

October 23, 2020

Kevin M. Ellis, Chairman  
Planning Board  
Town of Hingham  
210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Dear Chair Ellis:

On behalf of South Shore Health, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding Amazon's proposed delivery station to be located at 100 Industrial Park Road in Hingham.

As the region's leading health care provider, and one of the largest employers, South Shore Health is committed to providing high-quality care to individuals and families throughout the South Shore. In addition to South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, South Shore Health provides critical access to care in our communities including the Center for Orthopedics, Spine, and Sports Medicine, located at 2 Pond Park Road.

The Center for Orthopedics, Spine, and Sports Medicine ("Center") opened in 2010, providing convenient access to an extensive team of surgical, pain management, orthopedic, podiatric, diagnostic imaging, and rehabilitation experts who specialize in treating a broad range of musculoskeletal conditions. The Center is a high-volume patient site, with over 600 patients from Hingham and across the region being treated on a daily basis by over 150 South Shore Health colleagues.

Patients are attracted to the Center for not only its high-quality, hospital-level care but also by the easy access to the building from major roadways and its ample parking. This is especially important for our patients whom are older, have had a surgical procedure, or are experiencing mobility issues requiring orthopedic care. This is a substantial reason why South Shore Health chose to invest in this location and make it the home for the Center until at least 2031.

South Shore Health understands that the Town of Hingham is considering a proposal from Amazon that would significantly impact traffic in the area surrounding the Center. Conversion of the property at 100 Industrial Park Road from a storage facility to an Amazon "Last Mile" distribution center will result in an estimated increase in over 1,200 vehicles per day, including tractor trailers, utilizing Pond Park Road and Industrial Park Road. While this increased volume is bound to create tremendous congestion on Pond Park Road and Industrial Park Road, it is especially problematic as all of this traffic is limited to entering the office park through the one traffic light on Derby Street. Traffic is likely to back up on Derby Street, thereby delaying entrance into the office park for South Shore Health patients but also potentially creating barriers for emergency vehicles to pass by or to enter as needed.

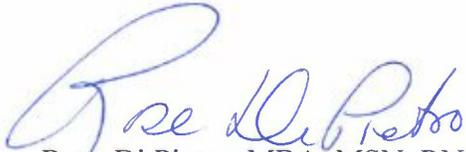
South Shore Health is concerned that this substantial increase in traffic will have a negative impact on our patients and their ability to access the Center for essential care. As you continue to review and evaluate Amazon's proposal, we respectfully request the Town to consider the following:

- Amazon's plans do not include any upgrades to South Shore Park roads. Based on the increase in volume alone, investments in the roads is critical.

- We understand that a study has been completed which includes estimates on the number of trips each hour and day. We ask that the Town consider how these traffic patterns may be mitigated to continue easy access for South Shore Health patients and the other office park tenants.
- Considering the continued demand for online retailing and Amazon's increasing number of holiday/Amazon Prime events, the estimated traffic volume is only going to grow and create amplified barriers and congestion. We encourage the Town to develop mitigation strategies for not only the future growth of Amazon but for specific times of the year to address holidays and events.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joseph Driscoll, Esq., General Counsel, at 781-624-8865.

Sincerely,



Rose Di Pietro, MBA, MSN, RN

Interim President and CEO of South Shore Health