

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2021
TO: Members of the School Board
VIA: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
FROM: Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction

CIP QUESTION: The Heights will require some cost regardless of what we do because of stormwater issues? I.e. I think previously one option was to basically do nothing and that resulted in basically no cost. But I think the do-nothing option now involves a significant cost no matter what? Therefore, the thought is that for very little marginal cost, create some parking spaces too?

RESPONSE: The Heights will require some cost regardless of what we do because the stormwater system must be completed. That work was postponed due to the fire station and Penzance construction to get the Final Certificate of Occupancy for the building.

The other issue is to provide the accessibility to the ground floor for the building and especially for the Shriver program. Currently, access for pick up and drop off for students is complicated and inconvenient. Students have different mobility devices. Currently, students use a switchback ramp that prolongs entrance into the building and is especially uncomfortable during inclement weather. Additionally, students are consistently picked up and dropped off throughout the day by cars and/or ambulances. With no dedicated handicap parking, these transfers often take place on the curb, away from any covered parking. Finally, better access to the building would also translate to easier access for taking students outdoors for breaks in the neighborhood and the Rosalyn-Highland Park.

The County is also interested in having a field on the site. Per the original Use Permit, to construct the proposed lighted field anywhere near the size intended, the field must be on a platform as originally designed. To also provided the covered walkway to the building from the bus drop off needed by the Shriver Program, the covered pick up and drop off for the Shriver Program, the bicycle storage for staff (which is required by the Use Permit) and intended covered bike racks for students they must be under the field.

Once you create the spaces needed for the field and the required accessibility there is minimal cost to use the rest of the space for parking. Also, the lower level of this structure was and is still intended to be a flat floor, so in the future when parking may not be required, it can be modified to be used as expansion space for the school. It is the only space available for future expansion as there is no space for relocatables on this site.