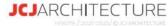
BOE Meeting 1-18-24

Bus Lot Design Options

NEW FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT





History

- 4-23-2019 During pre-referendum the District selected Option 3 created by QA&M architects which placed the new Consolidated Early Learning Academy building on the existing MHHS site eliminating the existing bus lot.
- 10-5-2019, Referendum. The Town resolution included language "space for parking for faculty, staff and buses" but was not specific.
- The RFP's issued for the OPM, Architect and CM did not request and study or site selection phase for a relocated bus lot the scope included "Consolidated Elementary School, site restoration creation of a new bus lot"
- The approach communicated to the design team was that the bus lot would be located on the existing Consolidated site once the building was demolished.

Number of Buses and Current Routes

- There are currently 24 school buses and 10 vans utilized by the district
- Currently the district operates 22 in-district routes 19 buses and 3 vans
- In 2019, the majority of the buses were replaced with clean burning diesel
- The number of routes could vary in the future

The following options were presented to Zoning

OPTION 1 - ORIGINAL CONSOLIDATED IN ESTIMATE



BUS LOT DESIGN OPTIONS

LANGAN

JCJARCHITECTURE

OPTION 2 - ORIGINAL CONSOLIDATED WITH ADDED SCREENING





Additional Lots Explored

Options that were reviewed at a high level and deemed not appropriate:

- Drop Off Center (would require roadway improvement, no State support)
- Adjacent to MHHS on 302 Ball pond (Increased traffic on congested site, significant earthwork required)
- Between Rebel turf and the dog park (significant extra costs and loss of reimbursement)
- HS Practice Field (located in upland review area, loss of field)
- Private Lot on Dunham Drive (steep grades at entry)
- Out of Town (Nothing identified to date, additional operating costs)

Bus lot located out of Town

What are the implications if the Buses lot is located out of Town?

- The bus company has been consulted and to date they have not been able to locate any available site close to Town.
- Out of Town bus storage would increase district cost:
 - Longer drive to New Fairfield would result in additional staffing costs
 - There would be additional fuel costs
 - If the bus company has to rent a lot this costs would fall on the district
 - The cost of a bus office at the lot would need to be accounted for
 - The district will lose tax revenue (approximately \$35,000)

Funding Considerations

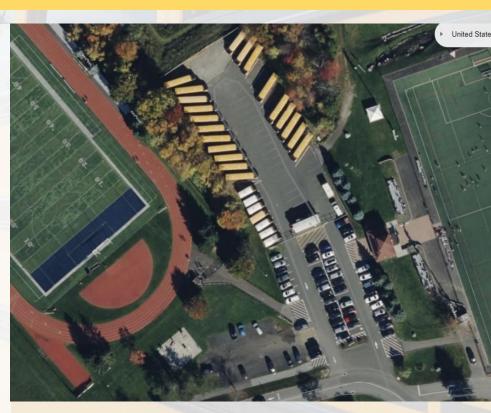
2-21-2020 Discussions with State confirmed the following:

- State support for Consolidated Site The bus lot would be reimbursed by the State for 38.22% of the cost excluding the bus office
- State support for High School Site ½ of rate or 19.11% excluding the bus office (This option would require a new grant authorization)
- State support if the bus lot was located off school property None

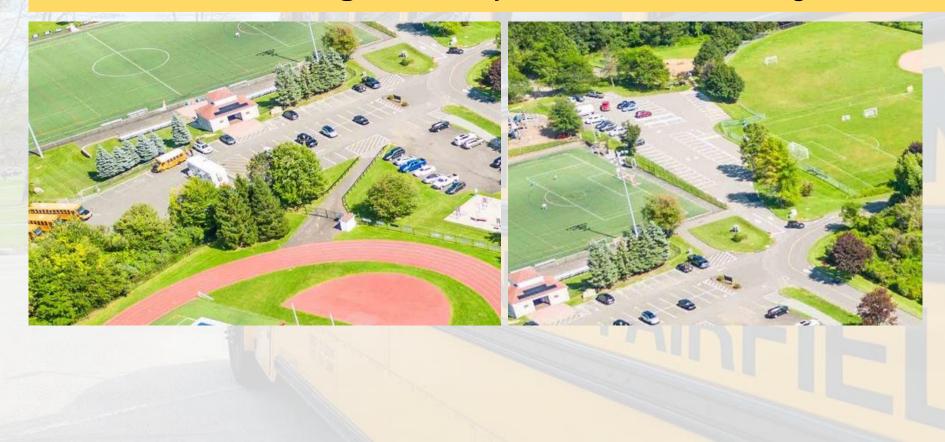
Temporary Bus Lot: Impact at NFHS

Current Challenges: Safety

- Buses are in tight quarters
 - Can only park one at a time
- Vehicle Mixing:
 - Buses & Vans
 - Bus driver personal vehicles
 - Student Drivers
 - Public using facilities on school grounds
- Pedestrians
 - Most student drivers crossing two drive lanes to walk up the hill to school
- Students mixing with general public and outsiders
 - Lower lot fully booked with students
 - Outsiders on campus to use dog park, playground, etc. during school hours



Current Challenges: Safety- Illustration of Congestion



Current Challenges: Student Parking Capacity

- Over 100 parking spaces lost to bus lot and construction
 - Buses, bus driver personal vehicles, bus company facility take up entire lower stadium lot ("J" lot)
 - Currently ~180 seniors
 - Limited to 120-122 spaces for students
 - Lower Lot (72-74), Temporary Gravel parking (23), 25 spaces intermixed with staff parking
 - Currently at 122 parking requests for second semester
- No parking for juniors
 - Challenging for families who need students to work
 - Juniors illegally parking in assigned senior parking spaces
- Limited ability to monitor parking
 - Security and administrative staff focused on the school building and immediate grounds

Current Challenges: Student Parking Capacity



Current Challenges: Event/Community Parking Capacity

- Dangerous location at intersection of 3 athletic complexes and public facilities
 - Rebels Stadium, Marty Morgan Field, Komlo field, J.J. Pendergast Field, Cashman Field, dog park, playground, basketball court, bocce courts
 - Vehicle Mixing = Safety Concerns
 - NF Buses
 - Large size, multiple trips in/out of bus lot
 - Out-of-town buses
 - Lack of unloading/loading area
 - Lack of familiarity with the campus
 - Bus driver personal vehicles
 - Student drivers
 - NF Parent Drivers (high school & youth sports)
 - Drop-offs of youth program participants in a congested area
 - Out-of town drivers
 - Lack of familiarity with the campus
- Over 100 parking spaces lost to bus lot
- Extremely narrow drive lanes, low pedestrian visibility near pavilion

Looking Ahead

- Combining School Schedules
 - Additional buses- more congestion, less parking
- 180 seniors and 180 juniors for 2024-2025
 - Stable number for next year
 - Not all registered seniors will get parking if more than 122
 - Current situation would mean no junior parking for a fourth consecutive year
- Future of the temporary gravel lot
 - Approximately 25 student spaces
 - Difficult to maintain
- Control over public use of campus during the school day
 - Ongoing security concern identified by NFPD

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