



ADDENDUM to Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS)

Puyallup School District Firgrove Elementary Replacement Capital Project #01-02-16

Proposal: The replacement of Firgrove Elementary school with a new 85,000 square foot, two-story elementary school in the southwest corner of the District's property shared between Firgrove Elementary and Ballou Junior High, a combined 40-acre site (includes Pierce County tax parcels 0419164005 and 0419164008). The site has frontage on Meridian Avenue East (SR-161) and 136th Street East. The new school will accommodate approximately 730 students and will include new commons/cafeteria, gymnasium, and library. The former Firgrove Elementary buildings may be deemed surplus to district needs and raised as soon as the 2020-21 school year, subject to school board approval.

Location: Firgrove Elementary
13918 Meridian Avenue East
Puyallup, WA 98373

Proponent: Puyallup School District #3

Title of Document being Modified: Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance for Puyallup School District Capital Project #01-02-16 – Firgrove Elementary Replacement.

Description of Document being Modified: A Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance ("MDNS") was issued on September 6, 2017 for the Firgrove Elementary Replacement project. Following the issuance of the MDNS, the applicant's traffic consultant, Heath & Associates, Inc. observed traffic associated with the new Firgrove Elementary and coordinated with the Washington State Department of Transportation ("WSDOT") staff regarding Mitigating Condition #3. After conferring with WSDOT staff, Heath & Associates has recommended removing Condition #3 from the MDNS.

The revisions to the MDNS are as follows:

Mitigation Conditions:

1. During peak school hours, exiting traffic onto Meridian Avenue East will be limited to right turns only.
2. Implement an offset bell schedule during the 2019-20 school year while Pope Elementary occupies the existing Firgrove facility and Firgrove Elementary occupies the proposed Firgrove replacement building.
3. ~~Design and construct a southbound right turn pocket or right turn taper in accordance with WSDOT standards at the northerly inbound entrance on Meridian Avenue East to allow efficient ingress while quickly removing decelerating right turn vehicles from the through lane of travel. The applicant shall coordinate with WSDOT staff on the design and phasing of said improvement.~~
4. Repair or replace damaged fencing along the perimeter of the existing Native Growth Protection Area established under Pierce County Wetland Application Number 401415, for said fence within 300 feet of the construction area for this project. New critical area signs shall be posted at 50 foot intervals attached to the fence.

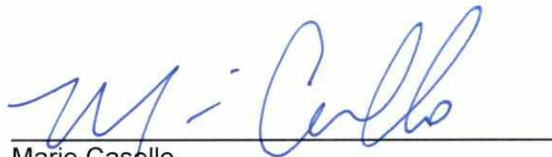
The Responsible Official has concluded that the Proposal, as conditioned by the MDNS together with modifications via this Addendum, does not have a probable, significant adverse impact on the environment and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2) (c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and comments on file with the Puyallup School District together with the MDNS as amended by this Addendum. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period to the Addendum to MDNS.

Responsible Official: Mario Casello, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Lead Agency: Puyallup School District #3
Operations Department
302 2nd St SE
Puyallup, WA. 98372

District Contact: Brian Devereux
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Signature:



Mario Casello
Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Responsible Official

Date: February 18, 2021



December 15, 2020

Mr. Les Gerstmann
Puyallup School District
302 2nd Street SE
Puyallup, WA 98372

Subject: Firgrove Elementary School Access – Modification to the MDNS

This letter is to provide traffic support for the revised recommendation to the proposed new access to Meridian Avenue E. As stated in the traffic impact analysis dated March 9, 2017 the following mitigation was proposed as item number 4. This mitigation was also adopted as part of the MDNS issued by the district for the project.

4. Design a southbound right-turn pocket or right-turn taper in accordance with WSDOT standards at the northerly inbound entrance on Meridian Avenue East to allow efficient ingress while quickly removing decelerating right-turn vehicles from the through lane of travel. A recommended taper or pocket length per WSDOT would be 100 linear feet based on the 35-mph posted speed limit found on Meridian Avenue East.

The school district is currently pursuing the final access to the site and, given the above condition, contact was made with WSDOT regarding implementation of the design. After review and discussion with staff from WSDOT, it was indicated by Dale Severson of WSDOT that a right turn taper or right turn lane would not be the best treatment for this location given possible conflicts with the number and type of pedestrians expected along this corridor.

Based on that discussion, I am recommending that the right turn taper not be constructed due to inherent conflicts with pedestrians using the Meridian Avenue sidewalk created by the change in access configuration. The construction of the taper could create a geometric issue with pedestrians and turning movements into the site.

Based on these conflict issues noted in discussion with WSDOT, it is recommended that the mitigation measure be removed from the MDNS. No change in the results of the traffic impact analysis results with its removal.

Please call if you require anything further.

Sincerely,

Gregory B. Heath, P.E., PTOE