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TRI • COUNTY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
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MEMBER TOWNS:
Franklin, Medfield,
Medway, Millis, Norfolk,
North Attleboro, Plainville,
Seekonk, Sherborn, Walpole,
Wrentham

MEMORANDUM

Re: Tri-County Regional Vocational High School
SCI File # 52033.02
Site Plan Review Comments from June 3rd Planning Board Meeting

To: Mr. Gregory Rondeau, Chairman
Town of Franklin Planning Board
355 East Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

From: Dr. Karen Maguire, Tri-County RVT Superintendent, and, Brian Mushnick,
Tri-County RVT School Building Committee Chair, 147 Pond Street, Franklin,
MA.

In response to the request from the Franklin Planning Board for the Tri-County Project Team to include a traffic study we feel we would be remiss if we did not take a moment to explain the issues with this request. The Tri-County Regional School District and associated project are funded by tax dollars from the Town of Franklin along with the neighboring communities. It is important for the Board to understand that these same dollars would be used to fund the \$80,000.000 +/- traffic study. We feel that this is an unnecessary use of residential tax dollars and that the Board can better understand the traffic flow to and from Tri-County by the information contained in this response. To that end the Tri-County Administration and Project Team have compiled a response for the Boards verbal request to study traffic conditions and the impact Tri-County may have on the West Central Street and MA Route 140 intersection. To be helpful and responsive with this request, we furnish the following information for the committee's review.

A traffic study was not conducted on the project nor is one considered necessary as there are no changes to the new buildings' student population, number of faculty, access drives nor use of the facility, that has been in place for the past 50 years. All traffic impacts to the Route 140 intersection in the past 30 +/- years have come from multiple new residential and condominium housing projects, new commercial

The Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School's Policy of Non-discrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public and individuals with whom it does business; and will apply to race, color, national background, religion, sex, disability, pregnancy-related conditions, economic status, political party, age, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, and other human differences.

growth along Route 140, a strip mall adjacent to Route 140 and West Central Street, as well as the Franklin Commons Shopping Plaza across the street. As stated the Tri-County School Project is a public building project that is funded by local taxpayers and the state of Massachusetts. We believe, as the project does not change any aspect of the current traffic count or pattern and has been in place for 50 years, an \$80,000 +/- traffic study and the additional time required to perform one – which would greatly hinder the construction schedule - is an impractical expense of taxpayers' funds and unwarranted as the project will have no additional impact to the current conditions.

To assist the Planning Board in the request for traffic information specific to Tri-County, we have requested that our traffic consultant, Bryant Associates, assist us in evaluating the existing conditions and previous traffic impact analysis. Bryant Associates, with assistance from the Franklin Planning office, located a relatively recent traffic impact and access study done in 2014 by Ron Muller & Associates. In this traffic impact and access study done for the retail strip mall, traffic volume counts and directional movements at the West Central Street and Route 140 intersection were recorded, and we have no reason to believe that any significant change has occurred since the retail strip mall was constructed. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the MassDOT controlled signal was retimed a few years ago (by MassDOT) to accommodate traffic. We truly believe any further traffic impact study will have minimal to no effect on the patterns determining the retiming as it was recently done. Please find the Bryant Associates letter, Ron Muller & Associates data and summary letter attached.

The traffic generated by the school for the past 50 years has changed little and is managed by the school staff as every school must do that has 1,000 students entering and leaving every weekday. For larger events, such as the annual (Saturday) Open House and Graduation Ceremony, Tri-County partners with the Franklin Police Department to expedite traffic flow. The morning drop-off is not an issue as the incoming cars are staggered between 6:00 am and 8:00 am, the 15 buses have very little impact, and parent drop-off is insignificant. The afternoon dismissal, as stated above, is managed to reduce and modulate the exiting traffic congestion at the West Central and Route 140 intersection. To do this, the school maintains a staggered release schedule over a 20-minute period once per weekday:

- 2:04 Senior Class dismissal
- 2:08 School Dismissal
- 2:15 Busses exit
- 2:20 All other student drivers and parent's exit
- 2:25 Vocational teachers exit
- 2:30 Teachers exit

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3:00 Late night teachers exit
4:00 Homework Club and Activities dismissal
6:00 Sports and practice dismissal

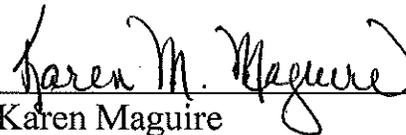
This schedule is continually monitored for effectiveness and adjusted as needed to expedite the flow of traffic on Tri-County grounds and Pond Street.

Currently, West Central Street and Pond Street have had road construction to install new Sewer Line piping over the past 4 months and the traffic conditions have been negatively affected, as one would expect. We anticipate that paving is scheduled to occur within the next few months and the Pond Street and West Central Street route will be back to a normal traffic flow.

Tri-County RVT has a long and good relationship with the Town of Franklin, and we hope that our new project will be a welcome enhancement to our students learning experience. As you are directly funding the project through your tax dollars, we want to maximize the funds that have been voted forward and begin early construction activities this summer, as time is money. We welcome your support and assistance in helping us get started.



Brian Mushnick
Chairman of the Building Committee



Karen Maguire
Superintendent

Attachments:

Bryant Associates Letter

Ron Muller & Associates, traffic impact and access study data and summary letter