

November 13, 2020

Mary Savage-Dunham  
Planning Board  
Town of Hingham  
210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043-0239

Re: 100 Industrial Park Road, Hingham

Dear Ms. Savage-Dunham:

We are in receipt of Bergsten Music's letter dated October 26, 2020, containing concerns regarding the application noted above. Our responses are indicated below in ***bold italic*** text and are as follows:

1. The current road structure is not equipped for the substantial increase in traffic. For an example of what increased traffic flow has on the Pond Park / Derby Street intersection, look to the Russ Electric shift change between 3 & 4pm each weekday. There are less than 100 cars in that lot, yet it has significant impact on traffic leaving the park during that time window. One could also look back to when the South Shore Collaborative building was active, and the daily bus traffic clogged the exit to the park. In both of these examples the concentrated volume is / was less than what is projected for the Amazon project.

***Response: The traffic study supplied to the Planning Board was reviewed by Jeffrey Dirk, PE. Mr. Dirk was hired by the Town to perform a peer review of the traffic study. Mr. Dirk has reviewed and concurred with the findings of the traffic study. The study concludes that there are no significant impacts to the traffic capacity and operations in the surrounding area, which would include the Derby Street at Pond Park Road intersection. The Site will be undergoing a traffic monitoring program within 90 days following the receipt of a certificate of occupancy for the Site. If timing changes at the Pond Park Road and Derby Street intersection are necessary, revisions will be made at that time.***

2. Despite the efforts by the state to improve traffic in the area with the recently completed Derby Street Interchange widening / traffic light project, traffic still backs up at all five lights between the South Shore Park & Rte. 53 at various times during the day. The holiday season obviously adds to these backups, and the future holiday and Prime promotional volumes are neither understood nor estimated. This added Amazon volume could immediately negate any of the incremental improvements that project provided to Derby Street traffic flow. We

highly encourage the Planning Board to reach out to your counterparts in Milford for a firsthand account of the impossible traffic scenario Amazon created in the community. Vehicles queuing up to get into the distribution facility there regularly overwhelm the I-495 interchange, Rte. 109, and local business parking lots.

***Response: Amazon has provided a traffic study that analyzes the impact of Amazon's peak hour and mid-day traffic at the signalized intersection at Derby Street and Pond Park Road and concludes that all the movements at that intersection will continue to function at acceptable levels of service with the delivery station in operation. Amazon would be happy to discuss with the Planning Board the steps it has taken in Milford to resolve traffic concerns the Town had there, including the operational changes it made there that have been incorporated into the planned operations at the Hingham delivery station.***

3. Finally, from a safety perspective, the projected increase in traffic flow would almost certainly guarantee an uptick in accidents at the 90-degree turn in front of the entrance to the facility. There have been numerous mishaps there over the years, particularly during rain or snow as inbound vehicles skid across into outbound traffic. We expect that the projected increase in traffic, without realignment or widening of the roadway, would result in an increase in accidents and property damage. The existing roadway was simply not designed to support the proposed Amazon distribution center.

***Response: In the study, mitigation for sight distances and the curve in question have been recommended. Vegetation will be cleared to increase sight distances and signage will be added for the curve and intersection at Commerce Road with Industrial Park Road. The on-site traffic circulation has been modified to make the driveway access at Industrial Park Road to an egress only. Traffic will also be prohibited to make a left-out of this driveway, removing a conflict point at the curve. It should also be noted that the intersections around the Site were investigated for crashes. Based on MassDOT standards, the last three years are provided in the traffic study and only one (1) crash was reported at Industrial Park Road and zero (0) was reported at the northern drive for the Site.***

We trust this addresses your questions and concerns. If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 203-608-2438.

Sincerely,



Kevin Hixson  
Senior Project Manager