

11.12.20 North Campus Neighborhood Meeting Q&A

Questions related to the WBLAHS construction project

Comment: A sidewalk along Division North of school to Park Ave --- would be awesome! I already notice students walking along that road to get to school now and with the campus becoming unified that would be a well used path. Thank you!

What is the definition of short-term congestion?

Less than ½ hour.

Who foots the bill for the sidewalks?

The referendum included an allowance of funding to do the required improvements to streets and sidewalks.

Describe how two lanes work on 8th. Is it two lanes (one in each direction) or four lanes (two in each direction)?

The reference to 8th street continuing to have two way traffic was assumed to be one lane in each direction.

We own a home across the street from the current campus on the corner of Division and 12th street. During the traffic study you mentioned the possibility of adding turning lanes into the school property along division street. Where would those turning lanes be added, and how would that process impact property owners? Thank you.

We are still working with the City on exact configuration of those turn lanes. We anticipate those being contained within the property that the District owns on the west side of Division.

Why isn't there foot traffic planned for north bound from the HS?

The proposal includes sidewalks to be included on both Division Ave and Bald Eagle Ave between the high school and Bald Eagle Lake.

How will construction traffic be routed during construction?

This is still being worked on.

How tall is the fly loft in the auditorium?

Approximately 50 feet.

Will all of the glass be bird-friendly?

The actual materials are still being selected and this will be taken into consideration, along with solar heat gain and other energy efficiency factors as well as daylighting factors and glare. Reflectivity is another key factor.

Has the traffic study taken into account traffic changes related to the city bus changes currently underway? The bus meeting said they were planning a sidewalk on 8th street and were planning to make part of 8th street one-way.

We have had many conversations with the Ramsey County and their Rush Line team to coordinate planning efforts. They are a few years behind us in their design, construction, and opening plans, but we are and will continue to be in contact with them throughout the design phase.

Why is so much space dedicated to parking when there will be the new bus station on 8th?

The design for parking is to provide adequate parking and meet the requirements of City ordinances.

Would sidewalks be placed on the East or West side on Division Avenues?

Most likely on the west side of Division Avenue.

Concerned about additional traffic on Bald Eagle Blvd between Bald Eagle Ave and Park Ave as well as north on Bald Eagle Blvd towards Buffalo. Bald Eagle Blvd has lots of pedestrian traffic and want to keep that safe. Will bus traffic be limited in this area? Hugo Rd is a better alternative for through traffic.

Though there may be some increased traffic on East Bald Eagle Boulevard, it is anticipated that the majority of school traffic will use Hugo Road.

To reduce traffic issues on Highway 61, 8th Street and Division Avenue, all school buses will access the school site via Bald Eagle Avenue. Buses to and from the City of Hugo will be routed on Hugo Road to Park Avenue, to East Bald Eagle Boulevard to Bald Eagle Avenue.

Is the asphalt permeable?

We will consider permeable pavement in some areas to meet infiltration requirements. We will also carefully consider maintenance and durability of any paving materials selected.

Where is all of the parking going to be for the reconstructed Price Field?

The parking at the current District Office is proposed to remain and support events at Price Field, along with the other parking lots shown. The Bus Loop will also be available for event parking when needed.

The city bus sidewalk is for the north side of 8th street according to the neighborhood meeting they had. Will parking still be allowed on 8th street? The street is narrow for parking, traffic and buses. Current school buses have trouble navigating the street.

The initial Rush Line BRT plans identified a new sidewalk on the north side of 8th Street between Highway 61 and Division Avenue. After further review of student pedestrian traffic it was determined that a sidewalk on the south side of 8th Street would be more beneficial. The School District has been and will continue to coordinate with Rush Line BRT officials to determine the final plan.

The School District is currently working with the City of White Bear Lake to evaluate options for modifying 8th Street to better accommodate vehicle and pedestrian traffic as well as on-street parking.

Will 8th Street be widened?

The District continues to work with the City of White Bear Lake and Rush Line BRT to determine the final plan for 8th Street improvements

Follow-up to 8th Street question - how will you obtain the 3-4 feet you need?

The right of way that is owned by the city is about 60 ft. There could be a balance of widening the street slightly but minimizing impact to the current green space. The District continues to work with the City of White Bear Lake and Rush Line BRT to determine the final plan for 8th Street improvements

What about a parking analysis to determine the schools need?

This has been taken into consideration. We are determining the number of staff and typical number of visitors during the day. We will meet the parking requirements of city ordinance and once we determine the number of available spots we will assign parking for students.

What will Price Field be used for if it is being changed? Parking on street is already a problem.

Price Field will be used for physical education classes, sports practices and low fan attendance games. On site parking will be available.

Would widening of 8th street include eminent domain?

Any change that needs to occur will take place on existing right of way, not through eminent domain.

Ramsey County investigating improvements to Division Ave. Are you coordinating with them?

The School District has been meeting regularly with representatives from Ramsey County Rush Line BRT as well as the City of White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, and MnDOT to coordinate improvement plans.

Is there any access or road crossing from the HS to the WBCA or Lakeshore Players (accommodations for kids to safely get across Division)?

We have been in communication with both the White Bear Center for the Arts and the Hanifl Performing Arts Center (Lakeshore Players) and expect that there will be accommodations for students to safely cross Division Avenue.

How many tennis courts will there be?

There are 10 tennis courts planned.

What will the Louricas fields be used for? Will there be bright stadium type lighting installed and used for those fields? Will games be held there?

Louricas Field will be used for physical education classes and athletic team practices. Community organizations will also access these fields. The high school athletic programs will not host games at the Lauricas fields and we do not have plans to provide lighting at Louricas. There may be youth games at this site.

Will the community have access to the running track?

We typically have created access for the community to outdoor athletic facilities. The public currently accesses the track and field at South Campus, and at this point we would expect the same at the improved North Campus facility.

How have design plans changed due to COVID-19? Will delivery of education be different as a result of COVID-19?

This is the million dollar question. We believe that school will be different in the future and will call for more flexible spaces. The addition to the high school is being designed with more flexible learning spaces.

Describe the lighting plans for all areas of the development.

The new lighting design will need to meet all regulatory and zoning requirements. Site lighting will utilize cutoff light fixtures and be configured to minimize light impact off of the site. The design will also work to minimize uplighting to help control light pollution. Some lighting of outdoor athletic spaces is anticipated and will be reviewed by the City of White Bear Lake as part of the site plan approval process.

I noticed on the pedestrian accommodations slide that it only said "considering" sidewalks north of campus on Division and Bald Eagle. As a resident of the Wild Marsh neighborhood along division I can assure you that the current situation with kids walking along the road is unsafe. Please make this a part of the project.

Thank you. We recognize the value of providing safe, walkable routes to school.

How is the sidewalk going to fit in with all the rain gardens along the West side of Division? The residents were assessed for them and do their upkeep. Thanks

The sidewalks have not yet been designed. The design work will be reviewed by the Rice Creek Watershed District to look at rainwater retention holistically on the site.