

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today as a resident of South Walpole in regard to the Omni Development's 40b proposal for the Cedar Edge/Cedar Crossing development of 300 new units of housing at 55 Summer Street in South Walpole. While affordable housing is certainly a necessity and I respect and understand the need for such, the small community of South Walpole is not the place for this magnitude of an establishment as currently proposed. As a resident safety is my top priority. I fear for the safety of not only my family and those of my neighbors, but also of the 300 prospective families to join us. While there are many safety and environmental concerns surrounding the demolition, construction, development and daily upkeep of the proposed Omni Development, I will focus this letter on our daily struggle with the current traffic issues and how this proposed development will greatly impact our already devastating traffic pollution, especially with the new Kraft Line in progress, as well as the concerns surrounding the construction process if this project moves forward.

In recent years, our quaint South Walpole community has been plagued with the uproar of Patriot Place and Gillette Stadium. Although we all love the Patriots and our neighboring communities, we do not love the constant battle to drive through our streets in bumper to bumper traffic on Patriots game days, Revs night games, concerts, stadium events and the daily commute of cut-through traffic to Route 1. Albeit many of these events are currently on hold due to Covid-19, it is just a matter of time before crowds are allowed to gather and we are "back on" to business as usual at Gillette Stadium. Our neighborhoods have become highways to outsiders in their daily commutes, endangering the safety of our families as these drivers are oblivious to the small-town speed limits and crosswalks.

In addition, the proposed Omni Development has only one egress abutting the train tracks onto Summer Street. Currently, Summer Street is already a heavy traffic area with daily commuters and students headed to Boyden Elementary school. The train safety gates are dropped multiple times a day causing traffic back ups along both sides of Summer Street. Now, add on top of that the massive trucks entering and exiting onto Summer Street during construction which will surely cause outrageous traffic jams. Can you imagine what an additional, approximate 600 cars from the proposed development will do to this congestion?

Safety is another issue of concern. There are also no fences, nor talk of installing a consistent fence abutting the entirety of the tracks (as they cannot place a fence on the wetland areas), nor implementing any safety precautions to stop children from playing near or on the train tracks. As a community, we have fought tirelessly and lost to the Kraft Line and all that comes with living in close proximity to Patriot Place and Gillette Stadium. The prospective 300 units and their approximate 600 cars added to this already over-congested tiny travel area between Route 1 and the entrance into Walpole through our small community will inevitably be disastrous. Children are at risk every day in their commute to and from Boyden School. Adding a preposterous number of cars and residents only increases everyone's risk. The traffic backups and delays that will be caused with cars coming in and out of the one egress onto Summer Street combined with the train barreling through multiple times a day, **it is mind-boggling to think this project was even considered for this area. Our community cannot handle this amount of added traffic or residents.**

As you can see, there are numerous significant safety concerns surrounding the Omni Development project. I truly hope you will take these serious concerns into consideration and encourage you to reject this project, or at the very least, **significantly** decrease the scale and scope of this proposed project to a more manageable size to keep all of South Walpole safe.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kendall Manzo
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South Walpole, MA