

June 11, 2021

Ms. Maura Kennedy
Manager, Economic Development
Amazon
mauraken@amazon.com

Re: Community Meeting Follow-Up for 51st Street Distribution Facility, Pittsburgh

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

Thank you for attending Lawrenceville's community meeting regarding Amazon's proposed last-mile distribution center on 51st Street. While we appreciated your willingness to attend and share your site plan, we speak for the broader community when we say that we are disappointed by Amazon's disregard for community plans, priorities, and concerns.

Our community process is intended to hold all incoming businesses to an equal standard and to ensure that community plans, values, and priorities are upheld. Research and conversations with city officials as part of this process have revealed that Amazon's proposed facility and site plan would not be a by-right use, nor is it supported by community plans. Despite your willingness to attend a community meeting, your responses to legitimate community questions and concerns suggest that Amazon views this distribution center as an entitlement, and not as a project requiring genuine community partnership, traffic studies, or zoning approvals. Regardless of the City's entitlement process, we expect incoming businesses to work with the Lawrenceville community to mitigate the impacts of their operations and to commit to delivering on community priorities. To date, we haven't seen a serious commitment from Amazon to do that.

As discussed at the close of the meeting, the community has a host of outstanding questions that they shared as part of the community meeting that we would like answered as we process the potential impact of this facility on our lives and neighborhood. We appreciate your offer to follow-up with answers to these questions, which are included below. Once we are able to share your responses, we will schedule a community discussion to better understand the community's outstanding concerns and priorities for future conversations, as well as to identify additional information that we will need from Amazon to understand the project's impact. In the meantime, please keep us attuned to any permit applications, changes in your proposed site plan, or other related developments.

Let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to sharing your responses with the community soon.

Sincerely,



Lauren Connelly
Executive Director
Lawrenceville Corporation
100 43rd Street, Suite 208
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
(412) 621-1616 x 101
Lauren@LawrencevilleCorp.com



Dave Breingan
Executive Director
Lawrenceville United
118 52nd Street, Suite 2026
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
(412) 802-7220
Dave@LUnited.org

Cc: City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto
Dan Gilman, Chief of Staff to Mayor Bill Peduto
Andrew Dash, Director of Dept. of City Planning
Andrea Lavin Kossis, Dept. of City Planning
Director Karina Ricks, Director of Dept. of Mobility & Infrastructure
City Councilperson Deborah Gross
Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
Allegheny County Councilperson Liv Bennett
PA State Representative Emily Kinhead
PA State Representative Sara Innamorato
PA State Senator Wayne Fontana

Remaining Questions

Traffic

1. There is a bike path crossing being put in next to Spirit, down the street from the new Amazon site. How will pedestrian safety be addressed for bicyclists as well as patrons of businesses on the street, especially at night?
2. Do your trip numbers include the trips that the employees will make when commuting to and from the site? Do you provide incentives to employees to use public transportation or bike to work, which would help reduce the traffic in Lawrenceville?
3. Are there any post buildout traffic studies of similar facilities in similar markets?
4. Is there a maximum number of delivery vehicles that can be staged out of the facility now that you're seeking approval to park nearly 600 vehicles on site?

5. Our home is on the lone street that ties McCandless to 51st (Harrison). Will there be any specific restrictions to keep our street from becoming part of a circular route tying these two main Amazon arteries together?
6. Can you please provide the breakdown of long-haul trucks, shuttle vans, and employee vehicles that will access the site daily? What are these numbers anticipated to be during seasonal increases? What are you projecting for the future: 5 years down the road?

Timeline & Plans

1. In conversations with the City, the community has been told that Amazon's proposed site plans could indeed trigger traffic studies and zoning approvals. Why does Amazon continue to insist that this is not true?
2. How big are the packages that Amazon will be delivering from this facility? Will Amazon be working with any other partners to deliver its packages, such as FedEx or UPS?
3. Will Amazon end this project if they do not have the majority support of the neighborhood? If neighborhood residents believe Amazon cannot be a "good neighbor"?
4. Is there any large/messy/noisy construction period involved in the project?
5. Will they have same day delivery? What about "drone" delivery?
6. How long is the lease and who holds it?
7. Will this also be a "retail" pick-up / drop-off location for Amazon customers? If so, how do they plan to manage the traffic? Will there be any retail attached to the facility?
8. My main concern is that Amazon's presence in Lawrenceville will change the neighborhood from one that is built to a human scale, for humans, to one that is mainly built for warehouses, and Amazon's growth. What is our guarantee that Amazon won't buy up more property and expand in Lawrenceville? Is there any indication that Amazon will expand at this location and add even more drivers and delivery vehicles than originally planned?

Jobs

1. Amazon has been in the news a lot regarding their terrible working conditions for warehouse workers (no bathroom breaks, no hazard pay, unrealistic production goals). How does Amazon plan to commit to ethical job creation and not just job creation?
2. Will this be a unionized warehouse? What organization efforts will be permitted? Will unionization be allowed, or at least not actively discouraged?
3. How will Amazon ensure there will be no labor violations against their drivers?
4. How many jobs are contracted vs. full-time?
5. When is the job fair? Will there be recruitment efforts to hire locally? Can preference be given to hire Pittsburgh residents for these positions?
6. What is retention and training policy?
7. Will Amazon allow workers adequate time to use the bathroom, which has been a documented issue at other warehouse locations?
8. Will there be designated bathrooms on site accessible to Amazon contractors?

9. Will disabled workers also be paid \$15/ hour? As it is unfortunately legal to pay them below the minimum wage.
10. How will this center deal with racism and other inequities that have been in the news?
11. Do the drivers also load trucks?

Environment / GGE / AQ

1. Have you done an environmental impact study?
2. Did Amazon cut down the trees on 51st ST?
3. What will Amazon do to offset their carbon footprint in our community?
4. Do they intend to use “clean” vehicles, electric, fuel cell, or natural gas, versus diesel and regular petrol, which would help reduce harmful emissions locally? Will they have electric vehicle charging stations, and can they make them available to the public?
5. Will Amazon install solar panels for even a portion of their electric draw in this space?
6. How will this impact air quality?
7. Will trucks idle while loading and unloading?

Mitigation

1. Will there be a process for residents to report problems with the warehouse’s operation or community impact, and will Amazon listen and be accountable for negative impacts? Who will arbitrate any issues that might arise in the community due to their presence?
2. How will the safety of our neighborhood- drivers, walkers, bikers, be ensured?
3. Is Amazon paying any taxes at all to the city that might help offset the changes it’s going to require—the wear and tear on roads, utilities, and other public resources?
4. What provisions would you propose for noise pollution?

Community Benefits

1. Is there any public parking still in scope? Would still be nice to have more parking to support the existing retail space along Butler St.
2. How will the public be invited on to the site and have access to the river - through the trail and other amenities?
3. Will Amazon filter monies into the community to enhance and renovate the area such rebuilding Leslie Park ie... swimming pool ball fields and park area where the boys and girls club is located at Butler and 46th Streets?
4. How do you plan to meaningfully support small businesses in the neighborhood?