

Construction impacts concern commissioners

Truck traffic could strain local roadways

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

SEASIDE — Round two of Seaside School District's presentation to the city's Planning Commission saw construction traffic and site access as key discussion items. Heavy truck traffic could rupture or damage city roads with thousands of trucks carrying rock and concrete expected during the construction process, commissioners said at Tuesday's meeting. The city could see "alligator" effects to the asphalt from the many trips during the construction process.

The district's conditional use permit request includes plans for expansion of Seaside Heights Elementary School and construction of middle- and high-school facilities on 89 acres to the east of the elementary school, approved by voters in November 2016.

Based on the projected trip generation of the campus after relocation of Gearhart Elementary School, Broadway Middle School, and Seaside High School, district traffic consultants estimated that Spruce Drive will carry a total of almost 4,000 daily trips. "This amount of traffic is not considered unreasonable, for roadways classified as ma-



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Logs were removed from the site in 2017. Planning commissioners fear future construction traffic could have an impact on city roads.



COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Seaside School District board members toured the school construction site during logging operations.

job collectors in urban areas, which can carry upwards of 7,000 average daily," according to the Lancaster Engineering Traffic Impact Study submitted by the school district.

But along with traffic to and from school, construction traffic concerned Seaside planning commissioners, especially the 25,000 truck trips expected up and down local streets.

The more trips, the more damage, and the heavier vehicles, the more the damage, Commissioner Bill Carpenter said. "A tractor-trailer weighing 80,000 pounds is expected to do 7,800 more times damage to a road than a passenger car."

The district expects 18,000 concrete trucks and 10,000 loads of imported gravel, he said. With added loads of asphalt, rebar and structural steel, construction traffic could exceed 25,000 truck trips, the equivalent of 1.5 million automotive trips over an 18-month period, which could significantly reduce the life of roadways.

Carpenter suggested traffic be diverted to logging roads to mitigate some of these impacts, which would be greatest on Spruce Drive leading to the campus.

Traffic is dependent on the weather and the sequencing of the work, school district architect Dan Hess responded. "The contractor would rather not use Spruce if they could avoid it." But in bad weather, logging roads may not be an option. "Contractors want to stay off Spruce, but they have to be practical about how they do their work as well," Hess said.

Commissioners addressed concerns of backups along Avenue S near Highway 101, especially delays that could be caused by buildup of construction traffic.

"The number of cars that line up along Avenue S and 101 is incredible," Commissioner David Posalski said. "Getting around that corner could be extremely problematic."

At the commission's March 6 session, traffic impacts and safety were elements of discussion. District consultants said they hope approval of their conditional

use permit will be delivered at a third commission meeting on April 3, which would keep construction on track for a June 1 groundbreaking. The district hopes to open for students in September 2020.

Commissioners unanimously voted to keep the record open for the April 3 meeting, which would include written testimony and responses from the district.

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Seaside students share message of respect

Event is one of thousands nationwide

By Brenna Visser
and R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Students at Seaside High School emerged from their building at precisely 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14, in a gesture of respect and remembrance for their 17 peers who lost their lives in the Parkland, Florida, school shooting on Feb. 14. The walkout, conducted in cooperation with school officials, came as classes paused for the 17-minute observance.

Circling together in bands along the edge of the athletic field, students offered a message of mutual respect as they went one-by-one to the microphone and expressed their thoughts in one-line comments:

"I will respect my peers."
"I will stand up for others."
"I will show kindness and to everyone."
"I will not watch others be treated poorly."
"I will extend friendship to



BRENNA VISSER/EO MEDIA GROUP

Students at last week's 17-minute walkout honoring victims of the Parkland, Florida, shooting at Margery Stoneman High School.

strangers."
"I will speak up when things aren't right."
"I will be a voice for those who no longer have one."

Unlike many walkouts happening around the country, student organizer Sequoia Shand said the goal of Wednesday's presentation was focused on advocating for "mutual respect" for one another rather than stark emphasis on gun control.

For 17 minutes, 17 different students presented call-to-actions every minute, on the minute, about how students

can support one another. Every statement was sandwiched between long moments of silence.

Among the approximately 150 visitors who joined the walkout were district superintendent Sheila Roley and principal Jeff Roberts.

In the wake of recent shootings, Seaside High School has taken some precaution by tightening lockdown protocols and choosing to lock every door except the front entrance throughout the day. Preliminary designs for the new Seaside school campus feature school shooting-specific locking mechanisms that can lock down doors and passage ways in the school remotely.

"My concerns are like everyone's in this national trend," Roberts said. "We don't expect this kind of thing here, but we'd be naive to think it couldn't happen here. But I take solace in the ways we've taken precautions."

"This is about the lives that

were taken at Parkland High School," student Jetta Ideue said. "This is for those people who were innocent that night."

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