

Paul Foley

From: Doug Ruskin [doug.ruskin@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Paul Foley
Cc: Adam Turner
Subject: Stop & Shop Edgartown

To the MV Commissioners:

I write this neither in specific support nor opposition to Stop & Shop's proposed expansion in Edgartown. However, as I expect traffic will be a significant part of your review and discussion, I would like to address the already problematic situation in the area, in great part due to the presence of Stop & Shop. Should the expansion be approved, the Edgartown Stop & Shop will be the largest such facility on the island. As such, I would expect it will draw even more traffic than it does today. I don't think I have to tell you that during the summer season, that corridor approaches gridlock. Therefore, I think it is imperative that the Commission require any expansion include significant steps to alleviate the traffic.

A number of years ago, as an Edgartown resident asked to participate in a parking study, I became aware of several consultants' reports addressing traffic problems as far back as the 1990s. One of the recommendations was to create a center left-turn-only lane in the corridor between the triangle and Cannonball Park. Another recommended disallowing left turns altogether in that corridor, requiring cars to effectively "U-turn" at either end, forcing right-turns only into whatever business they needed.

I am not a traffic engineer so cannot fully assess the ramifications, but I believe one of these solutions – or possibly some other – is necessary to prevent dramatically increasing congestion in the area. I do understand that because this is a state road, the details of such changes must involve the Department of Transportation. However, something must be done to prevent further aggravating the problem if Stop & shop is permitted to proceed. In addition, I don't think it's unreasonable to require Stop & Shop to fund the necessary modifications.

Please make every effort to require such changes if you approve the expansion.

Thank you,
Doug Ruskin
West Tisbury