

Date February 11, 2022
To Weston Zoning Board of Appeals
From Thomas C. Houston, PE, AICP
Project Proposed Residential Development, 518 and 540 South Avenue
Weston, MA, Middlesex County
Subject Onsite School Bus Stop

Comment 64.e in our January 12, 2022 peer review memorandum addresses requirements to provide for safe school bus loading and unloading while accommodating persons waiting in vehicles for the school bus.

Our comment also sought clarification of whether a school bus stop would be located onsite. This has been clarified as the Weston School Committee, requests that the Board require that the “Applicant will not prohibit the entry of school buses for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers from the property,” but will “provide a dedicated off-street paved surface ... intended for the safe loading and unloading of passengers from a full-sized school bus.”

A potential alternative is to locate both the school bus loading space and a live parking lane on the outbound side of the main access drive adjacent to the sidewalk with the sidewalk providing a protected route for children to walk between the waiting vehicles and the school bus. The school bus loading space should be located at the head of the live parking lane giving the school bus priority to exit the site without being delayed by other queued vehicles waiting to exit onto South Avenue. An onsite turnaround should be provided on the site access drive prior to South Avenue to accommodate drivers returning to their residences. Vanasse & Associates (VAi) should estimate the required number of live parking spaces based on an analysis of a demographic profile of future residents. This alternative can accommodate approximately 6 to 8 vehicles; however, this may not be sufficient to satisfy the demand.



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Waiting vehicles must not be accommodated on the traveled way of the site access drive as this would force through vehicles to pass the waiting vehicles by driving in the opposing lane of traffic.

Other alternatives should be developed and evaluated provided that they accommodate the demand, provide a protected route for school children while boarding or existing, and do not interfere with onsite circulation.