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FedEx requests variance for solar array at Memphis hub

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An application was submitted to the Memphis & Shelby County Board of Adjustment to allow for a variance on part of FedEx Corp.'s Memphis hub modernization.

According to the form, FedEx wants to put a solar canopy above an existing parking lot at 2955 Republican Drive. The proposed solar array would encroach on the required setback line, thus the reason for the variance request. The applicant was listed as Juan Self, of Self Tucker Architects.



MEAGAN NICHOLS | MBJ FedEx Corp. plans to invest \$1 billion in its Memphis hub

The application states:

"The property line does not run parallel to the roadway and puts the required 30-foot setback line on the diagonal of the existing parking lot and proposes solar panel arrays covering the parking bays. The parking lot is existing."

"It will allow the full extension of the proposed solar panels, in order to make the existing facility more energy self-sufficient."

When asked about the project, a FedEx representative said it was "part of the broader Memphis Super Hub modernization project."

FedEx officially announced March 14 its plans to invest \$1 billion to transform its SuperHub at the Memphis International Airport. The announcement included FedEx founder, chairman and CEO Fred Smith and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam.

The solar array variance will go before the Memphis and Shelby County Board of Adjustment Wednesday, April 25.

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