

# Walmart, the County's Gateway?

The concept of gateway is an important one. Any structure built on the west side of Waldorf Station, the site of the proposed Walmart Supercenter, will be the first thing people travelling on southbound U.S. 301 see as they enter Charles County.

According to the Maryland State Highway Administration traffic counts, over 86,000 vehicles cross the county line, in both directions, each day. That's over 31.5 million cars a year.

For many of these folks, this southbound crossing will be their first impression of our county. Do we want them to be greeted by a Walmart sign before they see signs welcoming them Charles County and Waldorf? Do we want the unscentic vista of a monster Walmart and parking lot making that first introduction for us?

These questions lead to the bigger question, do we want yet another formulaic, single-story structure of the sort that exists across the nation in thousands of Anytowns US define who we are as a county and who we hope to be?

If your answer to these questions is no, you are not alone.

The developer's website, [waldorfstation.com](http://waldorfstation.com), describes Waldorf Station as "distinct", "modern" and "poised to be the focal point for a new generation of development in Charles County". Everything this Walmart Supercenter would not be.



At their July 7th meeting, Planning Commission members Mr. Tieger and Mr. Smith not only questioned the validity of having a Walmart as the County Gateway but the modernity of the project itself. As Mr. Smith eloquently put it, "we are talking about taking Charles County to the next level and into the future. And this is not it."