

Fort Lee OKs two hotels for Route 4

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FORT LEE – Two new hotels will soon be a part of the redevelopment of Route 4.

The borough Planning Board unanimously approved a project Monday to construct a seven-story, 160-room Sheraton hotel and a six-story, 101-room Comfort Suites hotel off the highway's eastbound lanes. The proposal includes a five-story parking garage and lots for five single-family homes fronting Jones Road.

The plan is slightly altered from a version presented in November. The Sheraton has been moved five feet to the north in response to board members' concerns about the amount of room available in the driveway for cars.

Board members also asked questions about the amount of parking in the proposed garage and about delivery vehicles exiting and entering Route 4 during rush hour. Attorney Paul Kaufman, who represents the developer, promised that trucks would not make deliveries during peak hours.

The project's approval appears to end a long process to replace the Courtesy Motel, which also housed a Japanese restaurant, and a closed gas station at the site. The board designated the 3.37 acre parcel as an area in need of redevelopment last year.

That label "is utterly correct," Councilman Armand Pohan, a member of the board, said before the vote. "I certainly do believe this is a plus."

But not everyone was happy with the approval.

Ashley Yook, a representative of the company that owns the neighboring Hilton Fort Lee hotel, told the board she objected to the project, but said her attorney was not available and asked for another hearing.

Chairman Herbert Greenberg said the application would not be postponed.

Yook would not answer questions after the hearing.

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