

As many of you know, Bellevue High School is scheduled to be completely rebuilt. The result will be a beautiful modern facility our community can be proud of as well as a facility that will enhance learning for our children.

Construction is planned to begin at the end of this school year and continue for the next two years. However, **there is an issue that could impact the start of construction.**

Part of the remodel includes a proposed new entry on 108th Ave NE. The current plan is to move some student parking resulting in students using the new proposed 108th Ave NE entry.

Drop off will continue to be off Wolverine Way. Entry for staff parking, visitor parking and some student parking will be from Wolverine Way.

We were asked to attend a City Council meeting on the proposed new entry. Many of you are already involved in this issue. However to ensure everyone has access to all the available information we are taking this opportunity to bring our membership up to date.

The following is what we took away from the City Council meeting:

A group of people that live along 108th Ave NE have concerns about the new access and student parking. Their primary concern is the increase in traffic by teenagers. Per the city traffic planner, it will increase traffic from 253 cars per day to 398 cars per day going into and out of the high school. A second group in Surrey Downs has become part of the 108th Ave NE group. The Surrey Downs group is concerned about the increase in "cut through" traffic.

At the council meeting, the High School design team indicated the additional entry at the rear of the school would alleviate the current 700 foot daily back up along 108th Ave NE. This would be achieved by moving the cars onto the high school site. The design team indicates the net impact would actually improve the usability of 108th Ave NE for everyone. The design team also feels it is important to reduce the number of cars on Wolverine way. They believe that any impact to the neighborhood can be mitigated with traffic control devices and enforcement.

The police and fire departments stated that the new entry off 108th Ave NE was imperative to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. At the council meeting, spokesman from the police department and chief of the fire department said the single access on Wolverine Way leaves us in a very dangerous position. In their words, we are on "borrowed time". Their assertion was that currently, during morning drop off, lunch and afternoon pick up it would be impossible to get emergency equipment up Wolverine Way in time to take necessary action.

Our goal in sharing this information is to ask that you take a moment to let the city council know your thoughts. Most of what the council has heard is either from people already involved in the project or those in opposition to the new entry

As a school community each of us needs to fully understand the proposed new entry plan and take a position. Regardless of which position you support please review all of the available information and let the council know where you stand.

If you have any questions, we are happy to answer them to the best of our ability.

Melissa Johnson and Susan Flagg

Co-Presidents, BHS PTSA

If you feel so inclined, please email:

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