#### **Pope Lick Station**

#### 14ZONE1064 14005 Taylorsville Road

# Who Are We? - Concerned Groups and Neighbors



Fisherville Area Neighborhood Association





Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Louisville Chapter of the Sierra Club

- This opposition is well founded and informed by the existing land use codes and guidelines as well as the character of the area as summarized below:
- The proposed development is out of character for the area and its current zoning:
  - The existing area is largely Rural Residential and this and adjoining properties are also subject to the Floyds Fork District Review Overlay (DRO) protections.
  - The entire area is subject to a pending zoning review as a part of the new Floyds Fork Area Plan. Inputs from that pending study should factor into a scenic corridor property fronting the entrance to the Parklands.

- This same parcel was denied commercial zoning in 1976 in a previous application:
  - "The court voted Dec. 9 (1976) not to change the property's residential zoning. Fiscal Court agreed with the Louisville-Jefferson County Planning Commission's finding that the store constituted spot zoning and the building conflicted with existing single-family homes".
    Courier-Journal 2/11/1987
  - The existing gas station commercial zoning across the street was a zoning artifact going back to 1950's and predated both the current land use and DRO codes.
  - A "fast food" "strip mall" proposal is not what the base zoning, existing area's character, or the front door to The Parklands requires!

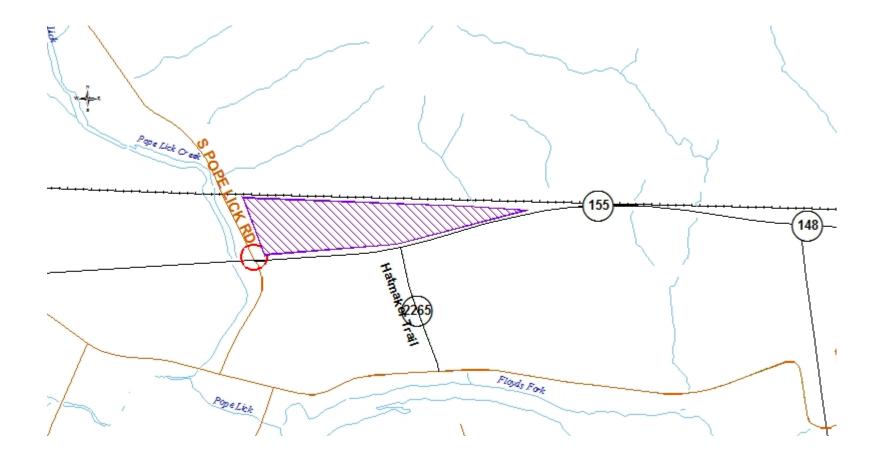
- Existing Floyds Fork District Review Overlay (DRO) protections provide for:
  - Retaining existing tree cover, in particular on hillsides
  - Avoiding disturbance of slopes that are greater than 20%
  - Minimizing or avoiding the use of:
    - Cut and fill
    - Terracing
    - Retaining walls
    - Parking at the front of the property
    - Visual Impact of new structures
  - Preserving scenic vistas from the scenic byways and parklands.
  - Pope Lick Station ignores all of these provisions!

- The applicant is proposing to clear cut all of the existing tree cover and has not retained or provided for the minimum required tree cover of 25%.
  - The applicant has not detailed existing tree cover, stating that it is "about 50%"; our review indicates the cover is far more extensive.
  - A tree protection plan has not been filed.
- To our knowledge no other property in the Floyds Fork DRO has successfully obtained a commercial rezoning from RR zoning since 1993 – this is not the place to start!

# Viewshed Impacts

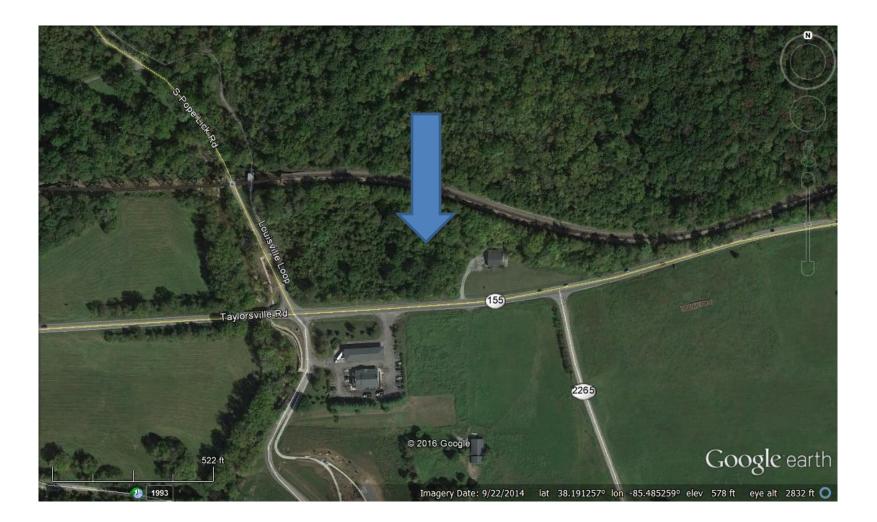
- This project is placed on a prominent hillside in the middle of the RR zoned DRO, visible From the Louisville Loop, Pope Lick Park, and has significant viewshed impacts:
  - Fronts on Taylorsville Road which is a scenic corridor
  - Proposes to clear cut existing hillside, removing visual and sound screen to the railroad that is now provided by existing vegetation

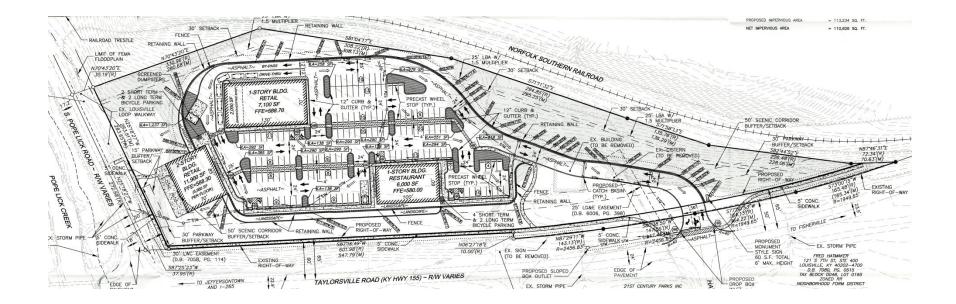
#### Property Location Pope Lick Road at Taylorsville Road



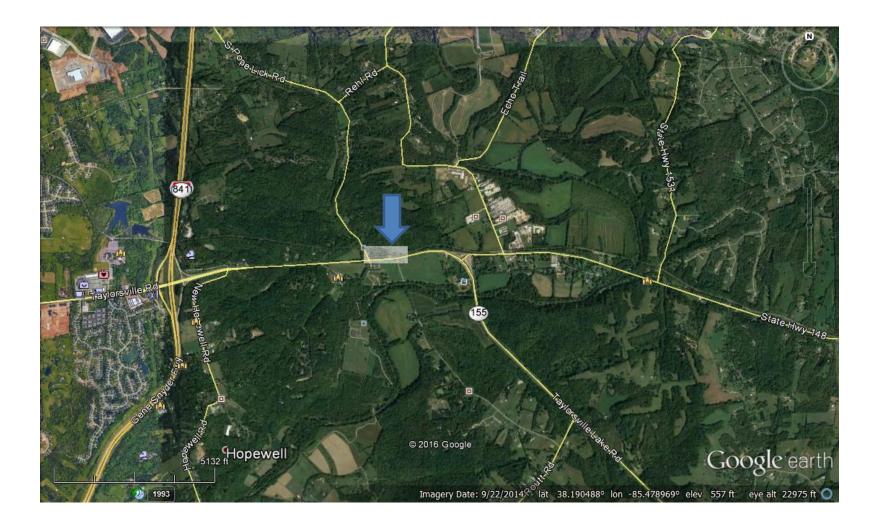








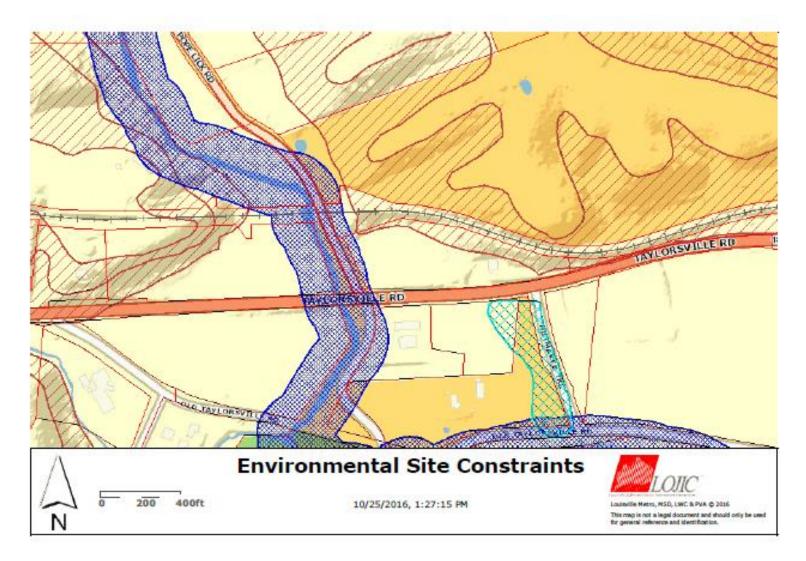




# **Property Site Constraints**

- Environmental
  - Drainage to Pope Lick & Floyds Fork Floodplain & Wetland
  - Steep Slopes
  - Karst Potential
  - Soils Severely limited for Septic
  - No Provisions for septic or storm water facilities on plan
- Public Health and Safety
  - Traffic Issues
  - Norfolk Southern RR

#### Property Site Constraints per LOJIC



## NRCS Site Evaluation – Soils Report



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants Custom Soil Resource Report for Jefferson County, Kentucky

# NRCS Site Evaluation – Soils Report

- Septic Tank Absorption Fields— Summary by Rating Value
  - Very limited 96.4% of the site...
- Suitabilities and Limitations for Use
- "Very limited" indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

# NRCS Site Evaluation – Soils Report

#### Soll Rating Polygons



Very limited



Somewhat Imited



Not limited



Not rated or not available



# Sewer .vs. Septic Disconnect

- MSD can not guarantee timing for sewers in the area
- Best MSD estimates "no sooner than 2 years and perhaps in the 2-5 year range"
- Plan was reviewed as a proposed on site septic system by MSD

## Jefferson County Health Department Feedback

- As of 10/21/2016
  - No Site Evaluation Conducted
  - Familiar with Property and Setting "Challenging"
  - Comments on Plan Review:
    - No unlimited Connections without Sanitary sewer connection Quote Below
    - "The property has limited options when it comes to utilizing an onsite sewage disposal system, therefore no building permits shall be issued without Health Department approval unless the Owner provides documentation (from MSD) of connection (PSC) to sanitary sewer with a minimum six inch sanitary sewer. "
  - No room on plan for septic system, lateral fields or repair areas

#### **Karst Evaluation**

#### Asher Engineering, Inc.

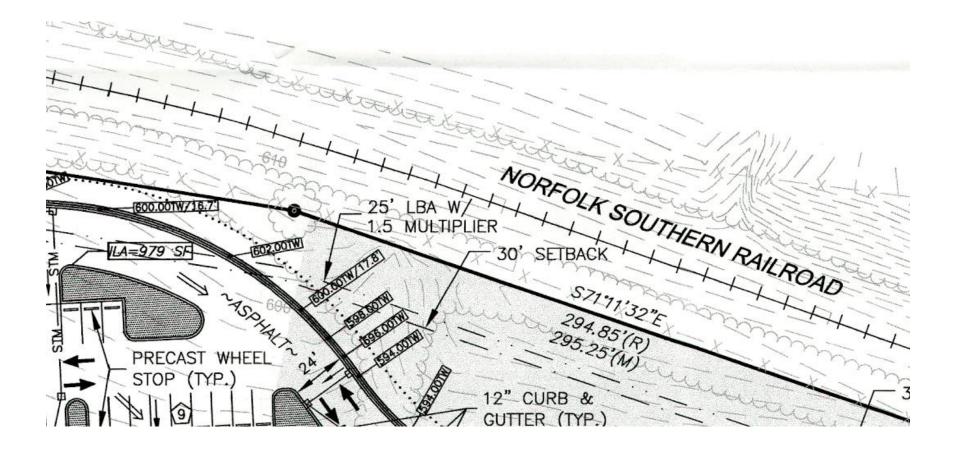
Environmental & Engineering Consulting

May 24, 2016

## **Karst Evaluation - Conclusions**

- Conclusions
  - "Close proximity to karst activity is significant"
  - Grant Lake Limestone and floodplain alluvium
  - Karst observed in area by consultant
  - Site is appropriate for construction of commercial building and pavements if geotechnical engineer on site during construction...
  - Recommended that site plan be noted as such
  - No opinion registered as to septic suitability

## Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSR) Issues: 30' Variance and Excavation



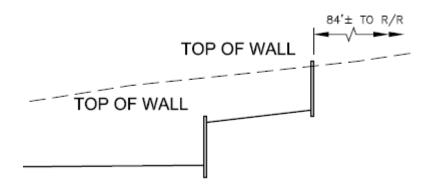
## NSR Track



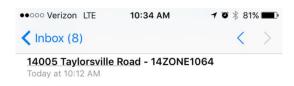
## NSR Track



#### **Retaining Walls Adjacent to Railroad**



#### **NSR** Position



#### Julia,

I am writing to provide input concerning the subject zoning change request. As an adjoining property owner, Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) has concerns about the proposed development as detailed below.

- The property lines shown on the proposed site plan dated 11/17/14, Revision 4, conflict with our records. I have attached a copy our valuation map showing a minimum of 33' from the centerline of track to the property line. The proposed site plan shows this dimension as small as 28' in some locations.
- The proposed development has the potential to adversely affect the stability of the roadbed supporting our tracks. This can lead to serious safety concerns for NSR as well as the surrounding community.
  - The proposed development includes retaining walls to support the embankment on which the track rests.
     NSR would need to review the details of these walls, including stability analysis before, during, and after construction, to ensure they will not adversely impact the stability of the roadbed.



#### **NSR** Position

●●○○○ Verizon LTE 10:35 AM 1 🛈 🗏 81% 🔳 < Inbox (8) auversery arrest the smonthly of the routoed supporting our tracks. This can lead to serious safety concerns for NSR as well as the surrounding community. a. The proposed development includes retaining walls to support the embankment on which the track rests. NSR would need to review the details of these walls, including stability analysis before, during, and after construction, to ensure they will not adversely impact the stability of the roadbed. b. The proposed development will significantly change the storm water drainage patterns in the area. NSR would need to review the proposed grading and drainage plans to ensure our property is not adversely impacted by the proposed development. We do not have any personnel readily available to attend the planning commission meeting that is considering this zoning change later this week. Please confirm this email will be acceptable as a means for communicating our concerns as an adjacent property owner. Thank you, Will Graham

Engineer Geotechnical Services Norfolk Southern Railway Company



# NSR Response

- "The proposed development has the potential to adversely affect the stability of the roadbed supporting our tracks. This can lead to serious safety concerns for NSR and the surrounding community."
- NSR has additional right of way and drainage concerns
- Calling for stability analyses "before, during, and after construction."

#### Variance #2 Health and Safety Issues

- STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR VARIANCE #2
  - Chapter 5.3.1.C.5 to permit the encroachment of the parking lot and retaining wall into the 30' setback along the north property line.
  - (a) The requested variance will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare. STAFF: The requested variance will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare since the encroachment is adjacent to a railroad.
  - (b) The requested variance will not alter the essential character of the general vicinity. STAFF: The requested variance will not alter the essential character of the general vicinity since the encroachment is adjacent to a railroad.
  - (c) The requested variance will not cause a hazard or nuisance to the public. STAFF: The requested variance will not cause a hazard or nuisance to the public since the encroachment is adjacent to a railroad

# The DRO – A Second Layer of Development Standards

**Development Review Overlay District** 

- A. General Regulations:
  - The Development Review Overlay District DRO Definition and Purposes:
    - a. The Development Review District is an overlay shown on the zoning district maps. It constitutes a second level of development standards in addition to those specified by the underlying zoning district.
    - b. The purpose of the district is to protect the quality of the natural environment. The district achieves these purposes by promoting compatible development of land and structures. The Development Review District is to protect the public and property owners in the district:.

# **DRO** Guidance on Hillsides

- 4. Hillsides
- a. Design subdivisions and locate structures to preserve the natural character of the land to the greatest extent possible.
- b. Areas with slopes of 20% or greater generally should not be disturbed.
- d. Minimize cuts and fills. Necessary cuts, fills and ether earth modifications should be replanted with appropriate vegetation. Minimize the practice of terracing hillsides in order to provide additional building sites. Structural containment of slopes should be minimized; retaining walls exceeding six feet in height should be avoided.

#### DRO on Non-Residential Development

- Parking lots should be provided only at the side or rear of the buildings to reduce visual impact of the use while providing an appropriate level of visibility.
- Buildings should be planned and designed and vegetation should be managed to preserve and enhance scenic vistas along roadways shown on Map A.
- The visual impact of new structures proposed for prominent hillsides visible from public facilities, scenic corridors and the stream itself should be minimized. Trees should be retained or planted to screen them or to create a filtered view of these structures (one tree per 25 feet of building facade length).
- When it is necessary to use retaining walls, their height should be minimized. A series of smaller retaining walls is preferable to one large wall, provided that the series of walls can be built without excessive removal of vegetation during construction. Retaining walls faced with brick or stone are preferable.

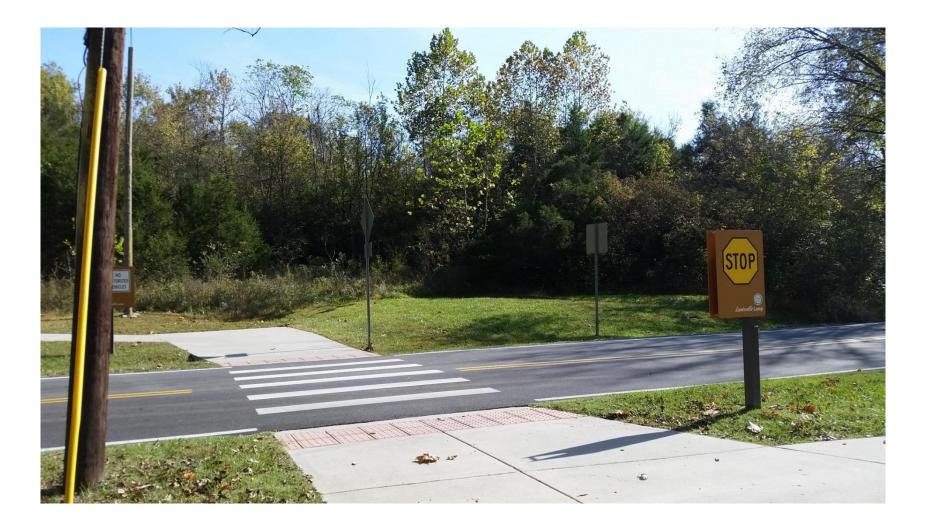
# **DRO on Trees and Vegetation**

- 2. Trees and Vegetation
- a. Existing wooded areas, in addition to the riparian buffer strip, should be retained wherever possible. Hillside vegetation in particular should be preserved.
- b. Wooded areas shown on the development plan as being retained should be preserved and maintained in healthy condition. As trees die or are removed, replacements should be provided.

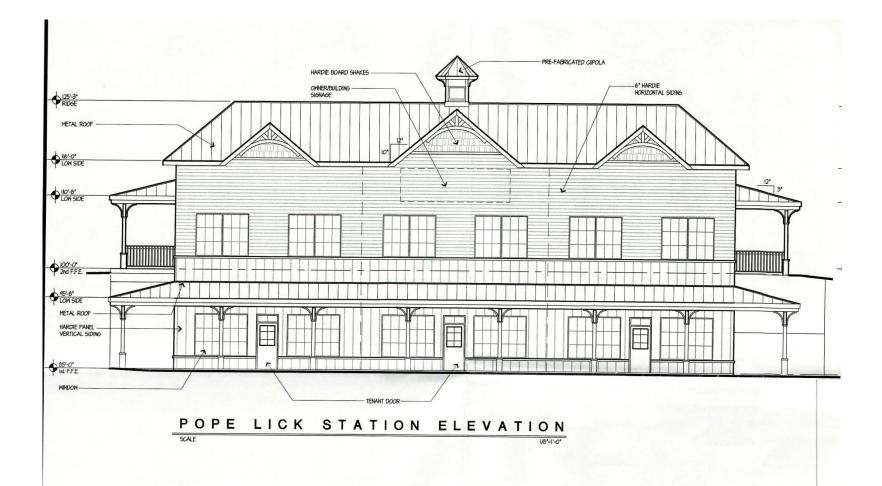
#### DRO on Drainage and Water Quality

- a. On site wastewater disposal systems should be located to minimize potential water pollution. Lateral fields should be sited at least 150 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a stream shown on Map A.
- b. Areas identified as wetlands in studies approved by government agencies should be preserved in their natural state. Drainage, flooding patterns and any hydrologic system(s) needed to sustain the wetlands should not be altered. Existing vegetation and wildlife habitat should be preserved.

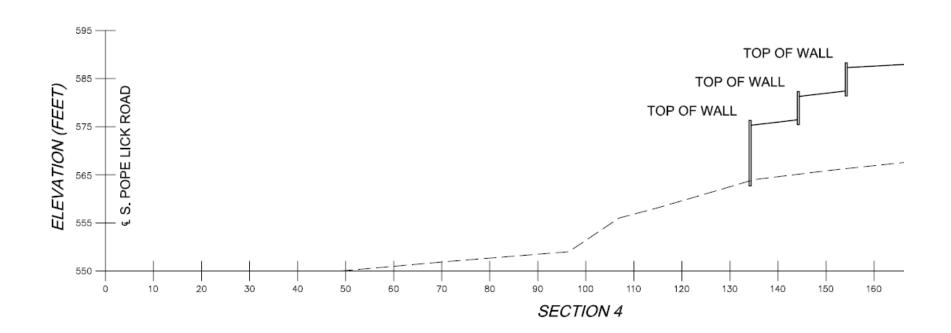
#### Pope Lick Station Trail View



#### **Pope Lick Station Elevation**



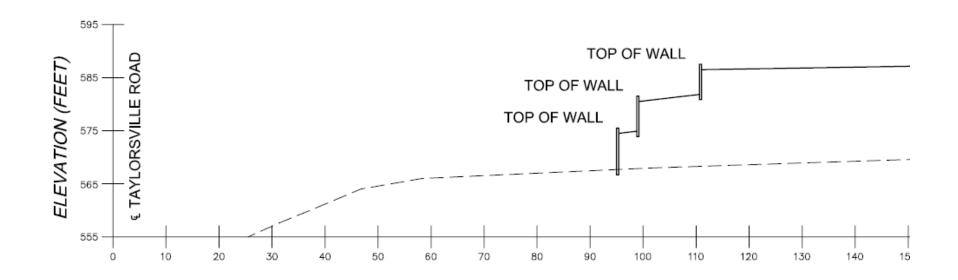
#### **Pope Lick Road Section**



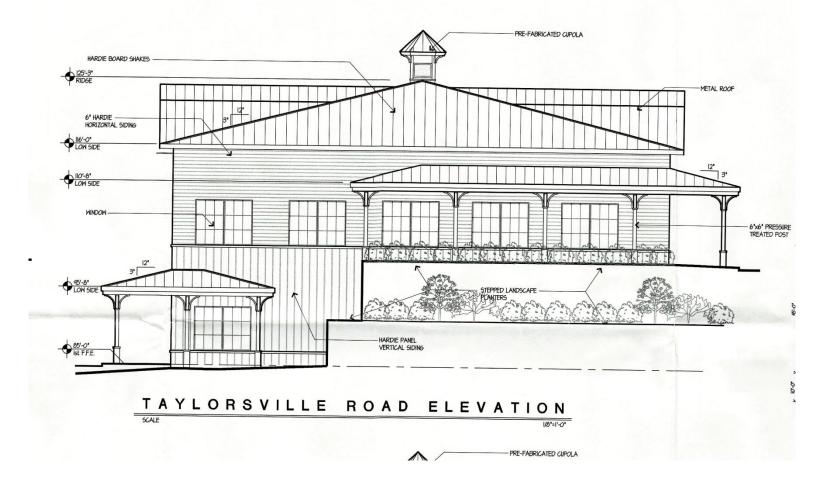
#### Taylorsville Road from Circle K Berm



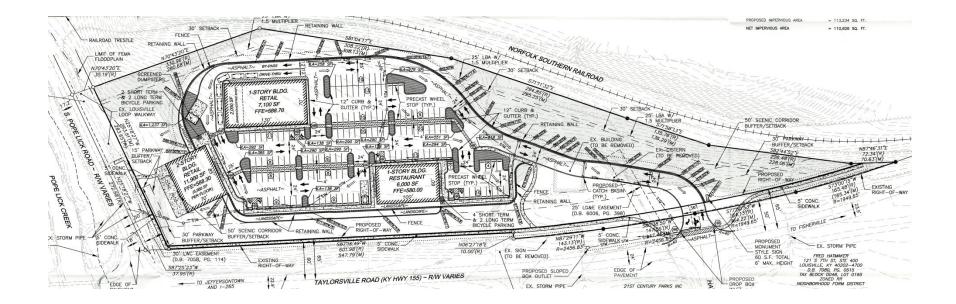
## **Taylorsville Road Section**



## **Taylorsville Road Elevation**



## 14005 Taylorsville Road



#### The View From The Park



#### Pope Lick Road & The Louisville Loop



# Pope Lick @ Taylorsville Rd.



## View From Circle-K



#### Hatmaker Trail View



## **Circle-K Visual Impacts**



## Area Viewshed



## We can do better...

- The staff reports, NSR safety concerns, and near zero percent compliance with the DRO reg.'s give us ample reasons to request:
- Please deny this rezoning based on the concerns presented herein. We feel that any proposal should address and respect rather than ignore the base zoning and provisions of the Floyds Fork DRO.

### Traffic Issues...



### And More Traffic



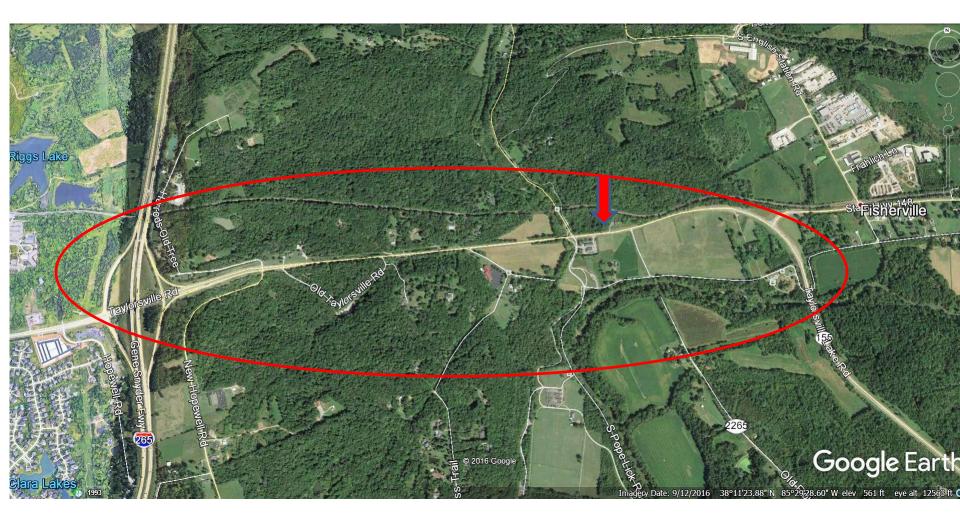
# **Traffic Impacts**

- Traffic Impacts will be significant:
  - The applicants' study indicates 19,500 vehicle trips per day currently and this developments adverse impact to traffic.
  - The project requires both east and west bound turn lanes, which are not shown on the applicants' plans.
  - The plans note that the required right of ways may not be finalized.
  - The area is already backlogged at peak traffic times and dangerous

# Traffic Concerns

- Pope Lick at Taylorsville Road already an "F" grade intersection
- Conclusions:
  - Based upon the volume of traffic generated by the development and the amount of traffic forecasted for the year 2018, there will be an impact to the existing highway network. The proposed entrance will require an eastbound left turn lane and a westbound right turn lane.

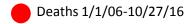
#### Highway 155 (Taylorsville Rd.) from I265 to Taylorsville Lake Rd



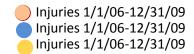
#### Analysis of Accidents on Hwy 155 from I265 to Taylorsville Lake Rd fm 1/1/06 to 10/27/16

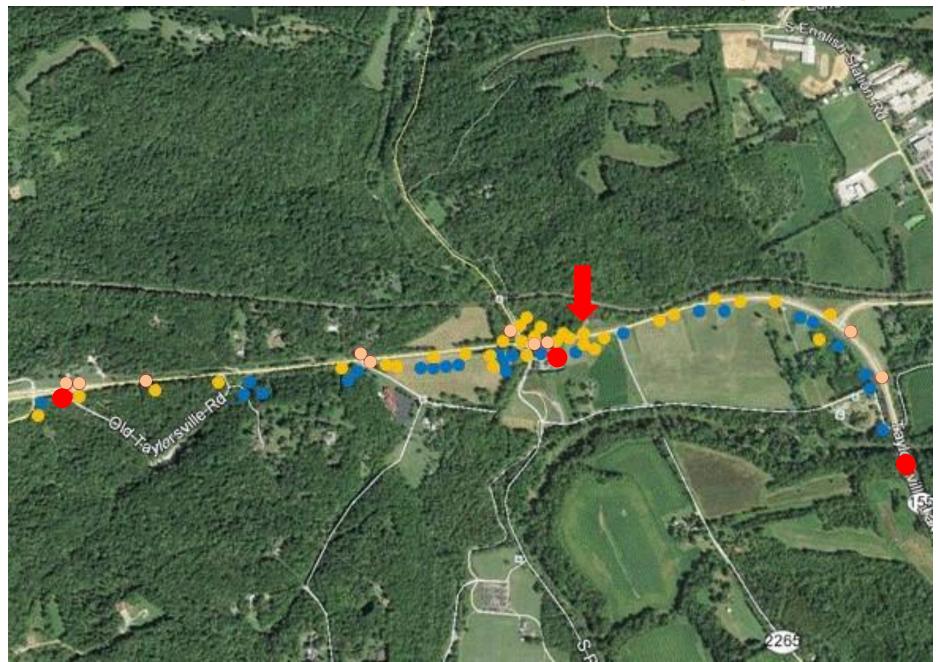
- There have been 464 collisions involving 963 vehicles
- There have been 4 people killed and 169 people injured
- There have been 36 injuries for every 100 accidents
- 39% of the accidents occurred at or within ½ mile of the Pope Lick intersection
- 42% of the injures occurred at or within ½ mile of the Pope Lick intersection
- The number of accidents have doubled from 2006 to present
- The number of injuries have nearly tripled from 2006 to present
- Rate of accidents is 5/month in the period from 1/1/14 to present
- Rate of injures is 2/month in the period from 1/1/14 to present

- Taylorsville Rd from the Gene Snyder to Taylorsville Lake Rd is unsafe now !
- New development without <u>major</u> road improvements will only make it more unsafe !



#### Injuries and Deaths 1/1/2006 to 11/14/16





#### **Collision Rates Increasing** Up from 15 per Year in 2006 to over 70 per Year in 2015

Collisions per Year Taylorsville Road US265 to KY148

