLLER: You probably need that time, because you don't know how long your redesign will take.

MR. KENT-SMITH: Bingo. Absolutely correct. You know, and rather than just continue to carry notice, I would renotice the

1 application. 2 MR. OLLER: That makes sense. 3 MR. KENT-SMITH: These would be significant changes. This is not something 4 that's an easy fix, but it's a fixable problem. 5 6 MR. OLLER: Mr. Chairman, I agree, 7 that would make sense. And, Mr. Kent-Smith, 8 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: if I could ask that -- this board heard a case 9 10 from Outfront Media a few years ago. It's not --11 the digital billboard they requested was a 12 grandfathered billboard very close to your site. 13 There was excellent traffic testimony. 14 excellent safety information presented in that 15 I voted no for that; nonetheless, it was still approved, and it was one of those cases 16 17 where the board was split. 18 And if you could just pull the 19 transcript -- and I have it, if you need it, I'm happy to send it forward, you can get a hold of 20 21 Rich -- but it's something that -- it's a quick 22 read, quick case, but I think it may help you, 23 maybe, with some of these safety questions.

MR. KENT-SMITH:

Absolutely. You got

25 it.

1	COMMISSIONER SICAT: Is it would
2	we have heard traffic testimony this evening?
3	MR. KENT-SMITH: Yes.
4	COMMISSIONER SICAT: Is it worth it
5	to still hear that testimony or no?
6	MR. OLLER: I don't think so.
7	MR. KENT-SMITH: Given the given
8	what we are in our time out, we considered,
9	relative to fixing this problem, it really does
L O	redistribute the traffic substantially.
L1	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: And I used your
12	traffic engineer's data for my argument tonight.
13	I mean, so, you know, I didn't make this up.
14	This all came from you.
15	MR. KENT-SMITH: Right. No, I
16	understand that. I understand it. What we're
17	looking at is a significant redesign that
18	would it would the traffic testimony would
19	be the same as it relates to Route 22, but it
20	would be much different relative to how
21	circulation works on the property.
22	CHAIRMAN FOOSE: I did not go to a
23	Starbucks that wasn't on this list from
24	Ms. Dolan.
25	MR. KENT-SMITH: Understood.

1 Understood. 2 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: New Jersey Starbucks Drive-Through Lengths, 35 sites. 3 MR. KENT-SMITH: So I really would --4 I would appreciate, Mr. Chairman, if we could be 5 given the time. And my suggestion is that this 6 is probably -- we're in the end of August? Probably November. 'That -- and I would renotice for whatever date, Mr. Chairman, the board wants 10 to set. CHAIRMAN FOOSE: We actually have two 11 openings in November. November 12th and 26th are 12 1.3 both open, at this point, which is unusual. Now, the 26th is Thanksgiving, but I don't know --14 How about November 15 MR. KENT-SMITH: 12th? 16 CHAIRMAN FOOSE: Why don't you pen it 17 in? I'll pen it in. 18 MR. KENT-SMITH: And, Mr. Oller, we 19 20 will redo the MLUL --MR. OLLER: Just renotice for 21 22 November 12th. 23 MR. KENT-SMITH: So no need to carry it, because we'll renotice. 24 MS. SARMAD: I would just request 25

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that any documents for review for any of the
1
2
       professionals come in at least two weeks
       before --
3
 4
                    MR. JAHR: Absolutely.
                    MS. SARMAD: -- preferably three
5
       weeks, so we have time to get it distributed out.
 6
 7
                    MR. KENT-SMITH:
                                     Yep. Understood.
 8
                    CHAIRMAN FOOSE:
                                      If there's nothing
9
       else from the board and members of the public,
10
       thank you.
                    MR. KENT-SMITH:
                                      Thank you,
11
       Mr. Chairman. Apologize for having this be such
12
13
       a short meeting.
                     (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
14
15
       7:51 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE 2 3 5 I, Michael Lombardozzi, a Notary Public and Certified Court Reporter of the State 6 of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the 7 foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of 8 the testimony as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place, and on the date 10 hereinbefore set forth. 11 I do further certify that I am 12 13 neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor 14 counsel of any of the parties to this action, and 15 that I am neither a relative nor employee of such 16 attorney or counsel and that I am not financially 17 interested in this action. 18 19 20 Michael Lombardozzi, Certified Court Reporter, State of New Jersey 21 CERT #: 30X100239700 Date: 10 Sep 2024 22 23 24

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