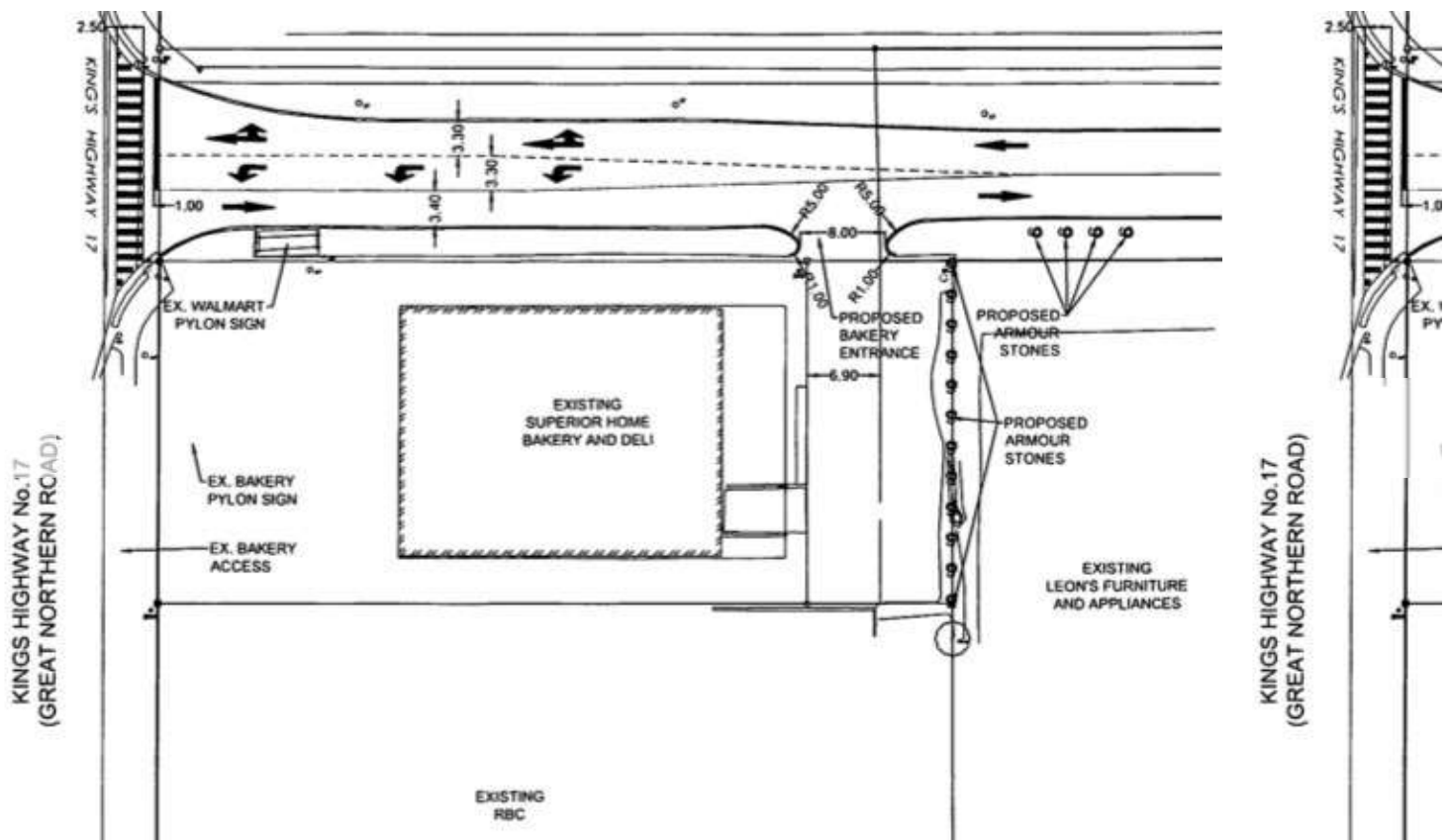


# Should Walmart shoppers be allowed to turn left onto Great Northern Rd?

about an hour ago By: [David Helwig](#)



1 / 2 If Walmart's application is approved on Wednesday, its entrance road (shown at the top of this drawing) will be reconfigured to allow left turns onto Great Northern Rd.

Walmart Canada's plan to improve the traffic situation around its Sault Ste. Marie store includes allowing its customers and others to make left turns onto Great Northern Road.

Under proposals to be decided Wednesday by the city's committee of adjustment, customers of Superior Home Bakery and the adjacent new RBC building will also gain access to the Walmart entrance road.

Until now, vehicles have been prohibited from making left turns onto Great Northern Road from the Walmart property by city bylaw 2005-151.

"I was aware this was coming, but it had taken more time than any of us would have liked it to," says Ward 3 Coun. Matthew Shoemaker, who has worked for almost a year to persuade Walmart to ensure

nearby businesses don't lose access to their parking lots when a new signalized intersection is installed at the Walmart entrance on Great Northern Road.

Ad removed. [Details](#)

The new stop lights were requested by Ben Pino.

An access driveway serving Pino's planned retail development across the street will align with Walmart's access road.

A traffic analysis study of the area done by the city on 2018 suggested that any traffic signals installed on Great Northern Road should be directly linked via fibre-optic cable to the traffic signal at the Great Northern Road/ Second Line intersection at Pino's expense.

"Luckily, the traffic signals at that intersection haven't been turned on yet because of delays in construction of the new RBC building," Coun. Shoemaker tells SooToday.

"I still don't like that lights are going in there in the first place since I think there was a better solution available, but since the lights are there, they should at least provide the greatest benefit to all the businesses in the area."

"I know Superior Bakery's customers and anyone who attends the Northern Dental building immediately south of Superior Bakery are all going to benefit from having access to Walmart's lane, and from the new left-turn lane."

"Leon's was also offered access to the lane but declined the opportunity to open up that access. Walmart has been very cooperative with all of its neighbours since they came to the table on this issue," Shoemaker said.

City staff believe, now that there are traffic signals at the intersection, full-turn movements can be accommodated from the Walmart property.

"If easement applications... are approved, a more convenient access to Great Northern Road will be provided to both southerly adjacent properties and the left-turn restriction would no longer be required," they say.

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