

86TH DISTRICT OFFICE:  
3141 W. JEFFERSON STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435  
815/730-8600



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
200-9S STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217/782-8090

**LAWRENCE 'LARRY' M. WALSH, JR.**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • HOUSE DISTRICT 86  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VIA Email and VIA US Certified Mail**

May 3, 2024

Mr. Jose Rios, District 1 Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation - Region 1/District 1  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

RE: Third Coast Intermodal Hub - City of Joliet (District Permit #1-T-23-0352)

Dear Mr. Rios:

I am writing because on April 23, 2024 the Illinois Department of Transportation received a letter from the City Manager of the City of Joliet, H. Elizabeth Beatty. In the referenced letter, City Manager Beatty asked for IDOT's cooperation with an earlier request made by East Gate - Logistics Park Chicago, LLC ("East Gate") regarding the Third Coast Intermodal Hub project, known otherwise as "Northpoint". The request made by East Gate involved modification of District Permit #1-T-23-0352 ("Permit") to allow full vehicular access to IL 53, including high weight and volume truck traffic, until such time as legal disputes relating to access of Millsdale Road are resolved or until the construction of a planned crossing bridge over the nearby Union Pacific owned rail line.

It is absolutely within the cities rights to give their support to the request made by East Gate, just as it is for East Gate to make the request in the first place, and I am sure the Department will make every effort to consider any modification to the permit in the fair and professional manner that your staff is known for. However, I am writing to make my position, as the duly elected State Representative of the 86th district, on this request and the Northpoint project in totality absolutely clear.

The Northpoint project has been in discussion in some form for the last seven years. Up until this point the developers have not offered any concrete solutions or plans to deal with the increased truck traffic the project would bring to communities across the 86th District. The only solution that has been offered is what they describe as a "closed loop" that would keep truck traffic contained within the boundaries of their proposed development. Unfortunately, this proposal does not include any discussion of how trucks will access the loop or acknowledge the effect of the increased traffic on the roadways that would be utilized to get to any access point. Meaning that it is not an actual solution to any of the problems this project would bring with it. Problems that this proposed modification would deliver to the region faster.

Mr. Jose Rios  
May 3, 2024  
Page Two

Second, if IDOT is considering granting this modification to the permit, it cannot and should not do so without a full and complete traffic study. Increasing truck traffic on IL 53 will have consequences that will ripple out far beyond this “temporary” access point. This is not a decision that can be made without a full investigation of how a completely new access point to the Northpoint project will impact traffic flows in the area. A full traffic study will also clearly show that new signaling will need to be installed at the proposed access point. All other access points to intermodal facilities in Will County have required increased signalization and this new access point, temporary or not, will require the same. Per IDOT policy, new signalization requires a traffic study and no decision on the requested modification should move forward without one.

Finally, these past seven years have seen a significant amount of community opposition to this project. This opposition has come from across the 86th district, including the residents of the City of Joliet. When the previous city administration chose to move forward with the annexation of land for the project, they ignored both community pushback and the concerns of surrounding communities that had rejected it in previous years. The current administration has chosen to take a different approach. They have once again opened a dialogue with neighboring towns and are engaging with community stakeholders. Joliet should continue down this path. Granting this modification while those conversations are just beginning again will make these much needed discussions more difficult and less effective.

For the reasons stated above I strongly encourage IDOT to reject any modifications to District Permit #1-T-23-0352.

As always, thank you and the entire IDOT staff for your professionalism and dedicated public service. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence M. Walsh Jr." in a cursive script.

Lawrence “Larry” Walsh Jr.  
State Representative – House District 86