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Traffic Analysis Update for Combination of Andover and Lahser High Schools

Bloomfield Hills Schools
Board of Education
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- Lahser HS has significant constraints regarding traffic operations
 - The intersections of Lahser with Long Lake and Hickory Grove can not accommodate shift of Andover traffic
 - Improvements to accommodate future traffic volumes would be costly and likely not feasible
 - Would require detailed long-term traffic management

- Andover HS can be improved and operate acceptably
 - Create a second access point to Long Lake
 - Separate parking from bus and pick-up / drop-off operations
 - These improvements are on-site and would coincide with the overall site improvement plan

Q: Is there an accident / crash problem for southbound traffic at Lahser & Long Lake?

A: No.

- The RCOC has indicated that both traffic volumes and historical accidents do not justify improvements for the SB approach.

Q: Can the traffic signal at Lahser & Long Lake be improved if Andover students go to Lahser?

A: No.

- The traffic signal is currently operating near capacity.
- The additional traffic volumes would require additional lanes.

Q: Should a traffic signal be installed at Hickory Grove and Franklin?

A: No.

- The RCOC reviewed this location in the fall of 2009 and the intersection volumes to not warrant a traffic signal.

Q: If no traffic signal, what about a 4-Way STOP?

A: No.

- The RCOC will install a 4-Way stop only at locations with a correctable crash pattern. This intersection has had 6 crashes in 5 years.

Q: Is PEA's study valid given the Telegraph Road construction?

A: Yes.

- Existing traffic volumes were determined based on existing and previous traffic counts.
- SEMCOG historical data were used to verify the peak hour volumes for the study intersections.
- Existing traffic counts were taken on May 6th, and full phase construction started on May 22nd.
- Franklin Road SB counts are conservative – this approach has experienced increased volumes during the AM peak hour.
- The Lahser Road counts were not impacted.

Q: Does reducing student parking permits solve potential traffic issues?

A: No.

- Reducing student drivers will cause more parent pick-up / drop off.
- More parent vehicles => More outbound trips => More vehicles at site access points.
- Less ability to separate student and parent trips, negating impact of additional driveway at Franklin.

Q: Are there park and ride opportunities that would benefit traffic operations?

A: No.

- Park and ride operations would create traffic impacts at another location that would have to be solved.
- Traffic impacts at Andover can be solved on-site if designed with proper parking and pick-up / drop-off facilities.

Q: PEA recommended only one driveway for student parking at Long Lake – would it be better to allow access from Andover?

A: No.

- Control of access means less chaos – and chaos causes traffic friction, and increased impacts.
- For the Andover site to function properly, student and parent drivers must be separated.
- We can retain parent access from Telegraph with a southern pick-up / drop-off.

Q: Can we design the site without designated pick-up / drop-off and bus facilities?

A: No.

- Lack of appropriate facilities encourages improper behavior, which causes traffic friction.
- At the Andover site, a lack of proper facilities would impact police and fire response for Bloomfield Twp, which is not acceptable.