

School Advisory Committee Notes
September 25, 2008

Members Present: Charlie Jeter, Joe McCourt, Rhonda Lennon, Todd Bowland, and Neal Howes

Staff present: Bobby Williams, Management Assistant; Brad Priest, Senior Planner; Justin Carroll, Traffic Engineer; and Bill Coxe, Transportation Planner.

Main purpose of meeting was to discuss TIA

Senior Planner Brad Priest explained that they are to be completed within 4-6 weeks in the contracts. He offered the example of Presbyterian Hospital's expansion – their TIA was completed in a month. The other two that have been done have taken longer as work continues to figure out the future road bone structure in those areas.

McCourt – CMS is still planning the Elementary at Stumptown across from McAulay?

Lennon – yes, they could construct it in 14 months and have it open in 2010. They have four plans for an Elementary and High School. They talked about doing the same as the Ballantyne plan, similar to the original Mountain Island Lake design but do in a village concept and sell off the rest of the land (like in Ballantyne) to developers to make money.

Coxe - Had heard talk of St. Mark's wanting a high school there too...

McCourt – We find out in February where St. Mark's is going with its high school

Bowland – can we tell CMS to put it elsewhere?

Lennon – CMS is committed to that site

Howes – look at transportation improvements, rise in ranking...

Coxe – looking at improvements to NC73, Northcross Drive intersection, could be millions...

Lennon –they wont pull from the Target side of the interstate...

Coxe – have they done attendance zones yet?

Lennon – they've got ideas, not yet...not done for Bailey yet...

Bowland – is TIA flexible (to school population)

Carroll – Stumptown boundary is drawn off of school population

Coxe – yes for all – flexible based on assumptions for travel (it's a collaborative effort)

Charlie Jeter entered the meeting.

Lennon – for Stumptown Elementary, do you have to do 21/Stumptown?

Carroll – we did to see, really there were no impacts there, there's still some work at a few remaining...

Howes – roads/schools – recommendations for schools, look at roads and get it done

Jeter – the Town is looking at a Transportation bond in 2009, have to make a concerted effort to decide what roads need to be done, do pre-presentation to the Town Board, go forward. Second, we need to look at the TIA and how it impacts school construction.

Howes – we make recommendations, CMS could take or not

Lennon – schools by right, its public law that we have to provide public education, the Town approved all these developments, knew there were going to be kids coming here, holding CMS culpable for road problems of developments the town's approved, developers need to be held to that standard, not schools...

Jeter – A, suggested school impact analysis for the APF (consultants told us we couldn't do this); B, never thought about schools as part of the approval process to review major development proposals (residential)...what is your solution?

Lennon – come up with some TIA – ours cant fall on the schools to build roads, to fix our problems...

Howes – TIA is work in progress, a start...

Lennon – maybe work could be done...

Coxe – CMS doesn't have the first set of results on a TIA yet...

Bowland – As a committee, talked about doing everything to build schools we can do...

Jeter – conversation has to include all schools (legally all K-12 and cant limit to public schools only)

Bowland – as a committee, anything we can do to convince CMS that is the case (we want schools) – Rhonda's point that CMS shouldn't be held accountable for traffic problems, could the number come back and the Town say it will pay for it?

Coxe – yes, but it has to happen within 3 years

Jeter – if put it in the Transportation bond and try to fix the roads now, we've mitigated the TIA and helped with where to put schools...

Howes – lets see it work, have recommendations, let it work.

Jeter – no changes to TIA voted last meeting.

Howes – as committee, can we make suggestions, it's the transportation and town board...

Jeter – at the Town board level, we don't interconnect all the dots as well as we should...get info on planning, traffic impact and nothing on schools. We need to line up the three to make decisions. That's a town board issue. I'm a big proponent of having analysis of schools impact with development proposals and have the School Advisory Committee make recommendations like the Planning Board does. If we have to do for the town board, give them a list of road improvements for schools.

Jeter – is it legal to require x% of capacity for school traffic for future school sites?

Coxe – not sure, will ask the questions. General traffic growth over time will eat away at capacity.

Jeter – could we go to CMS and ask to buy land, vest for 5 years and say we'll do all the road improvements in those seven areas for the 2009 transportation bond? Or we could do the transportation bond and set aside say 15 % of money for school-related construction to mitigate TIA issues.

Bowland – you talk to CMS, if you'll commit, amend the TIA to say schools are exempt (all schools)

Jeter – if you do for CMS, haven't yet done private and charter locations.

Bowland – when is elementary TIA complete? Less than a month, how does this impact CMS? As a group, knowing that, safe to try to estimate the impact of other schools on CMS. Will this really prevent them from building schools in Huntersville?

Carroll – this is hard to do...

Howes – Wish had someone from CMS here to says they're not building schools in Huntersville...

Jeter – Would you like to ask all major developments (subdivisions) to be presented to the School Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Town Board?

Bowland made motion, Lennon seconded. Vote 4-0.

Priest – we may need a text amendment to make this part of the process...

Jeter – consensus feels like lets see how the first one works. We need to now get started looking at these roads and school sites. Lets take 1 to 2 school sites per meeting and do an analysis for the roads...

Next meeting – discuss TIA at the Elementary School and the McAulay site for discussing necessary road improvements.

Next meeting – Friday, October 10, 7:30 AM

McCourt motioned to adjourn, Howes seconded. Meeting Adjourned.