

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

16550 SW Merlo Road, Beaverton, Oregon 97003

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Long Range Planning
Land Use & Transportation

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WE EXPECT EXCELLENCE



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December 2, 2014

Washington County Planning Commission
Charles D. Cameron Public Services Building
155 N. First Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Subject: Planning Commission Testimony, December 3, 2014, Area 93 Planning

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The Beaverton School District is an active member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Area 93, providing assistance on the development of alternatives for the Bonny Slope West Community Plan. The District is concerned about our ability to support the rapid pace of housing developments in the area north of Highway 26, as we are experiencing overcrowding in several of our schools located there. We initially requested the inclusion of an elementary school site as an element of the Community Plan in a TAC meeting on June 9, 2014 and hereby reaffirm that request.

In conformance with ORS 195.110, the District updated our Long Range School Facility Plan in 2010. This Plan outlined future District school facility and land needs for the next 15 years. County staff participated in the work to develop this Plan. The Facility Plan estimated the need for three additional elementary schools by 2025. Also relevant, Metro is projecting a metro-area gain of 400,000-700,000 people in the next 20 years, which will drive an accompanying need for additional schools. All indicators point toward further growth, thus we recommend inclusion of a school site in the Community Plan to assist in meeting our community's school capacity needs.

A District representative participated in Washington County's Area 93 Open House event on October 21, 2014, providing information to attendees about current and future school bonds and District school capacity needs. We also commissioned a site analysis by BBL Architects to determine a site location within Area 93 which could potentially be suitable for an elementary school. That study confirmed the feasibility of developing a school site in the southwestern portion of Area 93. This information has been provided to County staff.

We are also concerned that the construction of between 550 and 650 new housing units in Area 93 will increase the strain on existing transportation routes. NW Saltzman Road between NW Bayonne Lane and NW Laidlaw Road, which is a school bus route, is of particular concern to the District. It has no shoulders or sidewalks, has blind corners that make it difficult to see oncoming traffic, and is of a width that makes it difficult for two large vehicles to safely pass each other. This route will see a significant increase in use by District buses as the population in this area increases. Transportation improvements in this area are also needed in the future.

Sincerely,

Richard Steinbrugge, P.E.
Executive Administrator for Facilities

District Goal: All students will show continuous progress toward their personal learning goals, developed in collaboration with teachers and parents, and will be prepared for post-secondary education and career success.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.