



DURHAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Northern High School Construction Frequently Asked Questions

Construction

- **How much construction will take place in Old Farm due to the traffic coming through the neighborhood?**
 - Construction is limited to the site of the new school.
- **A representative who responded to my initial letter stated that construction will be permitted to take place from 7am - 8pm. Is this for Monday through Friday or will construction take place on the weekends as well? Is there any recourse to communicate with the contractors or planners to reduce the hours that construction is permitted?**
 - Construction times will be limited to the permitted hours by the City of Durham and Durham County.

Health and Safety

- **There are no sidewalks in Old Farm which is hazardous to those who walk for exercise, etc. What were your considerations and conclusions relative to the accompanying foot traffic to and through the Old Farm Neighborhood?**
 - If there are ways through our conversations with the City of Durham and state that we can advocate for improvements such as sidewalks, we will do so.
- **Did you consider the impact on the residents of JFK Towers as well as the sick, handicapped seniors in JFK Towers and Old Farm?**
 - Impacts were determined and considered as a part of the zoning and building codes and other permitting requirements.
- **Were adverse health and medical assessments done in considering the impact on the neighborhood residents?**
 - The Northern High School facility fully complies with city and state guidelines on the use of the site. We are committed to continuing and extending the conversation with our surrounding communities to ensure that we are good neighbors.

Transportation

- **DPS Policy Code: 6400 School Bus Transportation reads, "School buses shall be routed on a state or city-maintained main or primary roads and NOT onto side roads OR into a housing development." This policy was adopted effective Jan. 25, 1995 and remains a current policy. How can DPS justify routing school buses through the Old Farm neighborhood, opening access for student drivers and other traffic through the Old Farm neighborhood/housing development?**
 - DPS Policy Code 6400 referencing transportation is now Policy Code 6300 and was updated October 22, 2020. The policy was updated to reflect the consolidation of school bus stops and to align with DPS's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan states: Goal 5E: By 2023, DPS will increase school bus transportation efficiency by having a Transportation Efficiency Rating of 95.8 percent. To achieve this, buses shall be routed in a way that some areas will be serviced at the entrance or at a predetermined location within the community. DPS adheres to all Federal, State, local and district guidelines regarding transportation of students.

- **Old Farm on Seven Oaks Road presently has traffic humps which are designed to reduce speed. Will the street be widened, or will it remain the same? If you are looking to bring traffic down Seven Oaks and Old Well does that mean you will widen the streets in Old Farm?**
 - Street enhancements such as widening fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Durham or state Department of Transportation. We are committed to working with our partners to find solutions to traffic concerns.

- **What prevents DPS from routing the buses down Denfield to the Denfield/Roxboro Road intersection where there is a traffic light that allows traffic to turn left or right, or continue a block ahead to the traffic light at the intersection at Duke Street?**
 - The land parcel on which the new Northern High School sits does not have access or connection to Denfield. The City of Durham and MPO Project, "Hebron Road Extension", would provide a connection to Denfield, which DPS could then utilize.

- **The Old Well cut-through is the problem. Was there any thought about cutting a road out onto Denfield Street?**
 - Street enhancements such as road extensions fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Durham or state Department of Transportation. We are committed to working with our partners to find solutions to traffic concerns.

- **The traffic considerations are larger than the impact of buses from a development standpoint. Have you considered traffic impacts contributed by the development?**
 - We anticipate that major roadways adjacent to the new school will be able to accommodate school traffic, especially if the city and state are able to

commit to improvements such as crosswalks and the Hebron Road extension. We have not created traffic patterns that should materially increase student or staff traffic through the Old Farm neighborhood.

- **Is DPS expecting the Hebron Road extension to be started by the time the new Northern opens?**
 - At this time, a completion date for the Hebron Road extension has not been communicated. We are closely working with our partners at the city and state to advance conversations regarding this work. DPS does not have jurisdiction over roads, even those that occupy schools. Those are governed by the City of Durham and the state.
- **We have a problem getting out of Old Farm. Several years ago, we asked for a traffic light at Rippling Stream Road. Why can't you turn into the school without coming into Old Farms?**
 - Per NCDOT's Municipal School Technical Assistance program (MSTA), the key safety factor for school travel is separating travel modes - specifically passenger vehicles and school buses. Currently, NCDOT has only provided one full traffic signal into and out of the NHS site.

Athletic Facilities

- **The October 2019 rendering shows the football stadium at the rear of the site. The most recent plans show the stadium within 500 feet of residential properties. Why can't the stadium remain at the rear of the property, where noise and light pollution will be less of a concern?**
 - After collaboration with consultants and authorities, the location was determined to be appropriately sited. The stadium is designed to reduce the amount of light and noise pollution by its placement on the site. The stadium sits in a bowl or crest which enables us to mitigate the potential of excessive noise and light pollution during competitions. The lighting of the stadium is designed with shields that aid in directing the light source at the playing areas. We have also met the applicable requirements by the City of Durham and Durham County. No activities will take place after permitted ordinance times.
- **If the previous campus is being maintained for overflow, why not locate the stadium there - given traffic concerns and the residential nature of the neighborhood?**
 - The current Northern High School site does not provide enough acreage to support the amenities needed for a comprehensive, modern high school campus. Additionally, Northern High School is currently the only school with a football program without onsite athletic facilities in Durham County. Locating the stadium on the same site addresses that equity issue.

General

- **What will you do with the existing school once it has been vacated?**

- Plans have not been finalized for the current Northern High School site for when the new school has been completed. We have other schools with significant renovation needs and it is possible that the old school may spend its final years as a temporary facility for students and teachers during renovation projects.
- **You've talked about the finished design, but not about the design principles related to complement the existing environment and residences. Could you address how the design principles respect the existing neighborhoods?**
 - The Northern High School facility will be state-of-the-art and fully equipped for 21st century teaching and learning. While the building will appear modern, we are respecting the natural environment.
- **What are the next steps?**
 - DPS is committed to the success of the new Northern High School, not just for students, but also for the neighborhoods that surround it. We will continue to advocate for solutions. DPS has created an online portal, ENGAGE.dpsnc.net, for future engagement with neighbors. We will post construction updates along with other important details regarding the project. Here, you will also be able to continue to ask questions. DPS will also work closely with HOA leadership to identify representatives from the neighborhoods who may join us for meetings when appropriate regarding this project.