

City of Auburn, Maine

"Maine's City of Opportunity"

Department of Public Services

Engineering Division

"Provide Innovative Ideas and Responsible Results"

Memo to: Doug Greene, City Planner
From: Gary Johnson, Assistant City Engineer
Re: Development Review – AutoZone, 192 Center Street
Date: November 24, 2014

I have reviewed the application material and have the following comments:

There has been discussion regarding the Center Street driveway access. Reducing the number driveway access points along the Center Street corridor to improve traffic safety without impacting the economic vitality of the businesses has been an ongoing issue. In my opinion, the most difficult, and probably most unsafe, maneuver along this stretch of roadway is making a left hand onto the street. During peak hour traffic it is very difficult to find a break that allows a vehicle to enter into the desired travel lane. As is common practice, a left turn vehicle will enter into the center common turn lane and wait for a break to merge with traffic. However, this becomes more difficult when vehicles on the street are utilizing the center lane to make turns into the property, the adjacent street, or driveways on the opposite side.

The applicant makes a valid argument for having a driveway on Center Street, particularly for accessing the property, but I believe the exiting maneuvers should be restricted, through the use of signage and pavement markings, to right turn only. Vehicles turning left onto Center Street would be required to use Coburn Street.

Chapter 46 of the City of Auburn Code of Ordinances requires the developer of projects approved by the planning board to provide bonding and pay inspection fees to cover those site improvements which have public impacts. This would include any of the work within the street right of way, soil erosion control measures and landscaping. Prior to the commencement of site work, the developer must contact the Engineering Department regarding these requirements.