

No On Temple Terrace Wal-Mart

Published: **Oct 12, 2005**

The proposal to build a Wal-Mart supercenter in a semi-rural area east of Temple Terrace presents a dilemma. About half of area residents want it, half don't.

Residents who want the 24-hour store cite the money they could save on groceries, goods and fuel.

Others are worried about disrupting the community's character.

Wal-Mart has offered to design the store in an attractive Mediterranean revival style to compliment Temple Terrace's library and 1920s-era homes. The proposed site at Temple Terrace Highway and Harney Road is about two miles east of the community's business district.

Planning experts from the county and city of Temple Terrace say the project is inconsistent with Hillsborough's comprehensive plan. For this reason alone, the county should deny the rezoning at Monday's hearing.

In addition, most of the streets leading to the site are narrow two-lane roads. Bullard Parkway, which runs through the center of Temple Terrace, is a designated truck route and would see its traffic increase. That would not bode well for nearby neighborhoods or the planned redevelopment of the city's downtown.

Wal-Mart has offered to mitigate the traffic impact, but the most serious problems would grow beyond its control.

The bigger problem is that the community's plan does not call for big-box retail development in this area. If this county is ever going to manage growth, it must follow the comprehensive plan.