Grocery Shopping Deserts

Grocery operations have been constantly moving to a car based big box methodology. Having a more local approach can allow those who walk or bus to shop while people who drive can also shop at a facility. Neechi Commons is just one operation like this method.

One important note on this motion is to understand we are talking about grocery stores where there is a supply of fresh produce at a reasonable price. New York City sets out four criteria:

a. Provide a minimum of 6,000 square feet of retail space for a general line of food

and nonfood grocery products intended for home preparation, consumption and utilization;

b. Provide at least 50 percent of a general line of food products intended for home

preparation, consumption and utilization;

c. Provide at least 30 percent of retail space for perishable goods that include dairy,

fresh produce, fresh meats, poultry, fish and frozen foods; and

d. Provide at least 500 square feet of retail space for fresh produce.

New York calls for grocery stores of about 40,000 square feet. In Winnipeg we do not have the same kind of density. Therefore, any incentives considered in our context could be in the range of 20,000 square feet.

I would just like to site some areas in the North End that are moving toward larger areas of grocery deserts:

If you live on burrows and Sinclair, you have the following options:

Sobby's Warehouse at Dufferin and Arlington (not much selection for fresh produce)

Safeway at Mountain and McGregor

Safeway at McPhillips and Jefferson

Super Value at McPhillips and Beauty or Galaxy on south side

Safeway at Keewatin and Burrows

Safeway at Polson and Main

IGA at Jefferson and Main

I haven't done any klikage calculations, but most of these stores are quite some distance. What is scary is the sudden withdrawl of stores from this area. Can Safeway be far away from rationalizing their operations? Extra Foods offered reasonable prices that most people in North and West End neighbourhoods could afford.