



**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**
PACKET
MARCH 21, 2022
07:30 PM

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA*

(AGENDA SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW)

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER

6:00 p.m., Staples High School, Room 1025c

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pending Litigation

RESUME PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7:30 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (15 MINUTES)

MINUTES

March 7, 2022

Attachment: [Meeting_March 7_2022_Staples High School.pdf](#)

DISCUSSION

A. Teaching and Learning: SHS Personal Finance Education

Ms. Sarah White
Mr. Lenny Klein
Ms. Stacey Delmhorst

Attachment: [BOE Presentation.pdf](#)

B. LLS Facilities Update

Mr. Elio Longo

Attachment: [LLS Holistic Recommendation Criteria March 17 2022.pdf](#)

DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. ARPA Funds - Middle School Outdoor Exercise Circuit/Sitting Areas

Dr. Anthony Buono
Ms. Christine Wanner
Dr. Adam Rosen
Ms. Kris Szabo

Attachment: [CMS_BMS ARPA Fund Presentation to BOE on 3_21_2022.pdf](#)

B. PAL Clubhouse

Attachment: [SES Campus.pdf](#)

C. Town Paving of BMS Property

Attachment: [BOE FF Committee Meeting Memo March 18_2022.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Summer 2022 proposed paving - schools.pdf](#)

ADJOURNMENT

*A 2/3 vote is required to go to executive session, to add a topic to the agenda of a regular meeting, or to start a new topic after 10:30 p.m.

The meeting can also be viewed on Cablevision on channel 78; Frontier channel 6021 and by video stream @www.westportps.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WELCOME USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- Comment on non-agenda topics will occur during the first 15 minutes except when staff or guest presentations are scheduled.
- Board will not engage in dialogue on non-agenda items.
- Public may speak as agenda topics come up for discussion or information.
- Speakers on non-agenda items are limited to 2 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers on agenda items are limited to 3 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers must give name and address, and use microphone.
- Per Board policy, speakers must be town residents or employees
- Responses to questions may be deferred if answers not immediately available.
- Public comment is normally not invited for topics listed for action after having been publicly discussed at one or more meetings.

General Attachments

[- BOE Meeting Memo March 21_2022.pdf](#)

**WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

THOMAS SCARICE
Superintendent of Schools

110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880
Telephone: (203) 341-1025
Fax: (203) 341-1029
tscarice@westportps.org

To: Westport Board of Education Members
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Re: March 21, 2022 Board of Education Meeting
Date: March 18, 2022

Provided below for Board consideration is an overview of the meeting agenda items for March 21, 2022. The meeting will be held in-person.

Discussion**1. Teaching and Learning: SHS Personal Finance Education**

Staples High School initiated a critically important Personal Finance course in 2010. Staples High School faculty members, Ms. Sarah White, Mr. Lenny Klein, and Ms. Stacey Delmhorst, will provide the Board with an overview of the program, academic content taught, recognitions the program has received, personal finance instruction in the digital age, and the upcoming "Financial Reality Fair".

2. LLS Facilities Update

As the Board considers a long-term solution for the Long Lots Elementary School facility, a decision point is approaching. The Board committed to making a recommendation on the future of the Long Lots school facility sometime this spring. A comprehensive report on the condition of the facility was provided in January and the Board must consider a full renovation of the building, or a new construction of Long Lots School on the current Long Lots campus. It is not recommended to pursue a piecemeal "project by project" replacement of systems.

As a result, the Finance and Facilities Committee was presented with criteria to consider in making the decision to recommend a full renovation, or build a new school. This list of criteria is included in the Board meeting packet, along with state form, SCG-3520, "Renovate as New" status, which provides a clear checklist to guide the Board's determination of whether or not Long Lots is a candidate for full renovation.

It is recommended that the Board consider the following criteria to determine whether or not Long Lots is a better candidate for renovation or new construction:

- Hazardous Materials Abatement
- Test Fit of Campus
- Statutory Requirements for Renovation Status (see attached state form, SCG-3520, "Renovation Status Checklist")
- Space Standards Requirements/Enrollment
- Instructional Model

The administrative team has engaged three architectural firms to begin discussions about two studies that will inform the Board's recommendation. The first is a "test fit", which will determine the viability of building a new school on the Long Lots existing campus. The second is an architectural walkthrough, which will determine the feasibility of a "renovate as new" project using the criteria in state form, SCG-3520, "Renovation Status Checklist". These two studies, packaged together following the securing of three written proposals, should take an estimated 4-6 weeks to complete. This timeline could bring the Board's final consideration for a recommendation on the future of Long Lots school facility to sometime in early May.

Discussion/Action**1. ARPA Funds - Middle School Outdoor Exercise Circuit/Sitting Areas**

This item is a follow up from prior Board discussions. The town has been granted \$8.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. ARPA provides \$350 billion nationally in funding for state and local governments.

Following a presentation to the Board of Finance by the prior First Selectman in the fall of 2021, the Board of Finance asked the Board of Education for input regarding the possible use of a portion of these town funds for our schools. The Board of Education did not initiate actions to access these funds. The Board of Education has already received Covid relief

funds which were included in the offset of the 2021-2022 operating budget. The ARPA funds are municipal funds, yet the Board of Finance has requested the Board of Education's input for possible use in our schools.

In response to the Board of Finance request to the Board of Education, the administrative team researched possible uses and cost estimates. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Anthony Buono, has worked with members of the administrative team, to identify the previously approved high/low ropes course for Staples High School. Dr. Buono, along with Coleytown Middle School Principal, Kris Szabo, Bedford Middle School Principal, Adam Rosen, and K-12 Health/P.E. Curriculum Coordinator, Christine Wanner, will present the middle school proposal.

The proposal for both middle schools is for the installation of age appropriate FitCore Extreme Playground equipment, in addition to benches for outdoor seating. The attached slide deck includes sample pictures of the FitCore system, along with outdoor seating. The total amount of this project is \$439,000.

2. PAL Clubhouse

The DoubleDay Field House is a structure that currently sits on existing Board of Education Property adjacent to the Saugatuck Elementary School complex. A long-term lease of the property has expired and been extended through Jun 30, 2022. The administrative team recommends that the Board relinquishes control of the clubhouse property and rededicates the property back to the Town of Westport for municipal use, effective July 1, 2022. This facility does not serve an educational purpose, nor it is expected to serve an educational purpose anytime in the future.

This issue has been before the Board, and the Finance and Facilities Committee, multiple times over the past year and the administrative team's recommendation remains the same. If the Board takes action Monday evening, the PAL organization can continue with its upkeep and maintenance plan to ensure that the facility continues to serve Westport youth for the foreseeable future.

3. Town Paving of BMS Property

Paving projects have been collaboratively designed and implemented through a joint effort between the town and schools. The next phase of planned paving includes parking lot repaving, curbing and sidewalk improvements at Bedford Middle School and Staples High School. Westport Director of Public Works, Peter Ratkiewicz, has requested that the Board approve a request to the Board of Finance and the Representative Town Meeting funding in the net amount of \$852,00, which is the difference between the total estimate cost in the amount of \$1,359,507, and the unexpended remaining balance of balance of \$507,507.

Meeting: March 7, 2022

Staples High School

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Members Present:

Lee Goldstein Chair
Liz Heyer Vice Chair
Neil Phillips Secretary
Christina Torres
Dorrie Hordon
Robert Harrington
Kevin Christie

Administrators Present:

Anthony Buono Asst. Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Michael Rizzo Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Personnel Services
Elio Longo Chief Financial Officer
John Bayers Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources and
 General Admin.

Absent: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:08 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES: Neil Phillips moved to approve the minutes of February 7 and 28, 2022; seconded by Kevin Christie and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Effective School Solutions

Board of Education Communication

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Award of Bid 022-006-BOE CES Relocatable Classrooms

Be it resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education awards RFP #022-006-BOE CES Relocatable Classrooms to respondent Aries Building Systems, LLC., for the RFP scope of services based on a 48 month lease term with monthly payments of \$2,847.00, and a lump sum of \$12,000 at the end of the lease term for unit removal and site repairs, with said award totaling \$148,656, subject to the respective approvals of Westport Planning & Zoning, Westport Zoning Board of Appeals, and both the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting for the award of said RFP to Aries Building Systems, LLC., and Town of Westport full funding of the total award amount.

MOTION: Liz Heyer
SECOND: Kevin Christie
RESULT: Passed unanimously
VOTE: 7-0

ADJOURNMENT: Liz Heyer moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.; seconded by Dorie Hordon and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Phillips, Secretary
(Minutes written by Jennifer Caputo)



Personal Finance Education

Staples High School

Background

- Teacher initiated
- Approved by BOE in 2009
- Six sections offered Fall 2010

Topics Covered

- Budgeting
- Gross Pay
- Net Pay and Deductions
- Banking and Saving
- Borrowing and Credit
- Credit Cards
- Insurance
- Investing

Through the Years

- Currently three teachers
- 12 sections
- Regularly updated
- Professional Development with Next Generation
Personal Finance

We Don't Want to Brag But...

- Gold Star teachers
- Blue Star School
- 100 Best High Schools Teaching Personal Finance
- Student & Parent Feedback

Financial Decision Making in the Digital Age

- For students who wanted MORE...
 - Investing
 - Insurance
- Ever-evolving based on student interests
 - Psychology of Money
 - Cryptocurrency
- Next Generation Personal Finance
 - Grants (Books, NearPod)

Financial Reality Fair

- Invest in Yourself senior event
- Real world budgeting simulation
- Individual meetings with financial counselors
- Partnership between Staples & Credit Union
League of CT with help from the PTA

Financial Reality Fair



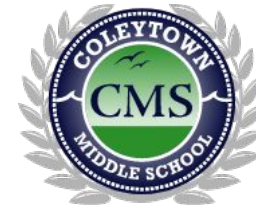
Student Feedback

LONG LOTS SCHOOL HOLISTIC RECOMMENDATION CRITERIA
(*necessary consideration for recommendation)

| | RENOVATE | NEW CONSTRUCTION) |
|--|--|---|
| Displacement of Students | Highly impactful Entire duration of project Swing space may be needed Portables may be needed | n/a Some site impact during construction (ie., playgrounds, pickup/drops) |
| *Hazardous Materials Abatement | Impacts schedule duration (i.e. could prolong the renovation timeline) Environmental impact and perception | No impact to students |
| Timeline (Construction only) | Additional 6-12 months beyond new construction, provided no complications Total 24 - 36 months | Total 18 - 24 months |
| Est. cost per sq. ft. | tbd | tbd |
| *Test Fit of Campus | n/a | Required Will take 4-6 weeks Architecture firms already contacted In conjunction with "Renovation Status Checklist/Architect Walkthrough" (See below under "Studies/Inquiries") |
| *Statutory Requirements for Renovation Status (see attached "Renovation Status Checklist") | Required Will take 4-6 weeks Architecture firms already contacted In conjunction with Test Fit (see below under "Studies/Inquiries") CGS 10-282 Architect walkthrough of "renovation status checklist" to determine if possible to qualify for renovation | n/a |
| *Space Standards Requirements/Enrollment | 8 year enrollment calculation Does existing building exceed 8 yr enrollment calculation? | "Right size" Add SSP to building |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Does adding SSP "right size"? | |
| Geotechnical Testing/Borings | n/a | Required Could impact total budget with site costs Given that a school currently sits on the property, it is expected this will not be cost prohibitive |
| Wetlands/Drainage | n/a | Required Could impact total budget with site costs |
| Traffic Study/Traffic Flow | n/a | Evaluate traffic flow levels with new construction Useful with new construction plans |
| *Instructional Model | Highly impactful within existing footprint | Can right size classrooms and instructional spaces |
| OSCGR Reimbursement Rates | 11% of eligible costs | 21% of eligible costs |
| Educational Specifications ("Ed Specs") | Required for grant application but not for BOE renovation/replace decision | Required for grant application but not for BOE renovation/replace decision |
| ZBA/P&Z | Minimal to no impact (possible portables requiring zoning considerations) | Construction based on zoning regulations |
| Stepping Stones Preschool | Repurpose existing space to include 18k square feet including building "core factor" (13,800 square feet without core factor) | Constructed to include 18k square feet including building "core factor" (13,800 square feet without core factor) |
| Transition years (CES) | Will not provide swing space for future CES project | Potential to provide swing space for future CES project |
| | | |
| Studies and Inquiries: | | |
| Study - "Test fit" | n/a | required |
| Test fit timeline | n/a | 4-6 weeks |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Test fit estimated cost | n/a | \$10 - \$15K |
| Mandatory for decision? | n/a | Yes |
| | | |
| Study - "Architect walkthrough" | Recommended | n/a |
| Architect wt timeline | 4-6 weeks | n/a |
| Architect wt est. cost | \$10 - \$15K (included the test fit for new construction) | n/a |
| Mandatory for decision? | Recommended but not required | not required |
| | | |



CMS/BMS ARPA Fund Presentation to the Westport Board of Education

Monday, March 21, 2022

1

The FitCore Extreme Playground is an innovative obstacle course that has benefits for people from teens to adults.

- Social and emotional benefits:
 - Physical exercise benefits emotional well being
 - Playing and interacting with others during physical exercise
- Physical Benefits:
 - Personal fitness
 - Personal challenge

CMS/BMS ARPA PROPOSAL: FitCore Extreme Playground



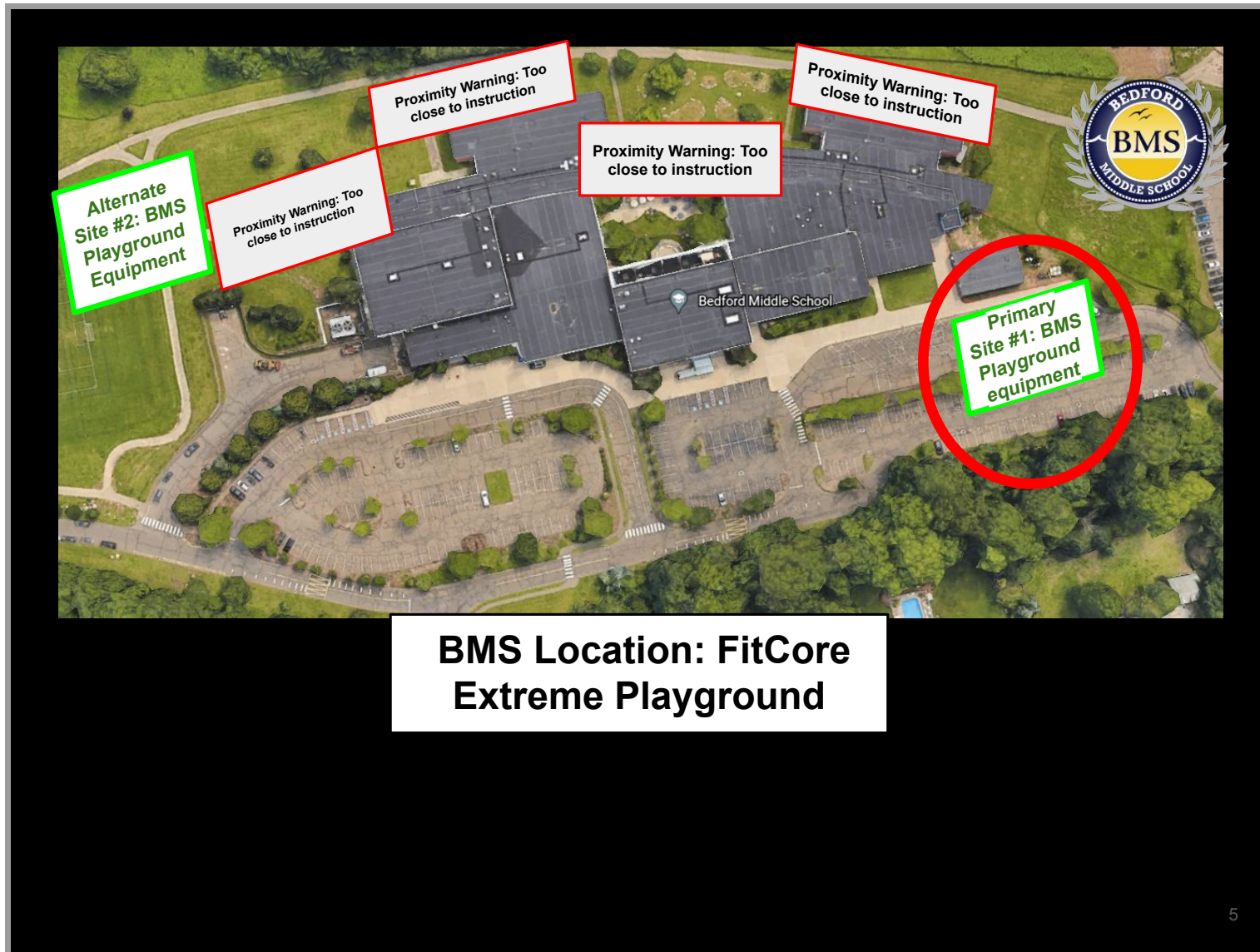
[FitCore Extreme
Playground
\(company link\)](#)





FitCore Extreme Playground Options & Customizations







CMS LOCATIONS for FITCOREon PLAYGROUND





Outdoor seating for socializing

Shaded seating for outdoor socializing





PROJECT BUDGET: BMS

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Fitcore Equipment and Benches | \$127,000 |
| Surfacing (Playground Mulch) | \$ 10,000 |
| Site Work and Installation | \$ 75,000 |
| Fencing | \$ 10,000 |
| Total: | \$222,000 |



PROJECT BUDGET: CMS


| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Fitcore Equipment and Tables | \$132,000 |
| Surfacing (Playground Mulch) | \$ 10,000 |
| Site Work and Installation | \$ 75,000 |
| Total: | \$217,000 |

Questions?



SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS



 Highlighted area proposed to include in the lease



SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS



 Highlighted area proposed to include in the lease



SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS



 Highlighted area proposed to include in the lease

**WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS****THOMAS SCARICE**
*Superintendent of Schools*110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880
Telephone: (203) 341-1025
Fax: (203) 341-1029
tscarice@westportps.org

To: Westport Board of Education Finance and Facilities Committee Members
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Re: March 18, 2022 Board of Education Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
Date: March 17, 2022

Attached is a summary spreadsheet of proposed paving work by Peter Ratkiewich, Director of Public Works, at Bedford Middle School and Staples High School for the summer of 2022. Pete proposes that this work start as soon as school begins summer recess. The paved areas are the ones that Pete prioritized with Director of Facilities, Ted Hunyadi, last month. The proposal is to finish the Bedford Middle School parking areas and access roads, including the loading dock, then continue paving southward into Staples High School, including the pool lot and the north access road and parking areas southward to the field house entrance at the corner. The Total estimate for this including adjacent sidewalks and curbs and re-striping will total \$1,359,472. Subtracting the remaining 2021 Appropriation of \$507,507, this results in a total 2022 request of \$851,965. For purposes of the request the amount is rounded to **\$852,000**.

Pete would like to put this request on the April 6 Board of Finance Agenda. He requested that this item be included as an action item on the March 21, Board of Education Agenda. An initial review by the Finance and Facilities Committee is requested for the March 18 meeting.

Pete projects that the remainder of the Staples parking areas and access roads will be completed in 2023. The plan is to then complete the Long Lots Elementary School parking area, followed by the combined Saugatuck Elementary and Kings Highway Elementary complex. The Long Lots parking area will be revisited based on the Board of Education's recommendation for a long-term solution to the school. Once these projects are completed, the only remaining asphalt project will be Coleytown Middle School. Currently, the CMS parking lot is in relatively good condition according to Pete.

Thank you,
Thomas Scarice
Superintendent of Schools

Town/BOE Collaboration on Paving Projects
Summer 2022 Proposed Paving Program - Schools

Bedford Middle School

| Location | Area/Sq. Ft. | BIT Curbing/lf | Sidewalk/SF @5' |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Loading Zone Driveway | 16,384 | 545 | 1,000 |
| Front Parking Lot & Dropoff | 57,725 | 2,368 | 650 |
| Mid Parking Lot | 19,425 | 587 | 0 |
| Remaining Main Entrance Driveway | 5,702 | 387 | 0 |
| South Parking Lot | 52,732 | 1,674 | 1460 |
| Total | 151,968 | 5,561 | 3,110 |

Staples High School

| Location | Area/Sq. Ft. | BIT Curbing/lf | Sidewalk/SF @5' |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Pool Parking Lot | 37,560 | 1,529 | 105 |
| Main North Corridor Driveway | 51,838 | 1,110 | 650 |
| Total | 89,398 | 2,639 | 755 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Combined | 241,366 | 8,200 | 3,865 |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|

Cost estimate:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Total paving cost incl/curb, sidewalk reconstruction | \$988,707 |
| Striping est @ 15% | \$148,306 |
| Traffic Control est @10% | \$98,871 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$1,235,883 |
| Contingency 10% | \$123,588 |
| Grand Total | \$1,359,472 |
| Less remaining 2021 Appropriation | (\$507,507) |
| 2022 Appropriation request | \$851,965 |
| | Req. \$852,000 |