

TO: LESLIE IMES
BEAVERTON SCHOL DISTRICT

Beaverton School District
16550 SW Merlo Road
Beaverton, OR 97006
Phone: (503) 591-4155

NEW HIGH SCHOOL
South Cooper Mountain Area

Neighbors Southwest NAC Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 7:00 pm

COMMENT FORM

Comments on New High School Site Plan:

I am very concerned about the chosen site for this new Beaverton High School as well as the implementation within this location. I will address these 2 issues separately.

1) **The chosen site:**

- a. **175th Safety Issues:** This location is adjacent to an already overtrafficked country arterial which has significant safety issues especially in winter. 175th is 2.6 miles long from Scholls Ferry to the South up to Rigert Rd to the North. Only .8 miles of this road (from Scholls Ferry to Alvord Ln) is within the Beaverton-SCM jurisdiction. According to Washington County Traffic engineers, the traffic volumes have doubled in the past 5 years and is projected to triple again in the next 20 years. Right now, at the top of the hill, we frequently experience ¾ mile backups – and there have been mile-long backups from Scholls Ferry to Alvord Ln. We, the existing residents, have presented a very consistent case citing the steep grade (up to 14 degrees just up the hill from your school), susceptible to icy patches in winter, an active landslide, blindspots, curves and rises in the road that diminish visibility such that the backup often generates rear-end collisions due to “Hill Hides Congestion.” The steep grade has often been referred to as “hundred mile an hour hill” by teenagers and all these factors are to be reckoned with when we consider risking adding so many young, new drivers to this road.
- b. **School buses and 175th 45mph speed limit:** At the Beaverton Planning Commission, a testimony was presented by a Beaverton parent that:
“Public school buses are not allowed to release children from the bus to properties that are to the left side of the bus in 45 mph zones (where the child would have to cross in front of the bus). When our daughter took the public school bus home from school, the bus had to pass our property, travel all the way down to Scholls Ferry and onto Roy Rogers Road (where it turned around at the Blueberry Hill Farm) only to make its way back up 175th to drop her off at the top of the hill. Most of the time she was one of two kids that had to make the additional 20 minute trip.” Would you want this for your child? 175th is a 45 mph road ... and it takes 1-2 years for ODOT to approve a speed reduction (which we are attempting to obtain).

2) **Implementation within the site:**

- a. **Traffic:** I am the chair of the Save175th Neighborhood Association, representing 150 people, and we had requested at the Beaverton Planning Commission that the School reroute the traffic away from 175th. Yet, the plans presented at the Open Meeting show

half of the traffic being directed right onto 175th. This road cannot possibly handle the additional peaks from the everyday traffic you described at your meeting let alone the crowds anticipated from the sports events that you are also anticipating should this also become a flagship school for sports competitions as mentioned.

- b. Proximity to Wetlands:** I live in that lovely forest just to the North of the SCM parcel. Our forest is often shown in the beautiful brochures for the SCM development and your new school. That forest is an important habitat for large and small indigenous flora and fauna. The animals use critical wildlife corridors from above the Cooper Mountain Nature Park through my backyard down through the wetlands in close proximity to your selected site and on to the Tualatin River. These pathways are essential to the lifecycle of many species – you cannot maintain large mammals in a small, confined area – they will die off – and the Cooper Mountain Nature Park at a minimum, will eventually be left with no wildlife. This is a total ecosystem. I understand this as I have monitored this migration pattern for some 27 years now and I have even seen the wildlife paths now visible in aerial photographs of the mountain. Even though the plans shown at the Open Meeting show a 50’ buffer zone, the noise and light pollution of so many ball fields in such proximity of the wetlands and so close to the wildlife corridors would do irreparable damage. And the infringement on the Clean Water systems is also a major concern.

- c. Size of the campus:** I have seen another proposal for the new high school which had a much smaller footprint for the same functionality. I would question why your planners need to “sprawl.” I would challenge you to take a harder look at these plans to see where you might be able to shrink the physical size of the asphalt displacement by your school site which would provide for a greater buffer zone for the wildlife – and/or maybe free up some land which could then be sold and the monies be put to better use by the taxpayers. I’m just suggesting that this plan looks a bit wasteful as compared to another I’ve seen – just because there is the land, doesn’t mean you have to use all the land (and cover it in asphalt). Just a thought.

On a side note, I don’t know the age of the walnut tree at the corner of the property. The typical lifespan of a walnut is 150-250 years. I don’t know what your plans are for this tree, but since its been a bit of an icon for us locals, it would be nice to have it stand. If you need to have it trimmed for safety reasons, I believe that I can get that work donated by professional arborists. Please let me know if I can be of service on this.

Thank you, Fran Warren

Optional Contact Information:

fran.coopermtn@frontier.com (503) 310-1560 17830 SW Outlook Ln, Beaverton 97007

Leslie Imes
Project Manager

Patrick O’Harrow
Project Coordinator

Beaverton School District
Facilities Department