

BANKING/FINANCE

Musk's Boring Co. Asks Trump Administration for Tariff Relief



CARLA GOTTGENS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Elon Musk's Boring Co. asked the Trump administration unsuccessfully in May to have components for tunneling machinery removed from the list of products targeted for tariffs.

by Mark Niquette
and Sarah McBride

Elon Musk's Boring Co. asked the Trump administration to exclude imports of certain Chinese parts for tunneling machinery from imposed tariffs, saying the duties would cause construction delays and economic harm to the company.

U.S. President Donald Trump slapped duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods in July in response to allegations of theft of intellectual property and other unfair trade practices, and the administration has said it will impose tariffs on a further \$16 billion on Aug. 23. As China retaliates with duties on U.S. goods, the president has threatened to tax effectively all the \$500 billion in products the U.S. imports from China in an escalating trade war.

Boring Co. asked the administration unsuccessfully in May to have components for tunneling machinery removed from the list of products targeted for tariffs. Now it's seeking an exclusion for parts such as cutterheads, the front portion of the boring machine that directly mines the soil, the company said in a written request to officials. The letter, dated July 31 and published on a government website, hadn't been previously reported. A Boring Co. spokesman declined to comment.

Despite turmoil at Tesla Inc., Musk's tunneling startup is pressing on with several ambitious projects. Boring Co. won a bid to develop an underground transportation system in Chicago and is negotiating details with the city. It's also planning a tunnel on the U.S. East Coast from Washington to Maryland and eventually New York. Last week, the company published a proposal to build what it calls a Dugout Loop on the east side of Los Angeles to Dodger Stadium.

Boring Co. has said it won't seek public funds for these projects, but high-

er taxes could pose a setback. The U.S. Office of Trade Representative is accepting requests through Oct. 9 for one-year exclusions from the tariffs on Chinese imports, which so far have been imposed at 25 percent. Submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, based on whether the particular product is available in the U.S. or another country and is strategically important to China. Officials will also consider whether the duty would "cause severe economic harm" to a U.S. business or national interests, according to the agency.

Although whole tunnel boring machines are available elsewhere, certain parts are "readily available" only from China, Boring Co. said in its exclusion request. Components such as cutterheads make up a small part of the cost of tunneling boring machines, which in turn represent a relatively small part of the overall cost of a tunnel, said Gary Brierley, president of Doctor Mole Inc. who consults on subterranean projects. A \$100 million tunneling project might include \$10 million for a boring machine, he said. "The big cost for a tunnel is labor."

Boring Co. has said it's working to develop and manufacture its own tunnel boring machines, but until then, it has been unable to purchase all the components it needs in the U.S. and must import them for use in "a small number" of tunnel boring machines.

Additional duties on components and the inability to obtain parts from China will result in a delay of one to two years on the proposed East Coast tunnel, Ashley Steinberg, regulatory counsel for the Boring Co., wrote in the letter. She also cited the prospect for job losses in tunnel-machine fabrication and tunnel construction. Increased taxes "will serve to lessen, not increase, U.S. reliance on Chinese manufacturing capacity," she wrote.

Mark Niquette and Sarah McBride report for Bloomberg News.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Zoning Workshop** on **Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 6:00 PM**. This meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166** to consider the following public hearing application:

HEARING NO.: 18-08-DOR-10

APPLICANT: Edward J. Easton ("The Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: ICP Auto Center

PROJECT OWNER: Easton Real Estate Holdings, LLC

LOCATION: The property is located on the southwest corner of NW 12 Street and NW 97 Avenue.

FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3032-000-0123

SIZE OF PROPERTY: .78± Acres

PRESENT LAND USE: Industrial

PRESENT ZONING: Industrial

REQUEST: The owner is proposing to develop a vacant lot into an auto sales center approximately 2,000 sq. ft. along with an outdoor vehicle inventory storage area.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: A PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 53 SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF N.W. 12TH STREET AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF "INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE PARK SECTION 4" AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 150 AT PACE 79 WITH THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF N.W. 91TH AVENUE AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 17500 AT PAGE 37W BOTH OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 42 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF N.W. 12TH STREET, FOR 179.09 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE ALONG A CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 1960.00 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 41 SECONDS FOR AN ARC DISTANCE OF 20.91 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST FOR 179.74 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF A 100 FOOT RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 4357 AT PAGE 101 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR 179.83 FEET; THENCE NORTH 06 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 29 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF N.W. 97TH AVENUE, FOR 180.98 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Location Map



ZONING WORKSHOP PROCESS: The zoning workshop consists of two sessions:

1. **First Session.** The first session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for members of the public to learn about proposed developments within the city. Developments may be presented to the public simultaneously, in several locations within the meeting site. During this session, members of the public are encouraged to ask questions and to provide feedback to the applicant about the proposed development. The applicant shall provide visual depictions, such as renderings, drawings, pictures, and the location of the proposed development. In addition, representatives of the applicant shall be available to answer questions that members of the public may have about the proposed development. The members of the City Council shall not be present during the first session of the zoning workshop. No meeting shall start before 6:00 PM Eastern Standard Time and shall take place at a time and date to maximize public participation.

2. **Second Session.** The second session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for the City Council to learn about the proposed developments discussed at the first session of the zoning workshop. No quorum requirement shall apply. Developments shall be presented by the applicants sequentially, one at a time, for the City Council's review and comment. The applicant shall again present visual depictions of the proposed development. In addition, the applicant shall be available to answer any questions that members of the City Council may have about the proposed development.

No quorum requirement shall apply nor will any vote on any project be taken, but roll call will be taken, as it is a publicly noticed meeting.

Information relating to this request is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. All persons are invited to appear at this meeting or be represented by an agent, or to express their views in writing addressed to the City Clerk, **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Any persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should register with the City Clerk prior to that item being heard. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

NOTE: If you are not able to communicate, or are not comfortable expressing yourself, in the English language, it is your responsibility to bring with you an English-speaking interpreter when conducting business at the City of Doral during the zoning application process up to, and including, appearance at a hearing. This person may be a friend, relative or someone else. A minor cannot serve as a valid interpreter. The City of Doral DOES NOT provide translation services during the zoning application process or during any quasi-judicial proceeding.

NOTA: Si usted no está en capacidad de comunicarse, o no se siente cómodo al expresarse en inglés, es de su responsabilidad traer un intérprete del idioma inglés cuando trate asuntos públicos o de negocios con la Ciudad de Doral durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación, incluyendo su comparecencia a una audiencia. Esta persona puede ser un amigo, familiar o alguien que le haga la traducción durante su comparecencia a la audiencia. Un menor de edad no puede ser intérprete. La Ciudad de Doral NO suministra servicio de traducción durante ningún procedimiento o durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, CMC
City Clerk
City of Doral
8/20

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