

Retail project eyed at Meijer

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A plan to construct a retail building in the parking lot of Meijer is part of a trend away from seas of asphalt surrounding big box stores.

Ryan Schultz, an engineer with Giffles-Webster Engineers of Rochester Hills, said the proposed 8,700-square-foot building is designed to house three stores.

The typical big box store practice of adding as much parking as possible has gone to the wayside, with stores now reevaluating their parking needs and finding opportunities for new development, Schultz said.

"I believe the community would prefer more dense retail and fewer seas of asphalt," he said.

There are already tenants signed up for the new building, but Schultz could not disclose details on what will fill the space.

Even with the reduced number of parking spots at Meijer, there will be sufficient parking, Schultz said.

"This site has more than a sufficient amount to cover those peak days," he said of holiday shopping hours.

In addition to the proposed building, which will be located in the southwest corner of the Meijer parking lot, the company is currently marketing a second parcel in the lot's northwest corner.

Midland Planning Commission member Shawn Pnacek said the project team submitted a well thought out site plan and the change would be a good direction for development in Midland.

"I like the idea of utilizing existing asphalt and using the asphalt to get retail on there," he said.

The Midland Planning Commission recommended approval of a site plan for the project this week and the Midland City Council will vote on project May 23.