

John Long

From: webmaster@somervillema.gov on behalf of dd@whyisthisimportant.net
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 7:07 AM
To: John Long
Subject: City of Somerville - Contact Us Submission

Submitted on Friday, February 1, 2013 - 7:06am Submitted values are:

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Question/Comment:

This note is to follow up on my testimony at the 1/24/13 Joint Public Hearing by Planning Board and Land Use Committee.

To summarize that testimony: I generally oppose the change in zoning. There is nothing wrong with a grocery store. It would surely find use by Assembly Square residents. But the form is wrong for the location. The proposed location is right by the new T-stop. Imagine someone who wants to establish a corporate headquarters, right next to a grocery store and a 5-story garage.

These do not make for a very exciting location. In that location, a large grocery store would only make sense as the first floor of a high-rise R&D building.

Jobs like the old Ford plant are gone and they aren't coming back. To replace them, we need more than a grocery store.

I add this: Federal Realty stated that if they did not get what they wanted, they would not buy the IKEA property. If they do, why should Somerville care?

The IKEA site is the closest parcel to the new Orange Line T-Stop. Do you really believe that once the T-Stop goes in, no one will want to buy it?

Highly unlikely. We should not throw away future wealth for nickels and dimes in the present.