

ARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Item No. F-4

INFORMATION ITEM

Arlington School Board Information Item: Yorktown Parking and Transportation Demand Management Report

Date Prepared: March 30, 2007

Meeting Date: 04/12/07 **For Information:** X

Meeting Date: 04/19/07 **For Action:**

Initiated by: Clarence Stukes, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

Staff contact: Sarah Woodhead, Director of Design and Construction
Vaughan Olbrys, Project Manager

Explanation of Subject/Issue:

At its February 1, 2007 meeting, in conjunction with its approval of the Yorktown High School Schematic Design, the School Board directed the Superintendent to consult with County staff to develop a report outlining the community traffic and parking issues associated with the construction of Yorktown High School and Greenbrier Park. The purpose of the discussions and report was to ensure that the new building does not make current parking and traffic problems worse, and to resolve issues and/or develop action plans to address them where appropriate. In addition to identification of general traffic and parking concerns, options for additional parking and the relative costs and benefits of each option were to be included in the report. The Board also directed that the report and its findings be presented to the Yorktown community and other interested parties such as the Planning and Transportation Commissions.

APS staff (from both YHS and Facilities and Operations) met with a team of ten Arlington County Government (ACG) staff members and Ehrenkrantz Eckstut and Kuhn Architects in order to prepare the attached report. It was provided to the community and to the E2C2, Transportation, and Planning Commissions staff liaisons electronically on March 8, 2007. A meeting was held with the BLPC, community representatives, and members of these commissions on March 12, 2007 to present and gather feedback on the report. Comments were also received by e-mail.

Neighbors' primary concern regarding the combined Yorktown/Greenbrier Park site is parking, which will be addressed in more detail below. Other concerns such as traffic volume and speed, street improvements, trash, noise, safety and adequacy of public transportation have been tabulated in the report's Responsibility Matrix and are discussed in the body of the report. These concerns have been reviewed in detail with appropriate County staff. A copy of the report has been provided to these staff members for their use.

A total of six alternatives for additional on-site parking were explored, with two variations. Three of the alternatives identified additional surface parking, and five explored various parking structures. Staff recommends adoption of two of the surface parking alternatives. The third surface alternative eliminates outdoor basketball courts from Greenbrier Park, a frequently used community amenity. The structured parking alternatives are not recommended based on costs (a range from about \$3 million for 58 additional parking spaces to over \$10 million, depending on the size, location, and construction timing of the structure), increased traffic bottlenecks at the entrance to the structure, and school concerns about security of the structure.

The recommended alternatives are Option 2A, which uses the car drop-off lane to add 30-36¹ parking spaces during times other than arrival and dismissal, and Option 2B, which adds about 20 more spaces in the bus lane. With the 268 spaces shown on the approved schematic design, this brings the on-site parking totals to 298 spaces during most of the school day, and 324 spaces during evenings and weekends. When legal, unrestricted street parking immediately adjacent to the school is taken into consideration, the total number of spaces at the combined Yorktown/Greenbrier site reaches 373 (school day minimum) to 399 (evenings and weekends). This number is achieved at little or no additional cost.

However, making parking “fit” at Yorktown is not simply a matter of adding more parking spaces. The overall solution to the Yorktown neighbors’ parking concerns also requires a reduction in the number of cars being driven to the school or park. APS has initiated a Transportation Demand Management program to educate and support students and staff regarding alternatives to inefficient automobile use. Details of this initiative are included in the report.

The Yorktown Parking Report was forwarded to School Board members on March 16, 2007. An electronic version is posted at:

<http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/facilities/design/yorktown/070316%20Yorktown%20parking%200%20Report%20with%20App.pdf>.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent recommends approval of parking options 2A and 2B and authorization to move forward with the development of a transportation demand management implementation plan based on the principles and strategies outlined in the report (pp.12-16).

¹ Thirty-six spaces could be available during evenings and weekends. Some spaces – perhaps as many as six - may need to be reserved for day-time deliveries which are more appropriate for the office than the loading dock, such as mail or small packages.