

# BOND UPDATE #59

05.08.20

Here's what's been going on this week:

1. Biologists will be on the high school site during the week of May 11 flagging the edge of Schell Ditch that runs along the eastern edge of campus. The ditch, although manmade, is considered a non-fish-bearing stream that requires 25-foot buffers. Once we have located the actual edge of the ditch, we can determine the 25-foot setback areas. Since some portions of the new building may extend into the buffer, we will need to make other parts of the buffer wider -- a technique is called "buffer averaging."
2. The District has committed to making a decision about whether to use GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) technology in the new high school by the middle of this month. (GPON is network that uses fiber rather than traditional copper wiring) As part of our investigation, we have been interviewing other school districts who have recently installed GPON systems into new buildings. Our hope is that GPON may be more economical and allow for greater technological flexibility for the long-term. In addition, any space saved by not requiring IDF rooms (locations for the racks that are needed to manage and connect telecommunications cable) will be able to be used for educational programs and/or shared learning spaces.
3. We have a meeting this week (May 8) with our traffic consultants, Transpo Group, and City of Ferndale staff to discuss the extent of the traffic study we will be required to conduct. Since the entrance and exit points for the new school will remain unchanged, and since we do not anticipate an increase in the number of vehicle trips generated by the new school, we expect only a Level 1 Traffic Study (the minimum) will be required.
4. We are continuing to work through test fits for different spaces and programs. During the test fit process, we assess the program needs against the square footage we have allocated to make sure all of the necessary components will fit within the space. For instance, we have a target number of students we want to be able to eat in the commons/cafeteria at one time. To make sure we can achieve that target and still have enough circulation space, the architects create diagrams to show how the furniture and equipment will be arranged in the space. We expect our test fit efforts will continue through June.
5. With the help of our consultants, we are currently navigating the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) determination process, which will require that we prepare complete environmental reports. As indicated above, our current work is focused on traffic and buffers.

6. One way we believe we can save money on the new high school is by using a Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) for our Gymnasium and CTE buildings. We are currently preparing a package for early procurement in an effort to find a partner who can work with us to integrate the design of a custom PEMB structure that will maximize the value and efficiency of the project.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments about any of this.

Linda