

Karen Foster

As much as Country Fair looks like a good area for a new high school, I have a few thoughts. Number one it is privately owned and the owner has no interest in selling. Finding new spots for current retail stores to relocate would be a huge challenge. The stores like Ruler and Big Lots serve that area of town where there is no grocery store close. Many times the City is criticized for lacking stores not on the fringe. While not directly central to town, these stores serve middle areas. The MTD has a huge hub in that area. Did the committee ask MTD to see how many people use the stop for transferring? Many citizens would be negatively impacted by losing stores and services. Number two is its location is within a mile of Centennial. Not very central. Number three is that Springfield and Mattis are both IDOT controlled. That's a challenge to work with. As much as I would like to see Country Fair fill its stores and fix its parking lots, I do not feel a new high school is best located there. Too many people would lose so much.