



May 6, 2008

Mr. Paul A. Leonard
Township Manager
Upper Dublin Township
801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034



PRINCIPALS
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Thomas A. Hall

RE: Traffic Operations and Parking Plan
Upper Dublin High School
Upper Dublin Township, Montgomery County
McMahon Project No. 807241.12

Dear Mr. Leonard:

In response to comments presented by the Township’s Engineer and the Township’s Traffic Engineer, the following information and attachments are provided relative to traffic circulation and parking during the various construction phases of the new Upper Dublin High School.

The standard school day at Upper Dublin High School consists of seven class periods beginning with Homeroom at 7:28 AM and ending with 7th period at 2:20 PM. Most teachers and staff arrive prior to 7:00 AM while all students must be in school by 7:28 AM, whether by parking, arriving by school bus, or being dropped off by parents. Traffic counts conducted by McMahon Associates indicate that the morning arrival period of 7:00 to 7:30 AM is the highest traffic period of the day. Due to the variety of after-school activities, the afternoon traffic volumes associated with school at 2:20 PM are significantly reduced, by nearly 50 percent. The volume of pick-up and drop-off vehicles number less than 50 vehicles, and all 20 school buses are boarded and exit the school by 2:30 PM. Teachers and staff typically depart the school later in the afternoon after students have been dismissed.

The new High School will be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 will entail demolition of the western half of the school while classes are held in the eastern half. The duration of Phase 1 is scheduled for September 2008 to December 2010 (2½ years). Phase 2 entails demolition of the remaining eastern portion of the school, with classes held in the newly constructed western portion. The duration of Phase 2 is 1½ years, from January 2011 to August 2012, at which time construction will be completed and the new school will be fully open in September 2012. Starting September 2008, it is anticipated that Sparks Drive and its connection from Susquehanna Road through to Loch Alsh Avenue will be completed and available for use by school buses during Phase I construction and by all traffic during Phase 2 construction. It is also anticipated that the traffic signal for the intersection of Sparks Drive and Susquehanna Road will be in operation beginning September 2008.

The recommended traffic and parking operation plan for the two construction phases is as follows:

Construction Phase 1 – September 2008 to December 2010

Pick-up and Drop-off

For Phase 1, primary student pick-up and drop-off will be relocated from the current horseshoe driveway on Loch Alsh Avenue to the rear of the cafeteria, with access occurring from Fort Washington Avenue via the existing school driveway offset from Hawthorne Lane. It is recommended that approximately two-thirds of the student body be assigned to this location. It is recommended that the balance of student pick-up and drop-off, which presently occurs on the western side of the existing school, be relocated to the Township parking lot. The assignment of students to each location will be administered by High School officials. The proposed circulation pattern is depicted in Exhibit 1. Please note that use of the Township parking lot is required for the morning arrival period only. During the afternoon dismissal periods, due to reduced demand, all pick-up and drop-off will be directed to the rear of the cafeteria.

The resulting Phase 1 configuration will reduce the traffic volumes on Loch Alsh Avenue below current volumes and result in improved flow at the Loch Alsh Avenue/Fort Washington Avenue intersection for Phase 1 compared to existing conditions. However, the intersection of Fort Washington Avenue and Hawthorne Lane/High School access will experience higher delay, particularly during the morning peak hour due to added traffic. To mitigate this increased delay, and to improve the traffic flow for the High School access, it is recommended to restrict through traffic on Hawthorne Lane at Tressler Road during the time of 7:00 to 7:30 AM. Placement of these signs would be temporary and are required for Phases 1 only. The recommended locations of these signs are depicted in the attached Exhibit 2.

Parking

The high school currently provides approximately 521 parking spaces on site and on Loch Alsh Avenue, of which 54 are reserved for Transportation staff, leaving 467 for students and school staff. While Phase 1 construction will result in the loss of on-site parking spaces from behind the school and from Loch Alsh Avenue, these spaces will be replaced with construction of 234 temporary spaces below and connected to the Field of Dreams lot, resulting in 523 available off-street spaces for staff and students. In addition, the School District intends to lease 80 spaces from the nearby Church of the Open Door for assignment of student parking. The combined total results in 603 spaces available during Phase 1 construction. In addition, curbside parking on Loch Alsh Avenue would be available after school hours and for event parking. While extra spaces will be available during the day, the School District does not expect to increase the number of parking permits for students during construction and will, alternatively, be sending mailings to students encouraging bus ridership, ride-sharing, and walking.

School Bus Circulation

During Phase 1 construction, school bus staging will be relocated from the rear of the school to curbside on Loch Alsh Avenue. Buses will be directed to approach the school via Loch Alsh Avenue from the east, then pull alongside the curb in front of the school to load or unload the students. After loading or unloading, most buses will turn right onto the new connection of Sparks Drive to access Susquehanna Road, and continue their routes. Additionally, some buses will continue westward on Loch Alsh Avenue to continue their travel. The proposed school bus circulation and staging area for Phase 1 construction is noted in Exhibit 1.

Construction Phase 2 – September 2011 to June 2012

Pick-up and Drop-off

With the Phase 2 construction, the student pick-up and drop-off will be shifted to the two new locations: the front of the new school and to the western side of the new school. These circulation patterns are depicted in Exhibit 3. The main pick-up and drop-off area will occur on the western side of the new building. Parents will approach the drop-off area from either Loch Alsh Avenue or Susquehanna Road via Sparks Drive, and utilize the first school access at the back of the building. The students will then load or unload and the parents will continue, making a left-turn back to Sparks Drive where they can continue their trips in either direction. Secondary pick-up and drop-off will occur along the front of the new school building, at the new visitor entrance. Parents will be able to enter via Loch Alsh Avenue, at the entrance directly opposite the Township Public Works entrance. Traffic will then continue to the visitor entrance where the loading or unloading will occur. Vehicles will then continue to Sparks Drive to circulate to Loch Alsh Avenue or to Susquehanna Road. The assignment of the student body to each of these pick-up/drop-off locations will be administered by High School officials and will be based on approach patterns relative to student population orientation.

Parking

At the completion of Phase 1 construction, 261 newly built parking spaces will be available on site behind the new school. Access will be provided via Sparks Drive from Susquehanna Road and from Loch Alsh Avenue. In addition, the 231 temporary parking spaces below the Field of Dreams will remain available, and the 80 parking spaces leased from the Church of the Open Door will remain available. In total, 864 off-street parking spaces will be available during Phase 2 construction.

Mr. Paul Leonard

May 6, 2008

Page 4

School Bus Circulation

School bus staging and circulation for Phase 2 construction will occur at the ultimate project location behind the new school. Buses will access the staging area behind the school from Susquehanna Road or Loch Alsh Avenue via Sparks Drive. During the morning arrival period, buses will pull curbside adjacent to the building to unload students, then circulate back to Sparks Drive. During the afternoon dismissal, buses will park in the center area where students will board, then depart via Sparks Drive to Susquehanna Road or Loch Alsh Avenue.

Traffic Reduction Strategies

The School District will be pursuing methods to increase bus ridership during the construction period. As shown in an attached School District memo, mailings will be sent to the students emphasizing the challenges that will be experienced by both the students and parents if they choose not to ride the bus. Other information to be provided in the mailings is the location of designated pick-up and drop-off locations.

Additionally, the school will be encouraging student drivers to carpool, granting parking assignments first to those who designate shared parking with other eligible seniors. Furthermore, student parking assignments will be provided based on the direction students will be approaching the school, to minimize their impact on the Loch Alsh Avenue corridor. Students from Highland Avenue and south will be oriented predominantly to the Field of Dreams parking and the students from Susquehanna Road and north, parking at the Church of the open Door.

The District is continuing to evaluate all options to reduce peak hour traffic flows as much as possible, even considering allowing student drivers that have study hall during first period to miss that first period to allow them to approach school after the peak period.

Coordination/Contacts

Meetings have been held separately with Upper Dublin High School's facilities staff and with Upper Dublin Township Police to discuss the construction phasing recommendations and solicit comments, which have been incorporated. It is recommended that this communication be maintained between the Township Police and High School personnel to monitor the traffic flows at the start of the school year and make adjustments as necessary. Suggested adjustments include:

- Restrict exiting movements from the pick-up/drop-off area behind the cafeteria to right-turn exit only, if exiting onto Fort Washington Avenue becomes problematic.

Mr. Paul Leonard

May 6, 2008

Page 5

- Construct a temporary access from Fort Washington Avenue to the temporary parking lot below the Field of Dreams via the former Van Sant driveway if traffic flow on Loch Alsh Avenue becomes problematic.

Alternative measures such as these should not be implemented until a week to ten days after the start of school to allow parents and students to get accustomed to the new circulation patterns. At that time, a meeting will be scheduled between High School and Township officials to discuss the circulation patterns and whether additional measures are necessary.

The primary contacts for the High School regarding traffic and circulation issues are Mr. John Baker, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Barbara Stahler. Mr. Baker can be reached at 215-643-8900, ext 2201. The primary contacts for the Township Police are Chief Terrance Thompson, Deputy Chief James Kaniewski, Administration Division, and Deputy Chief Lee Benson, Patrol Division. Chief Thompson can be reached at 215-643-1600, ext. 3267.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or comments regarding the above traffic and parking operation plans for construction of the new Upper Dublin High School.

Sincerely,



Joseph DeSantis, P.E., PTOE
Executive Vice President

JD/lbk
Attachments

cc: Wade Coleman, Upper Dublin School District
Jeff Wert, Metz Engineering
Adrienne Eiss, Orth-Rodgers & Associates
Liz Rogan, Upper Dublin Township Planner
John Baker, Upper Dublin High School
Chief Terry Thompson, Upper Dublin Township Police Department

School District of Upper Dublin

MEMORANDUM

TO : District Files
FROM : Wade Coleman
SUBJECT : Parking, Circulation, and Sidewalks
DATE : April 15, 2008

Parking, Circulation, and Sidewalks

The District understands the importance of a safe and effective start and end of the day from a traffic and safety stand point. In order to maximize bus ridership, the District intends to send out two mailings, one at the end of the school year and one in the welcome packet at the beginning of the next school year. Both mailings will note the challenges which parents and students will encounter if they choose not to ride the bus or walk. The second mailing will include maps designating drop off and pick up locations. In addition, student parking assignments will be granted first to those students who designate shared parking with another eligible 12th grade student.

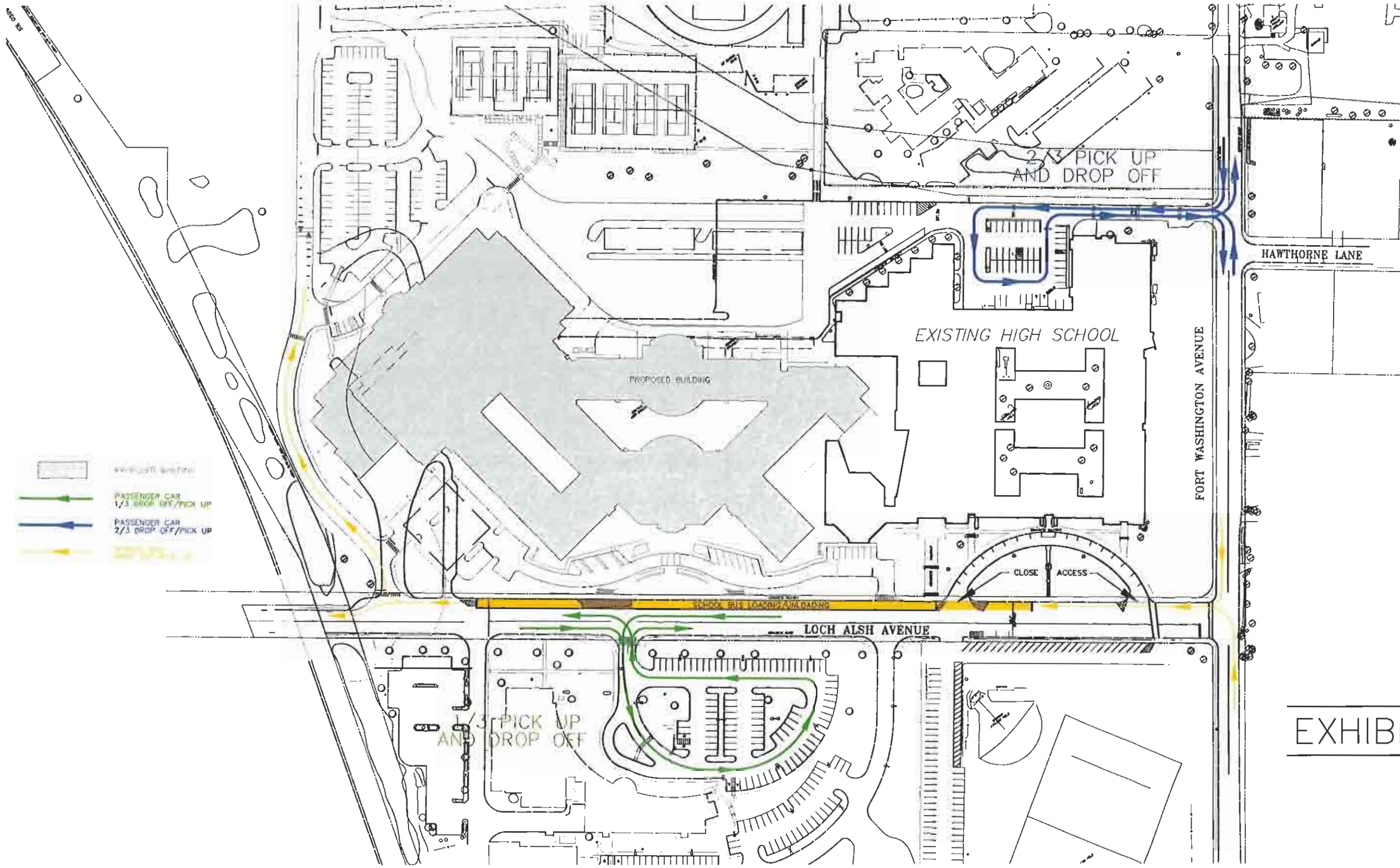
The District also intends to assign student parking based on the direction from which the students will be coming. Students from Highland and South will primarily be assigned to the Field of Dreams parking. As many students as possible from Susquehanna and North will be assigned to Church of the Open Door assuming our lease of their property is completed.

Since students leave school at staggered times between 1pm and 5pm, we recognize that it is the morning that will likely be more challenging. Therefore a concept that will be discussed and likely adopted is to allow those senior students who meet certain criteria and have study hall as a first period, not be required to arrive at school until just before second period. Although this is not a lot of students, every little bit helps to relieve the morning congestion.

Mr. John Baker, Assistant Principal of the High School will be the contact person in the event of parking and circulation issues at 215-643-8900, ext. 2201.

The District has reviewed several options for sidewalks and while adding sidewalks is not viewed as necessary, it might be viewed as an asset to the community.

DISTRICT	COUNTY	ROUTE	SECTION	SHEET	
6	MONTGOMERY	2022	-	1 OF 1	
UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP					
REVISIONS				DATE	BY



- PASSENGER CAR
1/3 DROP OFF/PICK UP
- PASSENGER CAR
2/3 DROP OFF/PICK UP
- SCHOOL BUS
LOADING/UNLOADING

EXHIBIT 1

DISTRICT	COUNTY	ROUTE	SECTION	SHEET
6	MONTGOMERY	2022	-	1 OF 1
UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP				
REVISED		DATE	BY	

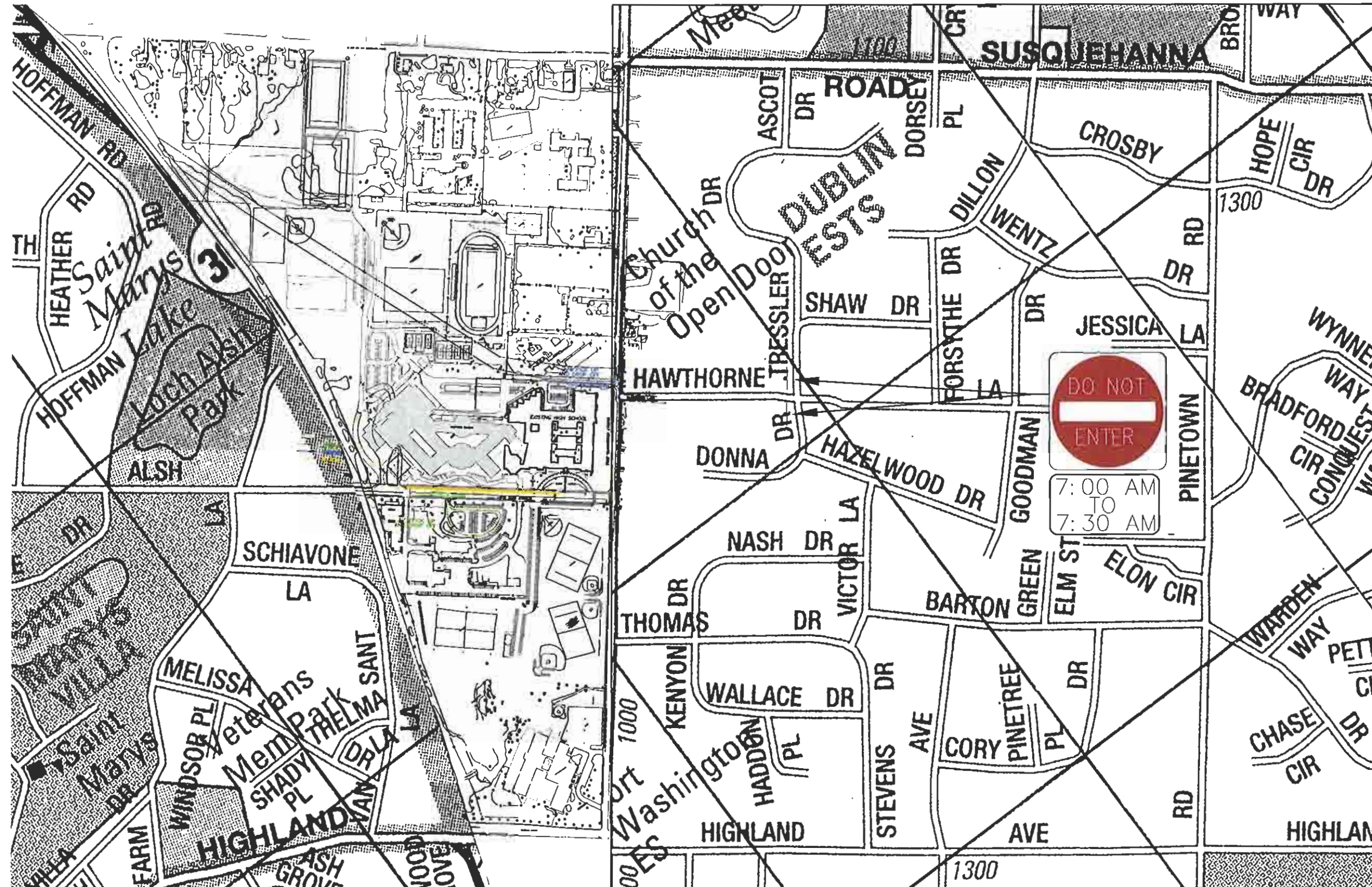


EXHIBIT 2

DISTRICT	COUNTY	ROUTE	SECTION	SHEET	
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UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP					
REVISIONS				DATE	BY

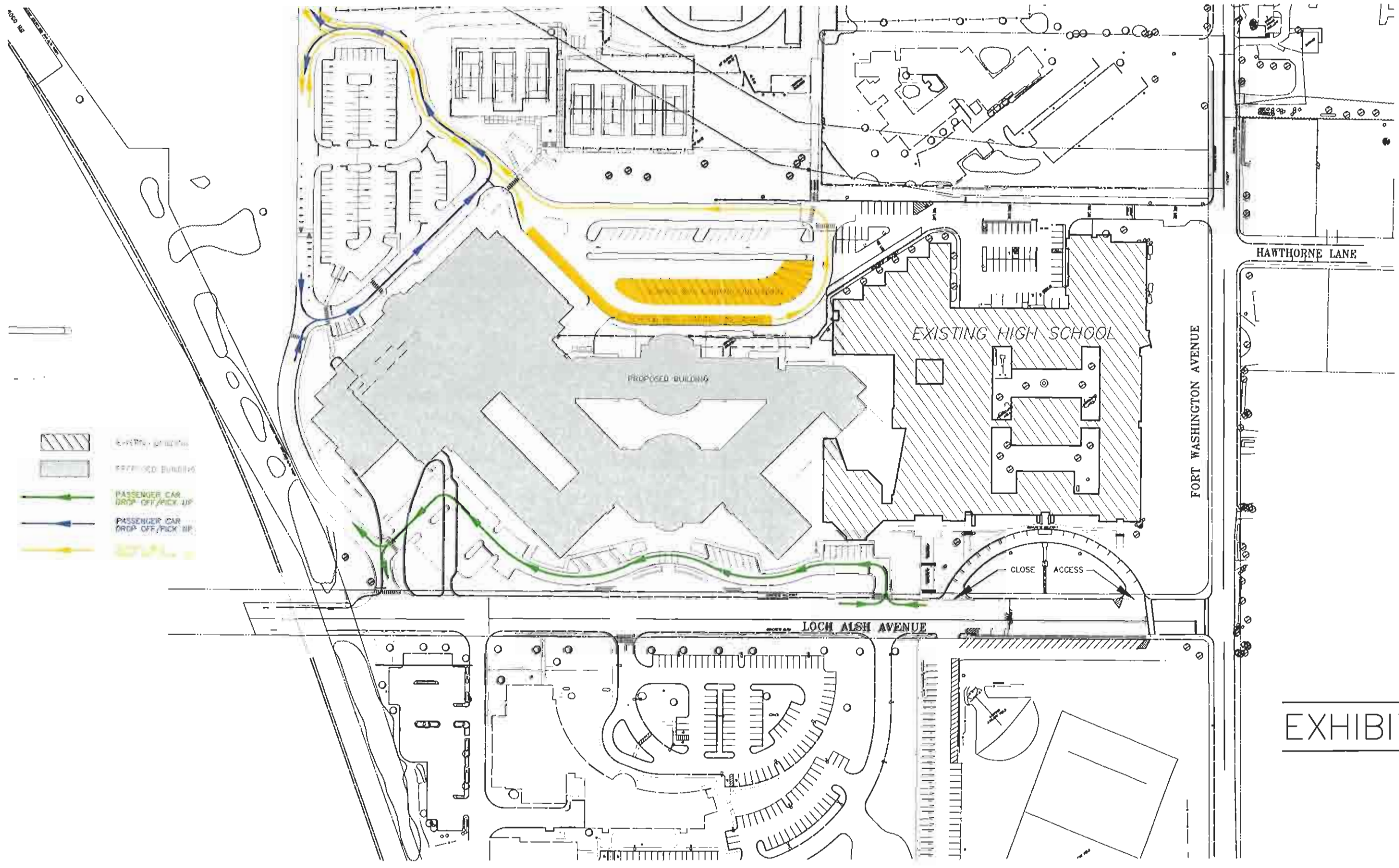


EXHIBIT 3