

PROJECT NARRATIVE FOR PROJECT TURBO LLC TRACT

Conditional Use Permit for a Data Center in I-I Zoning

JULY 3, 2025

LOCATION – 2400 O’Kelly Road. Gainesville, GA 30507

PARCEL – part of 15024 000003A

ACREAGE – 119 Acres +/-

APPLICANT – Project Turbo LLC

PROPERTY OWNER – Crossroads Properties B, Inc., f/k/a Ampro Products, Inc.

Summary

The accompanying application seeks a Special Use Permit for a Data Center on a 119 +/- acre tract zoned Light Industrial (I-I). The undeveloped property is located on the east side of Candler Road (SR 60) at O’Kelly Road in East Hall County (Hall County’s District 3). The overall subject parcel is approximately 145 +/- acres with this application excluding the portion along Candler Road (SR 60) currently zoned for Heavy Industrial (I-II), which is 26 +/- acres.

The proposed Data Center use is consistent with Hall County’s Comprehensive Plan’s designation as an Employment Corridor and adjoins industrial, manufacturing and processing uses.

Project Description

The site has approximately 1100 LF of frontage along O’Kelly Road and is currently under consideration for exemption of the Gateway Corridor Overlay District (GCOD) standards as the project will be on that portion of the site not visible from Candler Rd. O’Kelly Road terminates at the subject parcel and will be the point of egress/ingress onto Candler Road for the development.

The proposed development will consist of 2 or more state-of-the-art buildings totaling a combined 900,000 square feet. An on-site power substation will be built to support the data center and will likely be located near the existing Georgia Power heavy transmission lines adjacent to the property’s southern boundary.

The primary component of each building’s footprint will be used to house organizations’ critical network of computing and storage resources which enable the delivery of shared applications and data. The key components of these resources include routers, switches, firewalls, storage systems, servers, and application-delivery controllers. The second largest component of each building’s footprint will be offices for the full-time employees that will oversee and support the facility’s operations.

The City of Gainesville serves the site with water from a 6” line within the right-of-way on O’Kelly Road, with two existing fire hydrants. The site will be served by an on-site sewage management system. All other dry utilities are located within reasonable distance for service extensions, if required.

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The site is appropriate and suitable for the proposed use as intended and will not seek any variances to property buffers, setbacks, or open space requirements.

Adjacencies

One owner operates a poultry processing plant on 2 parcels zoned I-II that share access on O'Kelly Road. A large Industrial manufacturer operates a manufacturing business on 137 acres (zoned AR-1) adjoining the Northwestern boundary.

Opposite Allen Creek, a portion of the Gainesville 85 Business Park (PUD) adjoins the Northern boundary while Hall County-owned land and a parcel currently zoned AR-1 adjoin the Eastern boundary. Allen Creek, with the required stream buffers, will provide additional buffering to surrounding properties.

Adjoining the Southern boundary is Georgia Power-owned property for high-voltage overhead transmission lines as well as a natural gas transmission facility on a 14-acre site.

Data Centers: Daily Life & Questions

Oftentimes without even realizing it, we rely on Data Centers every day. These critical pieces of digital infrastructure serve as the backbone for the internet, online banking, e-commerce, business operations, and cloud-based services like email and social media. These facilities are the digital engines that drive so much of the services, utilities, and products we use daily. From hospitals, banks and airports to online ordering and e-mailing, Data Centers power key pieces of our lives.

One of the common questions about Data Centers is noise from the facilities' operations. Modern data center building design has advanced around robust soundproofing and noise-reduction as a part of its overall impact mitigation. Today, the everyday operation of a Data Center produces no more noise than a typical Industrial building emits from manufacturing or distribution operations. These facilities use backup generators that turn on only in the case of a major emergency where power is lost, or for brief monthly testing scheduled at low-impact times and usually only last for 30-60 minutes. Additionally, the location, topography, and natural buffers of this project's site provide innate noise impact mitigation.

Another common question about Data Centers concerns resource consumption. Modern facility design prioritizes an efficient stewarding of water and often includes Water-Free Cooling Systems, Recycled & Reclaimed Water designs, and/or Closed-Loop Liquid Cooling. As for power consumption, while Data Centers utilize large amounts of power, these sites are located, designed, and constructed in lockstep with the electrical provider to ensure that there is not only ample capacity to support the facilities' operations, but for additional growth in the service territory. Further, Data Centers often enter into specific power purchase agreements (PPAs)

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that procure electricity generated from renewable sources and/or renewable energy credits (RECs).

Questions on Data Centers also commonly surround the impact such a project could have on the overall Community. While providing a substantial increase in tax revenue for the local jurisdiction, Data Centers have the dual advantage of also not burdening the community's school system and public services. Once built, vehicle traffic impact is minimal and limited to that of the on-site employees who support the day-to-day operations. Divergent from most other industrial uses, Data Centers do not produce daily semi-truck or commercial traffic to and from the site.

In light of the neighboring industrial enterprises as well as uses allowed in Light Industrial, this Data Center project complements the employment corridor and empowers our community's industries with a low-impact touch. A Data Center will also elevate this specific site's use from the automotive salvage yard allowed by its current zoning today, to a freshly designed, state-of-the-art facility harmoniously nestled amidst the natural geography of the location.

Katie L. Greenway (Planning)

From: Cameron Grogan <cameron@projectturbollc.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 3:48 PM
To: Katie L. Greenway (Planning)
Cc: Beth Garmon (Planning)
Subject: Re: 2400 Okelly Road - Finalizing Staff Reports

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Katie, so sorry for the delay, but I am glad that our Partner was able to provide the most detail. Please see below.

1. Cooling System:

- The facility will utilize air-cooled and closed-loop chilled water systems, designed for minimal water consumption.
- Closed-loop and recycled water systems are standard in our designs and will be incorporated. These minimize evaporative losses and eliminate once-through cooling.
- The system is designed with modular scalability to support up to 500 MW of IT load while maintaining energy efficiency and water stewardship.

2. Cooling System Location:

- Cooling infrastructure will be directly adjacent to or integrated with the data halls.
- Major cooling units (chillers, CRAHs, cooling towers if applicable) will be located in secured mechanical yards that are screened from view by architectural walls, landscaping, and natural buffers.

3. Noise Levels:

- Cooling and backup power systems are designed to meet or fall below local noise ordinances at the property line.
- Anticipated operational levels: 65–70 dBA at the equipment and below 55 dBA at property boundaries, consistent with light industrial zoning standards.
- Additional sound-attenuating enclosures, acoustic barriers, and vegetative buffers will be used where needed.

4. Staffing:

- Staffing is phased with construction: initial headcount ~40–60 FT employees, growing to 100–150 permanent full-time staff at full build-out.
- Facility operates 24/7/365, with rotating shifts covering operations, maintenance, and security.
- Additional indirect jobs will be created via contracted services (facilities maintenance, landscaping, security, etc.).
- Construction jobs will be in the hundreds

5. Power Supply Coordination

- We are working closely with Jackson EMC, who will be our distribution partner, and are in parallel negotiations with power generators.
- The intent is to enter into a tri-party Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) among Jackson EMC, the generator, and our company to ensure stable supply and grid reliability.

6. Power Grid Capacity:

- Independent Transmission Study confirmed the existing transmission infrastructure can support our proposed power load.
 - Jackson EMC has validated these findings and supports the project's interconnection strategy.
- 7. Water Usage:**
- Cooling is designed to be extremely water-efficient, with closed-loop recirculation as the baseline.
 - We would be looking for 225,000 GPD for the entire site, which would also include fire system needs.
 - We will design for onsite reuse and reclaimed water sources in coordination with local utilities to further reduce potable water demand.
- 8. Sound & Visual Mitigation:**
- The site benefits from natural buffers including Allen Creek and the existing 300-foot power line easement.
 - Facility design will incorporate:
 - Architectural screening walls and landscaped berms.
 - Tree plantings and vegetative buffers around the perimeter.
 - Equipment enclosures to reduce visibility and noise.
- 9. Backup Power:**
- Yes. The site will have redundant backup generators to ensure uninterrupted service in the event of a grid outage.
 - Generators are tiered in phases, activated only during testing or emergencies.
- 10. Fuel Storage:**
- Fuel will be stored onsite in double-walled, above-ground tanks compliant with EPA and Georgia EPD regulations.
 - Storage capacity is typically designed to support 12-24 hours of full-load backup generation.
 - Refueling contracts with local providers will ensure continuous resilience in extended outages.
- 11. Water Discharge:**
- The facility will not use once-through water cooling and will not generate large volumes of discharge.
 - If not tied to municipal sewer, small volumes of blowdown water from the cooling system can be:
 - Treated onsite to meet regulatory standards.
 - Safely discharged into existing stormwater basins in coordination with the local water authority.
 - Stormwater management systems will exceed regulatory requirements, ensuring no adverse impact to surrounding watersheds

On Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 10:18 AM Cameron Grogan <cameron@projectturbolc.com> wrote:

Sorry Katie, I have been told I'll have it by lunch. Our engineer and end-user are just dotting the i's and crossing t's. Will get it to you asap.

CG

On Wed, Sep 3, 2025 at 3:59 PM Katie L. Greenway (Planning) <klgreenway@hallcounty.org> wrote: