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# Transcript of Hearing 

Date: May 12, 2023
Case: Diener School (CU 23-06)

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## Conducted on May 12, 2023




| 9 | 11 |
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| 1 You -- the order of proceeding is the Applicant will go | 1 Unfortunately, there are, I guess, some people |
| 2 first, followed by anyone that is not in the Applicant's | 2 at SHA who still want to focus on the side street issues |
| 3 team or is doesn't support the application. And then, | 3 and how long it takes to get out of the side streets |
| 4 there's rebuttal by the Applicant, and closing | 4 onto Old Georgetown Road. So we developed a list of |
| 5 statement | 5 possible mitigation measures which we sent to the State |
| 6 Approval is -- the criteria for approval is set | 6 Highway Administration, and they have not responded. |
| 7 out in the Zoning Ordinance and it's listed in the Staf | 7 We are -- we also have been working really |
| 8 Report. So please address all testimony to that | 8 closely with Allen Myers, and I have to thank him for |
| 9 I have two questions. Ms. Carrier, would you | 9 really bringing a willing and open mind to this |
| 10 like the individuals to go first and so they are free | 10 situation. And I'll let him speak for himself, but we |
| 11 from the hearing, or it's just a suggestion, it's up to | 11 really appreciate the way he has participated in this |
| 12 | 12 with |
| 13 MS. CARRIER: Yes. I was planning to ask. We | 13 So we shared with Mr. Myers the memo that we |
| 14 have a total of four parents, but two of them are not | 14 sent to the State Highway Administration with this list |
| 15 actually available until later, and I've asked them to | 15 of possible things that could be done. And he was very |
| 16 join the meeting at noon figuring we could find a spot | 16 clear that he is does not think his community would |
| 17 for them between witnesses between noon and 1:00. But | 17 appreciate one of the suggestions we made, which was |
| 18 we do have two parents here this morning who would like | 18 U-turn restrictions during the rush hour at Spruce and |
| 19 to speak; Jillian Copeland and Eric Weinberg. So I | 19 Alta Vista. |
| 20 would like to take them as our first witnesses. | 20 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Case of -- |
| 21 But I do have a couple of other preliminary | 21 MS. CARRIER: So -- |
| 22 matters. | 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- the French School, |
| 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes, I did too, but | 23 Mr . Myers. |
| 24 the SHA response, is th | 24 MS. CARRIER: Yes, I believe that he and Ms. |
| 25 MS. CARRIER: Well, that's -- that's the big | 25 Wagner are both experiencing a lot of things reminiscent |
| 10 | 12 |
| 1 one. We have -- we and Planning Staff and even DOT | 1 -- |
| 2 Staff, have tried very hard to get the State Highway | 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Déjà vu. |
| 3 Administration to engage on this. They have -- we have | 3 MS. CARRIER: Yeah. So we then we wrote |
| 4 received and responded to comments from three of the | 4 another memo to the State Highway just this week after |
| 5 four reviewers at SHA, but there is a fourth reviewer | 5 failing to be able to get a meeting with them. And in |
| 6 who has not produced final comments. And we did get an | 6 it, we said, you know, there are several reasons why |
| 7 idea from Planning Staff of what those comments would | 7 we've decided that the School no longer supports the |
| 8 be. Because Planning Staff was able to meet with the | 8 idea of a U-turn restrictions. So we are hopeful that |
| 9 SHA and got some understanding of their concerns. And | 9 the State Highway Administration will not force us to |
| 10 we were asked to provide a menu of possible ways to | 10 put those U-turn restrictions in place. |
| 11 mitigate. One of those concerns which has to do with | 11 We would like to propose that that be resolved |
| 12 delays on two of the side streets, Spruce Street and | 12 at preliminary plan, because this does have to go back |
| 13 Alta Vista Road | 13 to the Planning Board, which will take a very close look |
| 14 The traffic scope was set up to do what Katie | 14 at all of the -- all of the issues related to traffic, |
| 15 describes as a corridor analysis, which is not pressing | 15 especially because that's the big focus of a preliminary |
| 16 on the side streets so much as, you know, this is a big | 16 plan proceeding. So we are - we are hoping to be able |
| 17 corridor where the County has - | 17 to get State Highway to respond before the Planning |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: The flow of -- yes. | 18 Board hearing. |
| 19 MS. CARRIER: Exactly. And you know, the State | 19 But timing is pretty crucial for the School. |
| 20 Highway Administration as recently as I'm sure you know, <br> 21 made the decision to put in a bike lane, bike lanes, on | 20 The School would like to be able to move into their new <br> 21 location for the 2024-25 school year. That means |
| 22 Old Georgetown Road in this segment, and take away a | 22 having the -- having the site available, you know, |
| 23 lane of traffic. So that was a policy decision to | 23 midsummer so that they can start moving in. And the |
| 24 accept a certain level of congestion in order to improve | 24 only way that can happen is if we get all of the |
| 25 safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. | 25 approvals, all of the development approvals by the |

middle of this summer. Meaning, we have to be able to
get the preliminary plan approval as well as the
conditional use approval by the end of July.
So this is why we are hoping that you will find
it appropriate not to leave the record open in this
waiting for the SHA final comments, but to consider the
case and hopefully approve the conditional use with the
condition that we have to get SHA approval for the
Transportation Impact Statement before the preliminary plan is approved.

And then, I don't expect --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I though the delay -you're a delay standard in the policy area, right?

MS. CARRIER: I'm going to ask --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: The policy area,
you're -- doesn't -- wouldn't the -- your policy area
criteria is based on 80 seconds of delay, correct?
MS. WAGNER: That is correct. This is Katie
Wagner, for the record.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Oh, yeah. I
guess I'mjust asking Françoise, doesn't that take into
account the all four approaches --
MS. CARRIER: Yes.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- of the side streets?

MS. CARRIER: Yes, it does. And you know,
Planning Staff are very comfortable with supporting the
project with the transportation information we have submitted. The County DOT, also is very comfortable that we have satisfied all the standards. Both of those agencies are focused on the -- on the corridor use, the corridor analysis, and feel that we -- there are --
there is no need for any kind of mitigation for roadway issues from this Applicant. So --
10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I guess my question
11 is, as I'm sure you know, we can't leave -- we can't
delegate site improvements. There's two things going
on. One is, you know a finding of fact, whether it's
the intersection will operate within the footers LATR
has met and whether things can operate safely. That's a factual finding.
17 The second thing is, though, that we can't 8 delegate site improvements to the future. That's the Constellation Potomac case.
20 So just put that in the back. I'm not asking
21 for response now. And I think it may be helpful to go
through Ms. Wagner's testimony --
MS. CARRIER: True.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- to see exactly what. And do you have the -- anything about the
3

13
responses from SHA that you've had so far in the record?
MS. CARRIER: Yes, I believe so, because the --
what they would have -- well, I guess I think we have
addressed them maybe a little bit in the TMP, the
Transportation --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well --
MS. CARRIER: -- Management Plan --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- yeah, I believe --
MS. CARRIER: -- but I saw -- I saw --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- I believe --
MS. CARRIER: -- I saw Ms. Wagner shake her head, so maybe not.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I would appreciate
just the documentation, any documentation you have --
MS. CARRIER: Right.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- from the comments
you have from SHA, and then, also an any documentation.
It doesn't explicitly show up in the Staff Report that
-- that -- well, obviously, the Planning Department
recommended approval, but if you have specifics, because
I'm trying to figure out what the issue -- what I'd like
to hear is what the issues are, and -- and I'll have to
wait for Ms. Wagner under oath. But just keep in mind
that I can't be too -- I understand your predicament,
and I do -- you know, this is what I think numerous
committees are trying to address. But --
MS. CARRIER: Yeah.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- I have to be
comfortable that I'm not. So just think about I can't
leave improvements. Now, there's all -- also the
possibility if there are additional improvements that
you go through a minor amendment. But I just -- just
think about that because that's --
MS. CARRIER: Sure.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- my -- my struggle.
So -- okay.
MS. CARRIER: So --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: With that -- oh, go ahead, I'm sorry.

MS. CARRIER: I did want to give a just very
brief response if that's okay. That we don't expect
anything that comes from SHA to relate to site
improvements. The only -- the only concerns they have
raised have to do with impact on those side streets, and
there's nothing that -- that doesn't affect the -- the
site improvements. It's really just -- it's really just
a concern about conditions that exist today with or
without this school.
You know, on a busy road, a major highway like
Old Georgetown Road, it can be hard to get from side

| 17 | 19 |
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| 1 streets out onto the main road, and that's -- that's a | 1 It's just not going to be understood. |
| 2 fact of urban life. So I don't think that's going to be | 2 We have a meeting on March 17th, next |
| 3 an issue. | 3 Wednesday. My thought was the School has indicated |
| $4 \quad$ I did want to say | 4 their willingness to come to the meeting. I've already |
| 5 me yesterday he was hoping that we could talk about this | 5 outlined the proposals that were made by the School in |
| 6 issue this morning, and he would -- he would -- I won't | 6 our newsletters so the residents will know about thi |
| 7 - I don't want to speak for him, but I think he might | 7 And for us to take some formal motions and discussion to |
| 8 prefer if we're not going to be discussing this, the SHA | 8 decide what we want to do, and then, and send a letter |
| 9 issues today, he might have other things he'd like to do | 9 to you regarding what the civic association feels. |
| 10 today rather than remain for the rest of the hearing | 10 The U-turns, I expect considerable opposition |
| 11 So if you feel -- | 11 because it does two things. It either forces traffic |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So -- | 12 into the neighborhood, cut through the neighborhood, or |
| 13 MS. CARRIER: -- comfortable bringing him on and | 13 worse, the people will turn into the neighborhood on |
| 14 letting him speak for a minut | 14 like Alta Vista and Spruce Street, first block, turn |
| 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, I'malways | 15 around in the -- in the street, in the middle of the |
| 16 comfortable letting Mr. Myers on. | 16 street or people's driveway to exit to go north and by |
| 17 MR. MYERS: I appreciate that. That's nice to | 17 turning right. |
| 18 he | 18 I do not know the position of the residents on |
| 19 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. And then, we | 19 the left turn, the left turn restrictions. I suspect |
| 20 go to the parents. | 20 there will be opposition, but I've had residents on Alta |
| 21 MS. CARRIER: Yes. | 21 Vista Road, who have told me that they find that when |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Mr. Myers, please | 22 this -- when cars try to turn left out on Alta Vista |
| 23 raise your right hand. | 23 Road to go south on Old Georgetown Road, especially in |
| 24 Is -- I can't -- I | 24 the morning, it causes a backup and they can't get out |
| 25 There you go. | 25 of their driveways on that first block. |
| 18 | 20 |
| 1 Where | 1 |
| 2 ALL | 2 Spruce Street Road -- |
| 3 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the | 3 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Wait. You're -- I'm |
| 4 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was | 4 taking notes -- |
| 5 examined and testified as follows: | 5 MR. MYERS: Okay. |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Please state | 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- so I'mjust -- |
| 7 your name, street address, and now we're asking for | 7 Which was the one that you just mentioned? |
| 8 email address, even though I'm sure I have it, for the | 8 Which streets? |
| 9 record so that we can get our notices out even faster. | 9 MR. MYERS: Alta Vista Road and Spruce Street |
| 10 MR. MYERS: My name is Allen Myers, residing at | 10 Road are the two streets that we're talking about. |
| 119319 Fresno Road in Bethesda, Maryland. The email | 11 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And tell me what the |
| 12 address. If you misspell the last name, you're -- you | 12 issue -- what they see the issue of again. |
| 13 won't get to me. It's almyers -- A-L-M-Y-E-R-S | 13 MR. MYERS: They would -- the cars would either, |
| 14 @starpower.net. | 14 if they can't make a U-turn, would either cut through |
| 15 Basically I'm not speaking in any opposition, | 15 the -- turn left and cut through the neighborhood. |
| 16 so that's why I'm here basically as president of the | 16 There's no -- there's no discussion, and hopefully -- |
| 17 associate -- Maple Wood Citizens Association. But to | 17 don't know how this would play out. There's no |
| 18 point out that we met with the School and its | 18 discussion presently of eliminating the left turns. So |
| 19 representatives on March 15th as an association. At | 19 you would just come in, turn left, come into the |
| 20 that time, the issues which you're going to hear about | 20 neighborhood, either cut through it or get to the first |
| 21 SHA and MCDOT, have not -- excuse me, let me get this | 21 block, make a U-turn in the street, and then Alta Vista |
| 22 off -- have not -- were not apparent to us. In fact, I | 22 Road, and then come, and then turn right. And that |
| 23 didn't know anything about it until May 1st. And trying | 23 would cause some consternation. As you recall from The |
| 24 to explain this situation to on top nearly a thousand | 24 French School issue, this was a concern already. I |
| 25 homes in an email is not something I would like to do. | 25 don't know -- |


|  | 21 | 23 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. | 1 is -- from it is generated from that street. There's no |
|  | MR. MYERS: -- cars were doing that, and steps | 2 connection to -- while it connects, there is no reason |
|  | were taken to prevent that. | 3 for anybody else to go through there. I was told at one |
|  | The other issue is with resp | 4 time they had a restriction of no left turn there. It |
|  | e's another little street that's not in the - | 5 is not there now. I do not know why the way -- why |
|  | 't talked about so | 6 wherefores. I probably will get some answers at our |
|  | NG EXAMINER HANNAN: When you say U-turns, | 7 meeting on the 17th because I suspect somebody will know |
|  | you mean U-turns in the neighb | 8 the answer to it. I thought it was there a connection |
|  | Geor | 9 was a special exception for the YMCA. As I said, I |
|  | R. MYERS: On old Georgetown Road | 10 drove by there, Katie Wagner drove by there; it's not |
|  | HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: On wha | 11 there. So those residents may make more -- may be mo |
|  | R. MYERS: On Old | 12 concerned about not being able to turn left out of that |
|  | RING EXAMINER | 13 street since they now currentl |
|  | MYERS: Yeah. There's that -- those U-tur | 14 Also, if you put a no left turn restriction on |
|  | one of our streets, Charles Street, | 15 Alta Vista Road, it may draw traffic over |
|  | t a discussion. And Katie Wagner mayb | 16 Spruce Street, because you come up Locust Avenue, |
|  | on the map where it is, but it's a dead end | 17 turn left to go on Alta Vista to reach Old Georgetown |
|  | of Old George | 18 Road. But if you turn right on Alta Vista Road, you can |
|  | hbound Old Georgetown Road. | 19 come to Spruce Street, and then, cut through Spruce |
|  | no connection to an | 20 Street. So it actually probably would have to be on |
|  | hborhood. So therefore, anybody comin | 21 both streets. But I need to discuss with -- this with |
|  | s on that -- on that street and go | 22 the neighborhood. |
|  | orget | 23 The other thing is an overall concern is you |
|  | b | 24 mentioned The French School. In that TMP, steps were |
|  | home. So that would be -- I'm sure there would be | 25 taken to protect the neighborhood from cut through |
|  | 22 | 24 |
|  | idera | 1 traffic and not impact the neighborhood |
|  | Georgetown R | 2 here, we're doing so just the opposite. I understand |
|  | HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So you want the U-turn | 3 the rationale behind it, and that is the cars and the |
|  |  | 4 bike and the bike lanes, which are very unpopular with |
|  | MR. MYERS: I want the U-turns to remain, yes. | 5 people who in the neighborhood who drive, very popular |
|  | nobody in the neighborhood has ever raised an issue | 6 with people who ride bikes in the neighborhood. So it's |
|  | h respect to U-turns on Old Georgetown Road. What | 7 -- it's interesting. That's a discussion we're going to |
|  | have expressed to me, and on | 8 have with the State Highway Administration, Mark Carman, |
|  | as Alta Vista Road, where there was a concern about | 9 in September. |
|  | fic coming going left, making a left turn | 10 But you know, it's sort of adding fuel to the |
|  | sta Road to go southbound on Old Georgetown Roa | 11 fire for drivers who object to them saying we're doing |
|  | sing delays on that road, people backed up there. | 12 -- we're putting in left turn restrictions because of |
|  | Vista Road is known as an aggregator road | 13 the bike lanes. And -- and the -- and delays that they |
|  | lects traffic from elsewhere in the neighborho | 14 are causing. It's not going to be pleasant. |
|  | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right | 15 I am pleased that the School is going to come |
|  | MR. MYERS: And so they all end up coming there | 16 to the meeting on the 17 th and we will see what happens. |
|  | d they want to get out. Well, some of them | 17 If you're agreeable to my sending you a letter after the |
|  | ority of them are | 18 -- after the meeting letting you know what the results |
|  | nting to go left, one car sitting there waiting to $g$ | 19 are, I would -- I would appreciate |
|  | and make a left turn causes a backup, and the | 20 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I would be very |
|  | dents on that block find that they can't get back | 21 agreeable to that. Do you have a problem with that, Ms. |
|  | of their driveways because the street is carved with | 22 Carrier. |
|  | s, so they might suppo | 23 MS. CARRIER: No. Not at all. We -- you know |
|  | S | 24 we -- as I said, we talked with Mr. Myers yesterday, and |
|  | It is not an aggregator. It basically any traffic on it | 25 we are happy to go to this meeting on Wednesday to try |


| 25 | 27 |
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| 1 and respond to -- to people's concerns, help them | 1 feasible. Just give us some ideas. So we did. And we |
| 2 understand sort of where we are. | 2 don't consider the U-turn restrictions feasible. |
| 3 I -- I would like to clarify just in case | 3 As for the left turn restrictions, there's a |
| 4 there's any confusion that the School is not requesting | 4 very small number of left turns during the rush -- the |
| 5 the U-turn restrictions. And you know, truthfully -- | 5 peak hours. It's -- it's under five at schools - |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Is that a request from | 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Well let -- I |
| 7 SHA? How did they come up? | 7 don't want to get i |
| 8 MS. CARRIER: They came up because we were | 8 MS. CARRIER: Okay. |
| 9 really trying to respond quickly to SHA with some | 9 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: We really need to have |
| 10 concrete things that they could consider to -- to make | 10 a witness under oath. Are you sure you don't want to |
| 11 them be willing to -- | 11 stay around Mr. -- Mr. Myers. |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh, I see. | 12 MR. MYERS: I can stay around. I was going to |
| 13 MS. CARRIER: -- to come up with their final | 13 deliver newsletters for the association but I'll stay |
| 14 comments and give us, say yes, we approve this if you do | 14 around |
| 15 the following things. So we gave thema list of | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I think I'd like to |
| 16 choices. We very mu | 16 take the individuals. I believe there is two of them |
| 17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I got you. | 17 right now. |
| 18 MS. CARRIER: -- wished that we had consulted | 18 MS. CARRIER: Yes. |
| 19 with Mr. Myers before we gave them that list. If we | 19 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And then, Ms. Carrier, |
| 20 had, we would not have had put the U-turn restriction | 20 should we go right to Ms. Wagner? I don't know. What's |
| 21 on it. | 21 your -- |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay | 22 MS. CARRIER: Well, you know, I guess I -- I |
| 23 MS. CARRIER: The left turn restriction | 23 feel like the discussion of traffic will have a better |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You're | 24 context if you can hear a little more about the project. |
| 25 you're saying the School is not advocating for it -- not | 25 I guess we could take Ms. Wagner. I would really love |
| 26 | 28 |
| 1 with -- | 1 for you to hear from the head of School before we go to |
| 2 MS. CARRIER: Correct. | 2 traffic so you at least know a little bit more about |
| 3 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- this an option, | 3 this -- this rather unique little school. |
| 4 that you thought that you could do but that you are not | 4 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. All right. |
| 5 advocating t | 5 Mr. Myers, I don't want to impose but -- |
| 6 MS. CARRIER: Correct. Correct | 6 MR. MYERS: That's fine. I had planned -- I had |
| 7 MR. MYERS: Yeah. Complicating our situation is | 7 planned -- |
| 8 the lack of response from either SHA or MCDOT. And I | 8 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- I'mafraid to let |
| 9 mean, they are -- they could come up with something | 9 yougo. |
| 10 entirely different. And we don't know what -- what they | 10 MR. MYERS: I had planned to stay for the whole |
| 11 are going to -- what they are going to want from the | 11 day anyway, but I -- when we talked yesterday evening, |
| 12 neighborhood. | 12 we thought we could just deal with this, if we could |
| 13 MS. CARRIER: What I have been -- what I have | 13 deal with this first, and I could go on, but I am yours |
| 14 been told informally from people who have spoken with -- | 14 for the whole day if need be. |
| 15 from various Staff members who have spoken with folks at | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, I appreciate |
| 16 SHA is mostly they just wanted to make sure that they | 16 your volunteer time. |
| 17 had a record that we had done an analysis of the impacts | 17 Okay. With that, Ms. Carrier, let's go to your |
| 18 on the side streets. And that we had not solely looked | 18 next witness. |
| 19 at the Old Georgetown Road corridor. So Ms. Wagner's | 19 MS. CARRIER: Okay. So we're -- the first |
| 20 team did a thorough analysis, with additional steps | 20 person to -- we'd like to have speak today is Jillian |
| 21 beyond what we originally were asked to do, and then, we | 21 Copeland. |
| 22 came up with a couple of ideas. You know, the way the | 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay, Ms. Copeland. |
| 23 -- the way that those requests were transmitted to us | 23 MS. COPELAND: Hi. Good morning. |
| 24 from the Planning Staff is they said, Give us whatever | 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I'm sorry, one second. |
| 25 ideas you can come up with even if they are not | 25 I just have to put -- okay. Please raise your right |

hand.
Whereupon,

## JILLIAN COPELAND,

being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was
examined and testified as follows:
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Carrier.

MS. CARRIER: I'm not going to ask questions of
Ms. Copeland. I'mjust going to let her make a
statement.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Well before she
begins, please state your name, email address, and
street address, business address for the record.
MS. COPELAND: Sure, Jillian Copeland. My email address is jillian@main, M-A-I-N, streetconnect.org.
And my home address, which is also my business address, is 6200 Poindexter Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Thank you.
Go ahead.
MS. COPELAND: Thank you.
I am Jillian Copeland, I'm the founder of the
The Diener School, which was founded out of necessity
just 16 years ago. We opened our doors with five
students. We have now grown to 75 students for the
upcoming school year with a wait list.
The mission has been to service students like my son, Nichol, and hundreds of others who are unable to
have their needs met through the County or other private
schools. Believe it or not, when I started Diener,
there wasn't a school out there in my opinion that provided the optimal educational setting which allowed -- which would allow my child to thrive. And thrive he did. He and so many others since our inception, 58 10 students and families or off, and still today there is -- there is really nothing out there that nurtures and challenges in my opinion quite like Diener.

I see graduates of Diener every day in my -- I work with adults with disabilities, including my own son. And they are living quality lives due to this wholistic education, this care that they receive in a strong foundation from this little gem of a school.

We did, and continue, especially after the pandemic to meet a critical need in our county, but we
20 need space to serve more students and families.
21 We're -- I'm sorry if you hear my dog in the
background. He's crying. I think he wants to go outside, so my apologies.

Honey, if you're still there, can you come walk
25 the dog out.
29

1
2 h
3 4 Diener has been limited in its ability to grow and meet the needs of our community because of limits on the number of students able to matriculate as a result of restrictions in our current lease. We simply don't have the space or the ability to increase our student body and our current landlord does not desire to modify the existing lease to allow us to have more students. This leaves many desperate students and families in the lurch with very few options. It is quite heartbreaking.

It is not unusual for a parent to literally 4 say, Diener -- and I'm in quotes here, Diener saved me 5 and my child. I actually feel the very same way. And 16 while the road ahead for these families will still be 17 complicated and difficult, even with a Diener 18 foundation, I'm still navigating that road even today. And while things are great, it's still difficult. 0 Diener provides and sets these students up for 1 success wherever they go next; private or public. And that is a gift that really cannot be measured. It's -it's really, you know, what we all want for our 4 children, an opportunity to thrive.

So thank you for your time and energy today. I really appreciate you all listening.

MS. CARRIER: Thank you, Ms. Copeland. HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. MS. CARRIER: The -- our next -- our next witness is --

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Wait. Wait. Does anyone have any questions for Ms. Copeland?

Okay. Hearing none, you may be excused. Thank you.

MS. COPELAND: Thank you very much. MS. CARRIER: Our next witness is Eric Weinberg. Mr. Weinberg, would you please state your name and your --

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Wait, wait, let me swear him in.

MS. CARRIER: Oh. Okay.
MR. WEINBERG: Sure. Can everyone hear me? HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes. MS. CARRIER: Yes.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Please raise your
right hand.
Whereupon,
23 ERIC WEINBERG,
24 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the
25 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 examined and testified as follows: | 1 opportunity, we will find success if he graduates in a |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. | 2 year or two or three years to get him there. And we |
| 3 Carrier. | 3 think it's very important to essentially free up that |
| 4 MS. CARRIER: Mr. Weinberg, would you please | 4 seat for another child in the area that needs it. |
| 5 state your name, your email address, and your address | 5 And from that perspective, we -- we can't -- |
| 6 for the record. And since you're speaking as an | 6 you know, we think that as a community, what Diener |
| 7 individual, you may provide your home address, or your | 7 provides is -- is invaluable. Essentially to augment |
| 8 business whatever you pr | 8 and facilitate a child's, you know, developmental sk |
| 9 MR. WEINBERG: Sure. Eric Weinberg. My email | 9 so that they can be successful later in life. |
| 10 is E-S-W-B-E-R-G@gmail.com. My home address is 5402 | 10 So that's -- that's our story thus far with our |
| 11 Wehawken Road in Bethesda, Maryland 20816 | 11 son, Dean, and it's been just an amazing place to be |
| 12 MS. CARRIER: And please tell us -- you're -- go | 12 fortunate to be a part of, and we want to see more ki |
| 13 ahead and tell us you | 13 able to -- to experience that. |
| 14 MR. WEINBERG: Yes, sure | 14 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. |
| 15 MS. CARRIER: -- your thoughts about Diener and | 15 Anyone have any questions of Mr. Weinberg? |
| 16 their proposed move | 16 Hearing none, you may be excused, but thank |
| 17 MR. WEINBERG: Yes. Thank you. Good morning. | 17 you, sir, and thank you for participating. |
| 18 So as you just heard, I'ma resident of | 18 MR. WEINBERG: Great. Thank you. Have a |
| 19 Bethesda. Our eight-year-old son, Dean, is a second | 19 wonderful day. |
| 20 grader at Diener. Dean is a nerd vert child who's | 20 MS. CARRIER: Thank you, Mr. Weinberg. |
| 21 proven or requires specialized learning environment. | 21 MR. WEINBERG: Thank you. |
| 22 And our educational journey with Dean started with | 22 MS. CARRIER: Before I call my next witness, I |
| 23 several pre-K ad programs around Bethesda. And in the | 23 just wanted to ask a couple of procedural questions. |
| 24 fall of 2020, we started him at a local public school. | 24 May our witnesses share their screens when they |
| 25 But we quickly learned -- learned after a couple months | 25 have an exhibit that they'd like to refer to? |
| 34 | 36 |
| 1 in that, you know, the 504 and IEP that we developed | 1 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes. Yes. |
| 2 simply mutually with the School realized that it was not | 2 MS. CARRIER: Great. We are going to be |
| 3 going to be sufficient to handle some of the challenges | 3 introducing seven demonstrative exhibits today. |
| 4 that Dean was facing. | 4 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Wait. Was |
| 5 So we scrambled as any parent would do. We | 5 there another individual that wanted to testify? We |
| 6 looked up and down the County for any educational | 6 have Ms. -- |
| 7 solutions that would work. And we were very fortunate | 7 MS. CARRIER: There are two more, but they would |
| 8 to get him into Diener on an unexpected first grade | 8 like to speak -- they're not available until 11:30. |
| 9 opening. So he is now finishing up the second -- second | 9 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh. Oh, I thought |
| 10 year. It's been very transitional, transformational | 10 there were two in the morning. Okay. I'm sorry. |
| 11 year for him, and we're seeing -- we've had great joy in | 11 MS. CARRIER: We did get two. We did get Ms. |
| 12 seeing how Diener works with -- with our son and other | 12 Copeland and Mr. Weinberg, and then, we'll have -- |
| 13 special needs and atypical learners to provide them with | 13 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh. Oh. I'm sorry. |
| 14 the tools to be successful | 14 MS. CARRIER: We'll have -- |
| 15 I'd say that our goal, which is shared wit | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead. |
| 16 Diener, is really to have the School be a stepping stone | 16 MS. CARRIER: We'll have two who will testify |
| 17 in Dean's educational path here. And we are focused on | 17 between none and 1:00. |
| 18 just getting him the skills that he needs so that he can | 18 So we have seven demonstrative exhibits, and we |
| 19 transition either back or on to more traditional 20 development education | 19 also are going to introduce a very a minor revision of 20 the Transportation Management Plan, just to reflect |
| 21 And Jillian used the words, graduates. I thin | 21 changes in participant numbers for certain activities |
| 22 we will find success and expect success in this program. | 22 that were already -- already put into the record in our |
| 23 May not be there for five to ten years, we'd be | 23 Motion to Amend that accompanied our pre-hearing |
| 24 delighted if he was, but I think given the various needs <br> 25 in the community for other children to have this | 24 submission. So it's just to make the TMP consistent <br> 25 with that other information that was already submitted |
| 25 in the community for other children to have this | 25 with that other information that was already submitted. |

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As we submit them, I-- I thought it might be helpful to have my legal assistant mark them with the exhibit number that you give them. So then, we'll have a complete set that we can send you by email after the hearing. Does that sound --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, they should already be marked.
MS. CARRIER: Well, these are exhibits that we haven't yet submitted.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh. Okay. Well, we're going to have to -- we usually request that all exhibits be in two days in advance of the public hearing so that we don't -- so but what I -- we'll go through it , and just we'll go ahead, but I do have to ask for objections and that type of thing.
MS. CARRIER: I'm sorry, I him sorry, I had -- I didn't submit them at the -- you know, in the recent days because I thought then you would be required to send out a notice of a motion to -- I have to make a motion to amend, and send out another -- you have to send out another notice, and I -- that just seemed so cumbersome, so --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yeah, I -- I understand. Go ahead.
MS. CARRIER: Okay. So shall I have my
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assistant mark as we go? Does that sound helpful, or do you prefer to --

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: We'll mark -- we'll mark them as well. But what we'll do is if you could submit them after the hearing by email and hard copy, and list -- I'll give a name to each exhibit. What exhibit are we on here? We're on 38 I have as the last exhibit. Let me just double check that because sometimes we don't put all of them up.
10 Okay. Yes, 38 is the last exhibit. So we will -- I will label them and admit them, and then -- and then, you just send the hard copies, and then, we'll mark them.

MS. CARRIER: Okay.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay?
MS. CARRIER: Okay. So I'm -- I was going to give a brief opening statement if you -- if that is -if you're agreeable with that Ms. Hannan.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Sure.
independent school for children from K through 8th grade
with special needs. It has 72 students this year and a
23 maximum of 120 projected. Which makes it a very good
24 size for the proposed site on Old Georgetown Road.
25 The School will offer testimony today

1 describing its plan to convert an existing office building for school use, and upgrade the site, landscaping, the storm water management, and frontage improvements, with a gymnasium addition at the rear of the site in a second phase.

The witnesses you will hear from today will demonstrate that The Diener School's application conforms to all of the requirements for conditional use, will be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, and should be approved.

Planning Department Staff prepared a revised Staff Report on May 4th recommending approval of the conditional use with a series of recommended conditions. The Planning Board held a hearing on the application and voted 4 to 0 to recommend approval of the conditional 6 use with the conditions recommended by the Planning 17 Staff, and the Applicant accepts all of the recommended conditions.

Our first witness today will be the head of school at Diener, Kathy Chumas. She will be -- and then, I guess depending on the order, we'll also have our civil engineer and land development expert, Patrick La Vay, our architect, Josh Andrews, and our transportation engineer, Katherine Wagner.

Our pre-hearing submission listed an additional
expert witness, a landscape architect, Jordan Sebastian.
Mr. Sebastian is unable to testify today, so his topics will be in addressed in part by Mr. La Vay and in part by Mr. Andrews.

With that, I'd like to call Kathy Chumas as my first witness.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Ms. Chumas, please raise your right hand.
Whereupon,

## KATHY CHUMAS,

being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was
examined and testified as follows:
EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT:
BY MS. CARRIER:
Q Ms. Chumas, please state your name and business
address for the record.
A Kathy Chumas. Business address is The Diener School, at 11701 Danville Drive, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852.

Q What is your position at The Diener School and
please describe your responsibilities?
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And her email address. MS. CARRIER: Oh, right.
Q Ms. Chumas, your email address.

| $\mathbf{1}$ | A All right. No problem. My email is KathyC -- |
| :--- | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | and that's K-A-T-H-Y C @thedienerschool.org. |
| 3 | HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. |
| 4 | Q Okay. So please state your position and tell |
| 5 | us what your responsibilities are. |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | A I'm currently the head of school at The Diener |

A I'm currently the head of school at The Diener 7 School. I am responsible for overseeing the day-to-day
8 operations at the School. Also responsible for all
9 students' and staffs' well-being. And given my clinical
10 background as a pediatric occupational therapist, I also
11 oversee our therapeutic Staff members and program.
12 Q How long have you been with Diener and what roles have you filled?
A I had actually been with Diener since 5 inception. August of 2007. I began my journey at 16 Diener as their pediatric occupational therapist. Six 17 years into Diener, I was then promoted to director of 8 admissions and therapeutic services. And then, in 2019, 19 I became the head of school. So 16 years at Diener.
20 Q Please tell us a little bit about the grades 21 that Diener serves and your student population?

A Sure. So as -- as Françoise has stated
earlier, that we are a school that serves students kindergarten through eighth grade. We serve a population of students with learning differences. We may have students with a formal learning disability in reading, writing, or math, children with language delays, sensory processing concerns, executive functioning at challenges. And from a diagnostic standpoint, I would say many of our students fall under with a diagno -- diagnosis of ADHD, high-functioning autism, or generalized anxiety.

Q Thank you. Please give us some background on 9 Diener's admission and its approach to education.
10 A Sure. When Jillian developed our school back 11 if 2007, it was her mission to develop a program that 12 really valued the whole child. And today, we are very 13 true to that mission 16 years later. Diener is a warm 14 and nurturing environment, yet challenging. We value 15 both the academic part of our curriculum as equal 16 importance to the social emotional.
17 When Jillian developed Diener, she developed 18 also a pyramid of learning, and four cornerstones of 19 Diener's curriculum. Those four cornerstones are 20 multisensory instruction. Our students need to learn by 21 hands-on learning materials. We do not have the 22 children at Diener that can sit, you know, for hours 23 behind a desk with paper and pencil. This is a very 24 kinesthetic style of teaching.
25 We also value the connection between movement
1

1 and learning, as there are many research studies now done that movement for children really stimulates their learning capabilities and also assist with their level of attention throughout the day.

The third one would be individualized instruction. We look at each child individually. We acknowedge their strengths and their areas of focus. And we also, when giving instruction, really pay attention to their learning style.

And then, the last one, which was very
important in the early years when Jillian was developing
Diener, and that's the collaboration amongst
professionals. We have a large Staff of 39 very
dedicated educators and therapeutic Staff. And
collaboration amongst that Staff is key to a child's
progress.
Q What motivated Diener to find a new location for the School?
A Our growing enrollments, as was stated earlier as well. Back in 2019, we had a student enrollment of 51 students. Currently, it is at 72, and for next year, it is completely full at full capacity with 75 . We also, in addition, have a wait list.

So given that, we knew we needed to find more space. Our current landlord does not - we're not able
to have more than 75 students in our current location. We do not want to continue to turn away families. There is such a need in the community. And that is what has driven us to find a new home.

Q Have you been directly involved in discussions about the site design and improvements of the proposed new location?

A Yes, I have. We have had frequent meetings, and I have been very engaged with the Planning Staff.
10 Q Tell me about some of the priorities that 11 Diener and its team have focused on during the site 2 planning process in terms of meeting students' academic and social needs?
14 A Space, really the overall space is incredibly 15 important to us. Our current location, this building is $16 \mathbf{1 3 , 0 0 0}$ square feet, and we like to stay we're kind of 17 busting out of the seams here. So first and foremost 18 was the size of the space.
19 In addition, making sure that we were going to 20 have ample outdoor space for our students that both 21 cater to elementary school students and middle school 22 students.
23 We wanted the capabilities to have more
24 classroom space. We currently have nine classrooms.
25 And would like ideally at least 12; 10 to 12.

1 Specialty rooms. In our current location, one

2 room acts as a classroom, a science room, an art room, 3 and a field lab. At the newlocation, the future plans 4 include a separate science room, a separate art room. A 5 gym. Something we also don't have right now.

And of course, looking for a new home, the location of that new home was very important. We serve families in Virginia, D.C. and Maryland. This location families in Virginia, D.C. and Maryland. This location
on Old Georgetown Road we feel will be ideal for our community.

And of course, we also wanted to make sure we And of course, we also wanted to make sure we
would have a seamless approach to carpool, both in the morning and in the afternoon.

Q And so what are the priorities with regard to students getting to and from the site?

A Having a seamless car pool system is our priority. We have a lot of practice with that currently. We're often praised by our families by our carpool system. So we wanted a location where we could closely mimic what we currently do. Because what we're doing now really works.

Q And do you -- I guess tell us how your pick-up and drop-off works currently.

A All right. So at our current location, we
reside on the Green Acres School campus in the Luxmanor

1 uses her walkie-talkie and mon -- calls out the name to
2 the Staff. So that when the cars come around the 3 circle, the other children are waiting. They're right 4 there when the car comes around.
5 And that all of those things that I just stated 6 really makes for a very seamless carpool process.
$7 \quad$ Q Do you plan to continue the same process with 8 the new location?
9 A Yes. Absolutely.
10 Q Are you familiar with the proposed site plan
11 and will it work with your process?
12 A Yes, very familiar with it. Also been involved 13 in all of those meetings. And yes, we do believe that 14 this is going to work for our school and excited about 15 it.
16 Q Ms. Chumas, are you familiar with the
17 Transportation Management Plan that we are submitting
18 today in a revised, slightly revised form?
19 A Yes. I am familiar with it and worked with the 20 Transportation Planning Committee as well.
21 Q Is The Diener School prepared to make a
22 commitment to abide by all of the provisions of the TMP?
23 A Yes, we are, and we do understand the 24 importance of the TMP.
25 Q When does Diener hope to move into its new
1 building?
A July or August, early August at the latest, of summer of 2024. So we are ready to go for the school year of 2024-2025.

Q What will the ramifications be if Diener can't transition from the current site to the new one for the September 2024 school year?

A Unfortunately, it means we will be turning away more families that truly need a school like Diener.
10 That is not something we want to do. It is very hard to
11 turn away a family that is in desperate need of a
12 program that similar to Diener that can address a
13 child's needs in both academics, social, and emotional
14 development. If we're not able to move to the site, we 15 will have to continue residing at Green Acres. Our rent 16 is very expensive. It is over $\$ 500,000$ a year, which is 17 a lot of money for a small organization like Diener.
18 Q Is there anything else you'd like the Hearing
19 Examiner to know as she considers this application?
20 A I would say that yes, we have been renters for 21 the last 16 years. It's always been our hope and dream
22 to own our own building. And today's presentation which
23 you're going to see today, it's exactly that. It is our
24 hopes and dreams. And we look forward to the
25 possibility of being part of the community and giving
neighborhood. Our morning carpool begins at 7:50. It
runs from 7:50 to about 8:20. During carpool, it is an
all hands-on deck at Diener. We have Staff members
located on the street, Staff members located all along
the carpool circle that are stationed at the individual
loading area. We number them at the different poles.
And we also have a Staff member that is located on the driveway.
9 So when carpool begins, there are Staff members 10 directing traffic, and there is a Staff member right at 11 each car to help the children unload and exit the car to the building.
13 Sometimes that the carpool, as I said, starts 14 at $7: 50$, ends at 8:20, often, we can be finished before 15 8:20 and earlier.
16 At dismissal, we start at 3 o'clock is when we 17 dismiss. Dismissal is typically 3 o'clock to about 3:20 18 to 3:30. And it's a very similar system as done in the 19 morning. There is Staff members also on the street, 20 along the carpool circle at every pole for the students 21 to enter the car as quickly as possible.
22 And one -- one different feature in the
23 afternoon is a Staff member uses a walkie-talkie, walks
24 down the carpool driveway, and makes a list of all the
25 students in order of the cars. So that -- and she then

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back to the community as well.
    Q Thank you very much, Ms. Chumas. That
completes my questions.
        A Thank you.
        HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Any questions of Ms.
Chumas?
    Okay. Hearing none, thank you. You can be
excused.
    Your next witness, Ms. Carrier.
    MS. CARRIER: My next witness normally would be
Pat La Vay to describe the project in more detail and go
    through some of the findings that are required for a
    conditional use.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right.
    MS. CARRIER: You know, I don't know if it's
    still your preference to go right to traffic. We can do
    that. I'll leave that up to you.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. I would
    like to go with traffic, and I'mjust thinking through
    the logistics of this, but let's get to traffic.
    And do you have anything in your exhibits that
    has a map that shows the map of the neighborhood so I
    can understand --
    MS. CARRIER: We have -- in the prefiled
    exhibits --
A Thank you.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Any questions of Ms.
Chumas?
Okay. Hearing none, thank you. You can be excused.
Your next witness, Ms. Carrier.
MS. CARRIER: My next witness normally would be
Pat La Vay to describe the project in more detail and go
conditional use.
MS. CARRIER: You know, I don't know if it's
still your preference to go right to traffic. We can do
that. I'll leave that up to you.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. I would
like to go with traffic, and I'm just thinking through
the logistics of this, but let's get to traffic.
And do you have anything in your exhibits that
has a map that shows the map of the neighborhood so I
can understand --
MS. CARRIER: We have -- in the prefiled
exhibits --
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    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yeah.
    MS. CARRIER: -- you would have to go to --
    well, there is an existing conditions plan that shows
some of the surroundings. The Staff --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: How about the new
exhibits?
MS. CARRIER: Well, we have Mr. La Vay was going
to show an aerial map both sort of one that shows the
whole neighborhood, and then, one closer up. And
0 there's also a map of the surrounding -- the aerial, the
big aerial also shows the surrounding neighborhood as
was designed by Staff. I'm sure that he wouldn't mind
just doing the first part of his testimony to show you
that.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you.
MS. CARRIER: And then, we can go to Ms.
Wagner.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes, that's fine.
MS. CARRIER: Okay.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you.
MS. CARRIER: Sure.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Mr. La Vay?
Okay. He's got his hand up, he's ready. Do
you --
MS. CARRIER: I don't see him. Do you see him?

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yeah.
MS. CARRIER: -- you would have to go to --
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well, there is an existing conditions plan that shows
some of the surroundings. The Staff --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: How about the new exhibits?

MS. CARRIER: Well, we have Mr. La Vay was going to show an aerial map both sort of one that shows the
whole neighborhood, and then, one closer up. And
there's also a map of the surrounding -- the aerial, the
big aerial also shows the surrounding neighborhood as
was designed by Staff. I'm sure that he wouldn't mind that.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you.
MS. CARRIER: And then, we can go to Ms.
Wagner.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes, that's fine.
MS. CARRIER: Okay.
MS. CARRIER: Sure.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Mr. La Vay?
Okay. He's got his hand up, he's ready. Do
you --
MS. CARRIER: I don't see him. Do you see him?

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HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes.
MS. CARRIER: Okay. That's fine. That's -that's what's important. Whereupon,

PATRICK LA VAY, being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as follows:

MS. CARRIER: Mr. La Vay -- oh.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Please state your name and address for the record.

MR. LA VAY: My name is Patrick La Vay. My business address is $920-$-- 9220 Wightman Road, Suite 120, Montgomery, Maryland 20886.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Now, Ms. Carrier, we just qualified him as an expert in civil engineering and
land planning in a case I just had. Is that what you're planning to do here?

MS. CARRIER: That is my -- the request I plan to make, yes.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Does anyone
have an objection -- his résumé is in the record. Does
anyone have an objection to qualifying Mr. La Vay as an
expert in land planning and civil engineering?
Okay. Hearing none, I'll so qualify him

Okay. Go ahead. Ms. Carrier.
MS. CARRIER: Great. Thank you very much.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I'mjumping the gun on you. I'm sorry.

MS. CARRIER: No, it's always fine. I love
efficiency. And I know you do too.
EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT:
BY MS. CARRIER:
Q Mr. La Vay, would you please -- did you prepare
10 an aerial photo showing the location of the property
11 that you could put up on your screen?
A I did.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So this will be
Exhibit 39. Aerial -- and what -- how would you
describe -- does it show the surrounding --
THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'll give you the name of
it. It would be considered -- let me just open it a little better.

I apologize for the delay here.
Okay. There's a prior one, that's why I want
to make sure I give you the right name.
We have this titled as Site Location and
Surrounding Neighborhood Map.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Does anyone have a -- well, first, let's see it.

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| :---: | :---: |
| THE WITNESS: Yeah, let me just make it as big <br> as I can on my screen here. <br> Okay. Can you see that? <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I can. Thank you. <br> THE WITNESS: Do you see the full yellow <br> border? <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes. <br> THE WITNESS: Okay. I just wanted to make sure <br> it's visible in the entirety. <br> Q Mr. La Vay, would you please go through this <br> aerial and orient us -- - <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, wait. <br> MS. CARRIER: Okay. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Does anyone have an <br> objection to admitting this exhibit as Exhibit 39 ? <br> Okay. Hearing none, go ahead, Mr. La Vay. <br> (Exhibit 39, Aerial map, was marked for <br> identification.) <br> (Exhibit 39, Aerial map, was admitted into <br> evidence.) <br> A Françoise, can you finish your question. <br> Q Yes, yes, please just identify the location of <br> the subject property, and also, I think it would be <br> helpful to describe the surrounding neighborhood. But <br> 25 let's -- so please go ahead with that. | ```going to ask you if this -- this -- I'm sorry, I have to get this. Here we go. I'm going to ask you if this comports with your findings. THE WITNESS: Sure. HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You should be seeing it. THE WITNESS: Yes. I see it now. HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And this -- and this is the list for I don't -- at least one of the Staff Report, and typically they are. Does this comport with your assessment of the special exceptions in the area? THE WITNESS: Yes, that's very, very familiar, if not the same as what's available on the Montgomery Country Atlas. It can show the special exceptions. And I can see a number of them. I didn't -- I don't think I looked at every -- some of the accessory apartments, but certainly like the YMCA facility that's listed as number 1, and then, again, those uses along Old Georgetown Road, they are mostly miscellaneous office and medical office uses. HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Thank you. Now, I'm going to get out of -- I'm going to admit this as Exhibit 39, and it will be identification of special exceptions in surrounding area.``` |
| A Sure. The property is marked as Site, and there's a arrow there pointing to a yellow polygon. It is located approximately half a mile south of the Capital Beltway and approximately a mile-and-a-half north of downtown Bethesda. It's located on the west west side of Old Georgetown Road, and it has address of 9312 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland. The site bound - excuse me, the neighborhood boundary is shown here in a dash yellowborder. Within that boundary, the land is entirely zoned R60 and is mostly single family residential uses. <br> However, there are a number of special <br> exception uses within the neighborhood. Most of them 4 are along Old Georgetown Road. They include some smaller general offices, medical offices, veterinary 16 practices and a few institutional and recreational uses. The building sizes vary in both their character and size. Some are larger, some are smaller, more residential style structures, but together, they establish an existing nonresidential character on this section of Old Georgetown Road. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Let me just -- <br> I'm going to share my screen for a minute because I 4 asked Staff about this to provide information about the 25 special exception in the area, and they did do so. I'm | ```None \\ I mean, this will be Exhibit 40. Special \\ Exceptions and Conditional Uses in Surrounding Area. \\ (Exhibit 40, Special Exceptions, was marked forNone ``` |

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but it is right off ofOld Georgetown Road at the -- on
the -- on Beech Avenue. Actually --
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yeah, I think they cut
off the surrounding area at the first -- the first
property's face -- just the property actually facing Old
Georgetown Road.
    MR. MYERS: Yeah. Okay. I just wanted to
clarify that
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Thank you.
    Okay. Go ahead, Mr. La Vay.
    Q Would you please put up the -- the other aerial
that you prepared with a more close-up view of the
property.
    A Sure. And this is going to be a new exhibit as
well, and we can title it Site Aerial Photo. You should
see that on your screens now. Excuse me.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay.
    MS. CARRIER: And will that be Exhibit 41?
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes. And how do you
describe this? Site aerial photo?
    THE WITNESS: Yep.
    (Exhibit 41, Site aerial photo, was marked for
identification.)
    (Exhibit 41, Site aerial photo, was admitted
into evidence.)
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Q Mr. La Vay, would you please use this image to orient us to the site and its main physical features?

A Sure. The site is shown bounded by the yellow 4 dash line here, which is the approximate boundary. As 5 you can see within that, there's an existing T-shaped 6 building that's a two-story structure approximately 7 25,783 square feet. The building is surrounded on all 8 sides by surface parking and drive aisles. And then, 9 beyond that perimeter landscaping create an exact -- an 10 existing screen around the property. There are two 11 driveway access points on Old Georgetown Road in the 12 northeast and -- northeast and southeast corners of the 13 site.
14 Beginning at Old Georgetown Road, the gradient 15 is quite significant. From Old Georgetown Road to the 16 existing building alone, there's 16 feet of rise, and I 17 think there are few photos of that in the Staff Report. 18 I think it's figures 3 and 4. But there's quite a bit 19 of grade there between the building and the street. And 20 we'll get to that a little bit later with some of the 21 improvements.
22 But then, continuing to the back of the site, 23 to the rear of the parking, so going from right to left 24 on that page, that westernmost area parking is sort of a 25 pinnacle of the site. That's actually 36 feet higher
than Old Georgetown Road. So there a lot - a lot of gradient as you go up across this site.

And then, on that westem boundary, you can see there's a number of trees there. That's that was designated by the Natural Resource Inventory as a small area of existing forest. It's less than a quarter acre. But it is heavily covered in bamboo.

Just a quick glimpse of the surrounding, immediate surrounding properties. We can start at the north corner, there's a what you can it's labeled here on the exhibit as Potomac Construction Services. That's an existing office building.

And then, as you move from that structure counterclockwise around the property, with the exception of Singleton Drive which dead ends into the property, 6 this are single family residential properties all the 17 way around. Although I will note on the southern side of the property, there is an existing single family residence, but it's vacant and it's under corporate ownership.

And then, across Old Georgetown Road, you can see here there's a few - an animal hospital, a
3 veterinary use, there's a medical office, and then, there's a pediatric care center. So some of those nonresidential uses I described earlier.

Q Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. La Vay.
MS. CARRIER: Ms. Hannan, I think this is
probably a good place to stop Mr. La Vay's testimony and move to the traffic testimony.

But Mr. La Vay, would you please leave up the
Exhibit -- I -- Exhibit 39 because I don't think that I
-- don't think Ms. Wagner has that to put up on the
screen. And I -- and I -- it might help for that
discussion.
THE WITNESS: Is it visible now?
MS. CARRIER: Yep.
THE WITNESS: Okay.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you.
Ms. Wagner -- oh. Is Ms. Wagner your next
witness?
MS. CARRIER: Yes, Ms. Wagner will be our next witness.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Ms. Wagner, please raise your right hand.
Whereupon,

## KATHERINE WAGNER,

being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was
examined and testified as follows:
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Go ahead, Ms. Carrier.

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MS. CARRIER: Okay.
BY MS. CARRIER:
    Q Ms. Wagner, please state your name and business
    -- and email address and business address for the
    record.
    A Hi, yes. Katherine Wagner, my business address
    is 1140 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 1010, Washington, D.C.
    20036. And my email address is klw@goroveslade.com
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay.
    Q How long have you been -- what is your
    profession and what professional certifications do you
    have?
    A I have been - I'm-
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well --
    A - a transportation engineer.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- before we go
    through this, I don't mean to -- to, but she has
    qualified as a -- are you a traffic engineer or
    transportation planner?
    THE WITNESS: Typically, transportation engineer
    is what we go by.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Ms. Wagner has
    qualified as an expert in transportation engineering
    before OZAH before.
Does anyone have an objection to so qualifying
    her here?
    Hearing none, I'm going to qualify Ms. Wagner
as an expert in transportation engineering.
    MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Go ahead, Ms. Carrier.
    Q Ms. Wagner, I plan to ask you first about the
project's anticipated impact on the local transportation
network, and then we'll turn to site design issues.
10 Did you and your team at Gorove Slade prepare a
local area transportation report and a transportation
impact study in connection with the proposed project?
    A Yes. We prepared a LATR, a Local Area
Transportation Review, and then, a Traffic Impact
Statement, which is part of that LATR, and the - the
1 6 \text { Traffic Impact Statement, TIS, is specifically focused}
17 on vehicular operations on the local roadway network.
    Q Was that transportation report, the LATR,
submitted as part of both the school's conditional use
application and its pending preliminary plan
application?
    A Yes.
    Q And were those two applications filed at the
same time?
    A Yes, they were.
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| 1 | HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Mr. Myers, or |
| :--- | :---: |
| 2 | anyone else, do you have an objection to admitting this |
| 3 | revised TMP dated May 11th, 2023? |
| 4 | MR. MYERS: I do not. |
| 5 | $\quad$ HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So I'll accept |
| 6 | it as Exhibit 42. And then, you can continue. |
| 7 | (Exhibit 42, Revised TMP, was marked for |
| 8 | identification.) |
| 9 | (Exhibit 42, Revised TMP, was admitted into |
| 10 | evidence.) |
| 11 | MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much. |
| 12 | Q Ms. Wagner, please summarize the results of the |
| 13 | transportation tests that your team carried out? |
| $\mathbf{1 4}$ | A So we did different review- transportation |
| $\mathbf{1 5}$ | reviews as part of this LATR. We have to look at the |
| $\mathbf{1 6}$ | Multimodal improvement - the Multimodel Local Network |
| $\mathbf{1 7}$ as part of this - as part of this study, and so we have |  |
| $\mathbf{1 8}$ | to look at pedestrian level of comfort, we have to look |
| $\mathbf{1 9}$ at the bike level of traffic stress, the transportation |  |
| $\mathbf{2 0}$ | network, and then, we also had to perform a Vision Zero |
| $\mathbf{2 1}$ | Safety Evaluation, and then, finally, as I described |
| $\mathbf{2 2}$ | previously, we had to do a motor vehicle adequacy test |
| $\mathbf{2 3}$ | to look for the need for any transportation improvements |
| $\mathbf{2 4}$ on the local roadway network. |  |
| 25 | Q And what were the results? |

66
A So we scoped our traffic study with the local agencies, so Park and Planning, MCDOT, and SHA. We performed a corridor analysis along Old Georgetown Road, where we were looking really at the corridor as a whole as opposed to each individual intersection as previously 6 discussed where we understand that there is a new bike 7 lane facility put on Old Georgetown Road right along the 8 site frontage. And so all agencies agreed to look at a 9 corridor study. We originally scoped that study. That 10 has to meet the $\mathbf{8 0}$ second delay's threshold, and we met 11 that $\mathbf{8 0}$ second delay threshold with using the corridor analysis.
13 We found that there were deficiencies in the pedestrian network. This include a lack of ped sorry, striking at crosswalks; that there were 16 deficiencies in the ADA curb ramps that were in the 17 area, and then, there were streetlights facing 18 deficiencies.
19 We also identified some deficiencies in the 20 bicycle network where there are facilities documented in
21 the bike Master Plan and are not yet implemented, or
22 that they have a higher bike level of traffic stress 23 than what the County would like to see. stops within the transit network in our study area.

And then, our vision zero evaluation found that there were occurrences of speeding and crashes within the study area. And that this followed the implementation of different safety projects by MDOT -by SHA.

Q It sounds like fair number of deficiencies. Is that common in the County?

A Yes. It is -- these deficiencies that we found are very common within our studies in the County, and part of the reason why our studies have -- have turned 11 to focus on not just looking at vehicular impacts but 12 also at the multimodal facilities within the area.

13 Q And these, we're talking about all deficiencies 14 that are offsite, correct?
15 A Yes. Yes. Our review really focuses on the 16 offsite facilities.

17 Q How does the Applicant propose to contribute 8 towards the mitigation of these deficiencies?

A So first, we do look at what we need to do along our site frontage, so we are proposing a 11 foot 21 wide site path, side path as well as an eight foot wide 2 landscape buffer, with a two foot wide maintenance strip. So really focusing on our responsibilities to 24 contributing to that transportation network and 25 improving our site frontage.

1 We also will be contributing $\$ 19,000-\$ 19,713$ to MCDOT for improvements to nearby curb ramps. And this was based on coordination with MCDOT and Park and Planning, after determining that were - there were no existing deficiency projects that would fit within the project's proportionality guide of \$22,622.

Q Would the hearing -- well, so and that number relates only to offsite improvements, right; not the sidewalk the School is building on its frontage?

A Correct, yes.
Q And that number, was that number based on the calculations under the County's guidelines for offsite improvement contributions?

A Yes. Yes, when counsel added the obligation to mitigate offsite multimodal deficiency, the MMCPPC and MCDOT developed what is called the proportionality 17 guide. This establishes a proportionate - a
18 proportionate dollar amount for the project's impact
19 that - that the Applicant must contribute towards the 20 multimodal deficiencies. So this is based off of the
21 project size, where its location is. That that is how
22 we came up with that very specific \$22,622, and that it 23 is it based on the LATR guidelines where it establishes 24 a total cost for the project's offsite improvements.
25 Q Thank you. Please describe the main elements

| 1 | of the TMP. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | A So the TMP has three different categories. The |
| 3 | first one is minimizing vehicular traffic. This |
| 4 | includes encouraging students and staff to carpool. The |
| 5 | School will be providing two buses for students, so a |
| 6 | significant number of the students will be arriving by |
| 7 | bus. |
| 8 | And then, it also provides multimodal |
| 9 | transportation options for staff encouraging them to |
| 10 | think about other ways of getting to the School besides |
| 11 | in a single occupancy vehicle. |
| $12 \quad$ The TMP next section details out the operations |  |
| 13 | on site, so including the pick-up and drop-off plan, and |
| 14 the established circulation pattern for vehicles and the |  |
| 15 | buses. |
| 16 | And then, we also described the special events |
| 17 | operations, and so this includes how parking is managed |
| 18 | for larger events, and the options for that. It also |
| 19 | establishes that there will be a transportation |
| 20 | coordinator as -- as part of the staff at The Diener |
| 21 | School, and so they will help implement the TMP. |
| 22 | It also includes notes about how the TMP will |
| 23 | be communicated with parents. |
| $24 \quad$ Q What -- I'm sorry, a little bit of a -- of a |  |
| 25 | distraction. |

How does the TMP address event parking?
Because the School will have a certain number of special events that will have more attendees than on a typical day.

A Yes. So I'm gonna first tell how many parking 6 spaces there are normally because we kind of skipped
7 over that part. So the site will be developed in two
8 phases. In Phase 1, there will - there will be 65
9 parking spaces. And then, in Phase 2, there will be 42
10 parking spaces. The TMP addresses event parking by
11 providing different options for different sizes of
12 events. The first option that the School has is that
13 they would utilize valet parking. So that allows
14 parking to be in a little bit more of a Tetris fashion
15 on site where there's somebody that's managing the
16 vehicles, and we can fit more vehicles on site. So with
17 the valet option, there'll be -- there'll be the
18 availability of 114 parking spaces in Phase 1. And
19 then, in Phase 2, there will be 87 parking spaces.
20 The next option that the School has for larger
21 events where they know they'll have more parking than
22 the valet option would provide - would be to provide
23 shuttles to the nearby Metro stations where that way
24 parents and staff can take the Metro, they can park at
25 Metro, and then, there would be shuttle service provided
to and from the School.
And then. Another option that the School is exploring is renting parking spaces from nearby facilities.

Q Thank you, Ms. Wagner.
MS. CARRIER: I'd like to say just for the record that the Statement of Justification describes event parking, but it's not as detailed as the information that's in the TMP. So the TMP should be relied on on that point.

Q Ms. Wagner --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay.
Q -- what input did you receive in developing the TMP?
A Yes. So first, we started by really understanding how the School operates. As Kathy Chumas described earlier, that getting - getting children in and out of the cars, getting that carpool line through as efficiently and as quickly as possible is really one of the first - is one of the high priorities for the School. So we detailed out how the School plans to replicate those some more operations at the new school.

We consulted with MMCPPC, MCDOT, and SHA staff where we submitted a TMP, got their comments, and have included revisions in the TMP that addressed their comments.
2 We also requested feedback from the community. 3 Specifically the Maple Wood Citizens - Citizens 4 Association regarding the School's operations and the 5 impacts to the local community, and included all of 6 their comments in the TMP.

Q In your professional opinion, will the TMP be effective in ensuring that the proposed school will have
9 no unacceptable adverse effects on the local
10 transportation system?
11 A Yes. The TMP documents how transportation
12 should operate on site to reduce the possibility of any
13 adverse effects on the local transportation -
14 transportation system to an acceptable level.
15 Q So you already heard the early discussion about
16 the status of review by the State Highway
17 Administration. Would you please give us your
18 understanding of the status of that review?
19 A Yes. We first submitted our LATR to SHA,
20 MCDOT, and Park and Planning in October of 2022. We
21 have been working very hard to resolve all comments
22 since then. We have received positive - a letter of
23 approval from MCDOT. We have received a positive Staff
24 Report from Park and Planning. We are still as you've
25 heard waiting for that final approval letter from SHA

| 73 | 75 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 which we had hoped to receive before the Planning Board | 1 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh, I see. |
| 2 hearing last week, as well as this hearing today. | 2 THE WITNESS: -- the site -- the site frontage |
| 3 And so we are, as was detailed previously, we | 3 here. |
| 4 heard from Park and Planning and MCDOT that they had had | 4 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I see it -- okay. |
| 5 a meeting with SHA, and sent us some general comments, | 5 THE WITNESS: And then, Alta Vista Road is to |
| 6 concerns that SHA had. And so what we tried to do | 6 the south of o |
| 7 submit a mitigation menu for SHA to consider to address | 7 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. |
| 8 the side street delay concerns on Old Georgetown Road | 8 THE WITNESS: The Alta Vista to the east |
| 9 caused by the road diet and the bike lanes. | 9 connects through to the Maple Wood neighborhood. |
| 10 We received this email from Park and Planning | 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. |
| 11 Staff. We submitted analysis and a memo within a week | 11 THE WITNESS: Then, Alta Vista to the west, |
| 12 of receiving these comments. SHA was to respond in | 12 there is a -- it is a dead end cul-de-sac, so there are |
| 13 within a week. Unfo | 13 not very many vehicles that will be coming from Alta |
| 14 from SHA regarding our - the mitigation menu that we | 14 Vista from the west. North of our site is |
| 15 had proposed, our analysis that we had done to address | 15 Spruce Street. As you can see here, the YMCA is just |
| 16 their concerns. | 16 north of Spruce Street. |
| 17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: May I jump in for a | 17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. |
| 18 moment? | 18 THE WITNESS: And then, on the west side of Old |
| 19 What were specifically the SHA concerns th | 19 Georgetown Road, Spruce Street is a private driveway. |
| 20 you're aware of? | 20 So there are very few vehicles that will be coming to |
| 21 THE WITNESS: The -- the email was very general | 21 and from Spruce Street to on the west. |
| 22 that we had -- we received fromPark and Planning. What | 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So which side stree |
| 23 we heard was side street delays were a concern at Ol | 23 are -- and Beech -- okay. Which side street -- did SHA |
| 24 Georgetown Road and Spruce Street. And so -- | 24 name a side street or did they just say -- |
| 25 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Hold up, hold | 25 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Those are the two - |
| 74 | 76 |
| 1 up. Because it's what I'm trying to do is get a sense | 1 those are the two side streets that they are |
| 2 of the issues in this case that are -- and I don't know, | 2 considering. Where they are considering. |
| 3 I see a little cul -- I see two cul-de-sacs on each side | 3 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And that's Rose Street |
| 4 of Old Georgetown Road. Which is Spruce Street? | 4 and Alta Vista? |
| 5 MS. CARRIER: You know, I would like to just | 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, yeah. And -- |
| 6 ask Mr. La Vay to maybe zero in for us in this -- in | 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I can't remember - |
| 7 this map. | 7 THE WITNESS: Oh, I want to explain the site |
| 8 THE WITNESS: Can I actually -- can I actually | 8 operations just a little bit because I think that would |
| 9 -- | 9 also help -- help you understand -- |
| 10 MS. CARRIER: You have a map? | 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Is Alta Vista, |
| 11 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do. And Exhibit 32 is | 11 is that signalized or not? I can't remember. |
| 12 LATR. And we have -- it's just zoomed in ever so | 12 THE WITNESS: So neither Alta Vista or |
| 13 slightly. And hopefully this -- | 13 Spruce Street are signalized. These are unsignalized |
| 14 MS. CARRIER: Ah. Okay. | 14 driveways -- |
| 15 THE WITNESS: -- is a little bit easier to | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. |
| 16 understand. | 16 THE WITNESS: -- unsignalized intersections. |
| 17 So what I'm showing is this is our site here, | 17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. |
| 18 this is Old Georgetown Road, the neighborhood -- | 18 THE WITNESS: There is a median that runs down |
| 19 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: When you say this, | 19 Old Georgetown Road. And so when vehicles are entering |
| 20 they're labeled -- | 20 our site, this is where I would like to pull up -- |
| 21 THE WITNESS: Oh, sorry | 21 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: That's fine. Thank |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- on this exhibit. | 22 you. |
| 23 THE WITNESS: -- thank you. Yes, thank you for | 23 THE WITNESS: Exhibit 35B. So what vehicles are |
| 24 the reminder. | 24 going to do to enter our site -- I'mjumping ahead, |
| 25 So Old Georgetown Road runs along -- | 25 Françoise, to answer some questions. |


| 77 | 79 |
| :---: | :---: |
| MS. CARRIER: Go right ahead. | 1 turning to enter in our site in the after -- enter into |
| 2 THE WITNESS: So vehicles will enter into our | 2 our site coming from the south, they must drive north on |
| 3 site. There is the northern site driveway. This is an | 3 Old Georgetown Road, make a U-turn at Spruce Street, and |
| 4 entrance inbound access only that is wide enough | 4 then, make a right turn into the sit |
| 5 accommodate both buses and vehicles. So vehicles will | 5 Similarly, if they are exiting, and if vehicles |
| 6 turn into our site. They will continue through a gate | 6 are traveling south, they can just turn right and travel |
| 7 which will be open during the pick-up and drop-off tim | 7 south out of the sit |
| 8 period | 8 |
| 9 There is a concern about students eloping, and | 9 right out of the site, and make a U-turn at Alta Vista, |
| 10 so it is really important for the campus to be secure | 10 and turn nor |
| 11 during the non-pick-up and drop-off time periods. | 11 We do not -- in our analysis did not show that |
| 12 Then, vehicles to maximize queueing within the | 12 the U-turns were an issue. SHA does not have concerns |
| 13 site, these purple lines shown on this exhibit show | 13 about vehicles weaving. That we have -- we're spaced |
| 14 where vehicles are able to double stack. So we're | 14 far enough away from these U-turn maneuvers that U-turns |
| 15 really able to get as many cars on camp -- as many car | 15 are not the issue. But we did respond to their comments |
| 16 on campus as we can to prevent any potential queue back | 16 where we provided all of the mitigation measures that |
| 17 -- queuing onto Old Georgetown Ro | 17 could potentially be looked at. |
| 18 So vehicles will double stack along this | 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And what were the |
| 19 northern frontage of the site along the southern or | 19 mitigation measures that you proposed besides from the |
| 20 along the western boundary of the property. And then, 21 turning down onto the southern side of the site, they | 20 U-turns? |
| 22 will continue to double stack. | 22 we looked at Beech Avenue, and there is a lot of |
| 23 Once we get to the green area along | 23 approved development on the roadway network, and signal |
| 24 southern part of the site, that is where we will have | 24 timings could be optimized for this intersection to |
|  |  |
| 78 | 80 |
| 1 picking up and dropping off students. There will be | 1 measures that we proposed |
| 2 as you heard earlier, there will be a lots of staff out | 2 The next mitigation measure that we proposed |
| 3 there to be able to help students in and out of the | 3 was restricting left turns off of Spruce Street and Alta |
| 4 cars, making sure that in the morning they're getting | 4 Vista. So it is very difficult -- |
| 5 out of cars quickly. And afternoon, it's making su | 5 MS. CARRIER: Ms. Wagner, those |
| 6 that there are the students at the cars when it needs to | 6 THE WITNESS: Yes. |
| 7 be, and that they're lined up with their parents at the | 7 MS. CARRIER: -- restrictions would be only |
| 8 appropriate time period. | 8 during the peak hours, right? |
| $9 \quad$ Once -- once parents have either dropped off or | 9 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes. Thank you for that |
| 10 picked up their children, they will exit out. There's | 10 clarification. |
| 11 another gate here again that will be open during pick-up | 11 So we would restrict left turns from the east |
| 12 and drop-off time periods. The right -- the gate is | 12 and westbound movements at Spruce Street and Alta Vist |
| 13 shown in red. Parents will then exit out a right out | 13 There are very few vehicles making these turning |
| 14 only curb cut onto Old Georgetown Road. | 14 movements. In each of the peak hours we analyzed, |
| 15 It is important to note that Old Georgetown | 15 there's less than ten vehicles making these maneuvers. |
| 16 Road has a median along it, so access is limited to | 16 I personally have been out there, and I tried to make |
| 17 right in the northern driveway, and right out in the | 17 that left turn movement at about 7 p.m. a couple weeks |
| 18 southern driveway. | 18 ago, and I had to give up. It is just very difficult to |
| 19 So that is the site circulation plan. And I'm | 19 find gaps in traffic to make that left turn. |
| 20 going to go back to the Exhibit 32 of the LA -- where we | 20 You heard from Allen Myers earlier where he has |
| 21 show the aerial of the LATR. And so part of the SHA | 21 residents that have com -- that are also complaining |
| 22 concerns is looking at how these side streets operate. | 22 about left turns often blocking, so we thought that this |
| 23 As for vehicles that are traveling from the north, they | 23 would be an appropriate mitigation measure that also is |
| 24 can just simply turn into the site. They can turn right | 24 seen to reduce delays because you're not having the left |
| 25 in , they don't have to worry. If we have vehicles | 25 turn vehicles waiting to find gaps blocking other cars. |


| 81 | 83 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 So we restricted, we recommended -- | 1 Q -- peak hour, and 15 is the School peak hour? |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Are these problems | 2 A Yes. The School peak hour. |
| 3 exacerbated by your signs? | 3 Q And then, one would be the afternoon street |
| 4 THE WITNESS: Ever so slightly -- | 4 peak hour. |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: If you have no -- if | 5 A Yes. |
| 6 you have no queuing on Old Georgetown Road? | 6 THE WITNESS: And then, I'm going to go down to |
| 7 THE WITNESS: So yes, or -- we do mak | 7 intersection 7, which is Alta Vista, which we have a |
| 8 so slightly worse, but this is an existing problem. | 8 similar pattern of we have -- don't add any vehicles to |
| 9 These side street delays are -- are shown in existing | 9 the north -- to the east or westbound. We add |
| 10 conditions as an issue because of the heavy volume | 10 northbound traffic in the a.m, school p.m, and p.m |
| 11 traffic on Old Georgetown Road. And we are not adding | 11 peak hour. We add southbound traffic in the a.m, p.m |
| 12 vehicles. The School does not anticipate vehicles | 12 and school time peak. And then, we have southbound |
| 13 coming from these movements. So that's where we don't | 13 this is showing the southbound U-turns. |
| 14 add to these side street delays. We only just add | 14 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: How much above |
| 15 vehicles to Old Georgetown Road. So this is an existing | 15 existing volumes is what you're adding? |
| 16 problemSHA is wanting us to figure out for them. | 16 THE WITNESS: Trying to see. I don't -- so |
| 17 So those were -- so we recommended -- | 17 those -- so that these are what we're adding. |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: How many vehicles | 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes. But what is that |
| 19 how many vehicles do you add to the exiting problem, to | 19 is a percentage of existing volume? |
| 20 the existing -- to the existing volume is what I meant | 20 THE WITNESS: So you can see the highest part -- |
| 21 to say? | 21 -- I'm just going to use an estimating. The highest |
| 22 THE WITNESS: So would you like to specifically | 22 member we have is $79-79$ vehicles. |
| 23 know at the intersections or just as a whole? | 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. The private |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: At the intersection. | 24 driveway. |
| 25 THE WITNESS: I don't have that off the top of | 25 THE WITNESS: Or -- yes. Well, this is |
| 82 | 84 |
| 1 my head, so I'm going to pull up a graphic here. So | 1 Spruce Street. |
| 2 this is page 45 of Exhibit 32, which is the Local Area | 2 But then, we come down here to this to page 50, |
| 3 Transportation Review | 3 where we show what are the total traffic on Old |
| 4 So at Spruce Street, this is intersection 4 | 4 Georgetown Road. |
| 5 I'm going to zoom in for you to see. We add no volumes | 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Um-hum |
| 6 to the side street movements. And we add volumes to the | 6 THE WITNESS: You can see here that we have over |
| 7 northbound and southbound. We're showing a.m., p.m. or | 72,000 vehicles in that movement. So we're adding a very |
| 8 school p.m., so that's the 3 to 4 time -- 3 to 4 p.m. | 8 small percentage of vehicles on to Old Georgetown Road. |
| 9 time period, and then, the commuter p.m. peak hour. And | 9 At what's out there. |
| 10 then, we do add northbound U-turns. So that's the | 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Do you mind going |
| 11 vehicles traveling from the -- | 11 through again what the mitigation you've proposed was. |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I got you. | 12 THE WITNESS: Yes. I am going to go back to -- |
| 13 THE WITNESS: -- south that want to make -- that | 13 to that aerial for you so we can all just have a |
| 14 need to get into -- | 14 reference. |
| 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Because it sounds from |
| 16 THE WITNESS: -- the site. So that is at Spruce | 16 Mr . Myers like it's pretty bad, and you said you |
| 17 Street -- | 17 couldn't get out. |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Now, what's the 30 | 18 THE WITNESS: So I'm going to start from the top |
| 19 foot -- what's $34,15,1$ ? Is that the number of U-turns | 19 and going through the mitigation measures that we |
| 20 you have? | 20 included in our -- |
| 21 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yep. | 21 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Got you. I | 22 THE WITNESS: -- memo to SHA. |
| 23 understand. | 23 So first one was signal timing optimization at |
| 24 Q Is 34 in the morning -- | 24 Beech. This is a common recommendation. Just want to |
| 25 A Yes. | 25 make sure intersections are constantly updated given new |

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development in the area.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And Beech is where The
French School, The French School middle school goes in,
right?
    THE WITNESS: Yes, as well as the YMCA, and
then, there are two other -- two other schools right
next to The French School.
    So that's that intersection. The next place
that we had two mitigation issue measures was Alta Vista
and Spruce Street. And we add mitigation measures at
both of these intersections that are the exact same. So
we are restrict -- we recommended --
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: What were the -- oh,
go ahead, sorry.
    THE WITNESS: The mitigation measures that we
looked at there was restricting U-turns. We have said
-- restricting U-turns at those intersections because
they are unsignalized intersections.
    The other the mitigation measure that we looked
at was restricting left turns during the peak hours at
Spruce Street and Alta Vista for the eastbound and
westbound movements.
    The next mitigation measure that we looked at
was Staff was concerned about the delay at our site
driveway, and that there are queue s on Old Georgetown
development in the area.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And Beech is where The
French School, The French School middle school goes in, right?
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Road, and vehicles would not be able to exit out of our
site. So what we have recommended is a don't block the
box signage and striping. And so what that does is it
can be seen at North Chelsea and 355 where they you
provide like X striping in the middle of the roads and
you say don't block intersection, and so that vehicles
--
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I see.
THE WITNESS: -- would be able to exit out of
our site.
Since we wrote this letter, and submitted it to
Staff-- submitted it to SHA, we worked with Allen Myers
to take -- we -- to understand the community's concerns
about the U-turn mitigation measure, and we have -- we
submitted a letter to SHA on May 10th where we said we
do not want SHA to consider the U-turn restriction; that
it provided very little improvement in delay operations.
That we wanted to provide the whole host of mitigations
for SHA to consider per their direction, but this is not
one that we want them to consider.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Can you -- I'm
sorry to be slow. I want to make sure I understand.
THE WITNESS: Of course.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: The don't block the
box striping, would that be in front of your site or is

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Road, and vehicles would not be able to exit out of our
site. So what we have recommended is a don't block the
box signage and striping. And so what that does is it
can be seen at North Chelsea and 355 where they you
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HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I see.
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it provided very little improvement in delay operations.
That we wanted to provide the whole host of mitigations
for SHA to consider per their direction, but this is not
one that we want them to consider.
sorry to be slow. I want to make sure I understand.
THE WITNESS: Of course. box striping, would that be in front of your site or is
-
that in front of Alta Vista and Spruce?
THE WITNESS: It would be in front of our site at the -- at the exit; that there would be striping shown probably about 50 feet north of our site driveway, and then 50 , feet south of our site driveway where it's white paint striping in X 's discouraging vehicles from blocking the site driveway at --

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Now, how does --
THE WITNESS: -- signage.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- that help Spruce
and Alta Vista if you have a double --
THE WITNESS: It doesn't, and I guess I should
13 -- I should expand. SHA also indicated that they were
4 concerned about -- about our site driveway, and that
5 vehicles would be -- not be able to get out of our site.
And so --
17
18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh.
THE WITNESS: -- they wanted us to look at a 19 mitigation measures for that, and we haven't really dove 0 into that discussing that because it didn't affect the 1 neighbors and Allen Myers' community. That this is something that everybody was -- was fine with. That it really wouldn't have much impact on operations as it would only be really needed during the a.m. and p.m. dismissal and arrival time for the School.

1 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So the -- the options that might -- might be acceptable to the community, but we're waiting for, is a signal timing adjustment at Beech?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And then, restricting left turns from Spruce and Alta Vista?

THE WITNESS: Yes. And then, the don't block the box.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: The don't block the
box. Okay. Okay. That really helps me.
THE WITNESS: And we, in our coordination with

16 community is the left turn restriction. That we
17 understand they don't want the U-turns. Signal timing
18 optimization is something that benefits everyone. Don't
19 block the box doesn't seem to be a concern for anyone,
20 but it's really the -- we have taken back the U-turn
21 restriction, but it's then understanding everybody's
22 position about the left turn restriction during the peak
hours.
24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Who -- who has 25 jurisdiction -- Alta Vista and Spruce are County roads,
2

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right?
    THE WITNESS: Yes. Yep.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So it would be up to
MCDOT --
    THE WITNESS: Yes.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- to --
    THE WITNESS: And we had submitted -- we
submitted the letter to all agencies; to Park and
Planning, to MCDOT, and to SHA. We were -- we have been
working very closely with Park and Planning and MCDOT.
Both were present at the preliminary -- at our Planning
Board hearing on May 4th. And Park and Planning offered
to set up a meeting with all agencies as well as us and
Allen Myers. We were trying to get that meeting
scheduled before this meeting, but we did not hear back
from SHA to discuss all of these mitigation measures.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: What is SHA -- okay.
So who gives final say over whether leff turns can be
restricted?
    MS. CARRIER: IfI -- ifI just interject there,
the Staff Report says that all the agencies have to
concur --
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh
    MS. CARRIER: -- at preliminary plan. And I had
an informal conversation with a senior member of the
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Staff at MCDOT, who, you know, they have not given
written response. I assume that they're waiting to see
what SHA is going to say first. That I don't really
know. But her response when I asked her what she
thought DOT was going to say about these left turns was
the County has congestion standards for urban areas, and
we should stick with them
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So -- so what you're
saying is although your LATR didn't address the side
street issue, your LAT -- I'm -- I'm not telling you;
I'm thinking this through. LATR, did it deal only with
-- it only deals with the signalized intersections,
correct?
THE WITNESS: No. So let me go to a different
page on here to show you which intersections we studied.
MS. CARRIER: And Ms. Hannan, I appreciate all
the care you're taking to understand this.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: No, I feel slow but --
THE WITNESS: No, it is probably that stuff --
MS. CARRIER: Yeah, we've had months to try --
THE WITNESS: Right.
MS. CARRIER: -- to figure this out.
THE WITNESS: So the intersection that we
studied are detailed on page 36 of the Exhibit 32 of the
LATR. So we looked at the off-- the on and off ramps

## 89 <br> 9

1 from--
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh. So you did study Alta Vista?

THE WITNESS: Yes. So we did study the -- the
on and off ramps from the Beltway, we studied Beech, we
studied Spruce Street, 5 -- intersection 5 and 6
represent our site driveways, intersection Alt -- 7 is
Alta Vista, intersection 8 is Cedar Lane. So when we do
our analysis, what we do is, as I've mentioned
previously, we look at the whole corridor, we run a
micro simulation tool called Sim Traffic where literally
there are vehicles moving on my screen and I can see how
it takes into consideration intersections upstream and
downstream, how we may have a large number of cars
coming to and from the site right at that peak, right at that 15 -minute time period before the bell rings.
So that is what my micro simulation Sim Traffic tool can look at. And so that's where we look at the operations of the corridor as a whole, and where we met the APF findings corridor analysis of 80 seconds.

The n , as when we print out our calculations
from that -- from that software, it gives us how each
intersection, how each approach is operating.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. That's what I thought.

THE WITNESS: And so then --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: It's a weighted
average of each approach, isn't it?
THE WITNESS: Yes. And so that's where --
that's where SHA can go in and nitpick all of the little
details, but the APF finding is based off of the
corridor as a whole. And so that's where SHA has a
separate level of review that they do where they try to
go and look at each individual intersection movement,
and things like that. And that's where we're in those
trying to resolve these -- these separate issues with SHA.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, did you -- when
you say corridor as a whole, do each of those
intersections have to be 80 seconds or less or --
THE WITNESS: No, they do not.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- is it a average of
THE WITNESS: It's how -- it's how long it takes a vehicle to travel through that corridor and looking at
1 it whether there's 80 seconds or not of delay.
22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So where does
23 the -- I thought that the 80 seconds takes into account,
24 for instance, the Alta Vista approach in addition to the
25 Old Georgetown approach. Is that not the case?

| 93 | 95 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 THE WITNESS: It is the case. And part of | 1 the lines and numbers -- |
| 2 reason why I'm going to -- I'm going to zoom into inter | 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Wait -- |
| -- part of the reason why we're getting into some mor | 3 MS. CARRIER: -- has the hour |
| 4 complicated parts of understanding the delay and how- | 4 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- I can't have you |
| 5 how everything operates, and why we get the results that | 5 MS. CARRIER: Oh, sorry. |
| 6 we do. So as we talked about previously, there are a | 6 Q Ms. Wagner, could you please walk through each |
| 7 large number of vehicles traveling north and southbound | 7 of-- everything that's represented |
| 8 on Old Georgetown Road. And as you pointed out, we're | 8 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I am sorry |
| 9 looking at the average of a vehicle | $9 \quad \mathrm{Q}$ |
| 10 You can see that at Spruce Street, we have | 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- to everybody here, |
| 11 three vehicles trying to make that left turn movement. | 11 I apologize. I just want to make sure I really |
| 12 We have in the a.m peak hour, we have one in the 3 to 4 | 12 understand this. And it seems to me that this is the |
| 13 time period. | 13 most problematic. I haven't heard from anyone else |
| 14 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Is that Spruce Street | 14 probably the most problematic issue in the case. |
| 15 or Old Georgetown Road? | 15 THE WITNESS: It is |
| 16 THE WITNESS: So Old Georgetown Road is running | 16 So I have Exhibit 32 up and page 39, and this |
| 17 north and south. Spruce Street -- | 17 is showing the existing traffic volumes that we |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh, I get. I see wh | 18 collected in 2022. So we have each blue circle has |
| 19 -- how this is -- sorry. | 19 number which represents a different intersection. So |
| 20 MS. CARRIER: It's pretty -- it's confusing | 20 that is this intersections that we were required to |
| 21 And so there's so many cars on Old Georgetown Road that | 21 study that we agreed with SHA, we agreed with Park and |
| 22 are able to just go through that intersection. They | 22 Planning, we have agreed with MCDOT. |
| 23 don't have to get stopped, they don't have a stop sign, | 23 The next thing that we identify is turning |
| 24 so that is why the delay at this intersection operates | 24 movement, so that's what specific movement is shown in |
| 25 well within the standard because there's only a few | 25 these little black arrows. So this is -- let's go to -- |
| 94 | 96 |
| 1 vehicles that are getting stopped that have th | $1 \begin{array}{ll}1 & \text { let's stay with intersection 4. We have this is the }\end{array}$ |
| 2 delay. It's only three vehicles out of 3,000 othe | 2 Spruce Street Avenue which is on the east approach. |
| 3 vehicles at this intersection. And so that's why it' | 3 Then, we have the private driveway which is the west |
| 4 operating in a very high -- it's operating very well at | 4 approach. And this gray line is indicating that this is |
| 5 this intersection, but then by SHA diving into how these | 5 the -- the gray lines indicate the intersection and the |
| 613 vehicles are operating is a very minor issue compared | 6 north -- the north, south, east west approaches. These |
| 7 to looking at the entire corridor. And that's why we | 7 little arrows are the specific turning movements. And |
| 8 chose to look at that corridor analysis, is because | 8 then, the numbers represent the number of cars doing |
| 9 prior to rising 14 vehicles over pedestrian bike safety, | 9 each of those movements at the -- at the specific |
| 10 and the 3,000 other vehicles at this intersection, isn't | 10 intersection. |
| 11 where we need to be spending our time; that we need to | 11 And so we do this for each of the different |
| 12 be focusing on this corridor as a whole. | 12 intersections. So we have Alta Vista is the east, west |
| 13 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Can I ask you -- I'm | 13 gray line, and Old Georgetown Road is the north, south |
| 14 sorry, I feel like I'm -- can I ask -- you see this | 14 gray line. |
| 15 block that's 4. Can you tell me exactly how this is | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Now what are the |
| 16 working, this -- this is one intersection -- okay. This | 16 delays? Can you tell me the delays on the |
| 17 is the intersection of Spruce Street. I get it. So | 17 Spruce Street Avenue approach to Old Georgetown Road. |
| 18 this is -- now, why is this labeled -- oh, I see. I get | 18 Do you have that information? |
| 19 it. It's because Old Georgetown runs north south, so | 19 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do have that information. |
| 20 it's showing you -- | 20 They are very large. And that is where why we used |
| 21 MS. CARRIER: It's showing -- it's a little | 21 their minutes long in delay. That is why we look at -- |
| 22 picture -- it's a little picture of the intersection. | 22 we have two tools that we look at. We use Synchro, |
| 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I know. | 23 which is a analysis software that we use. That software |
| 24 MS. CARRIER: The gray lines are the two road | 24 does not take into consideration the signals that may be |
| 25 And then, each one of those lines has first the morning, | 25 north and south of an intersection. So specifically, at |


| Spruce Street. It is specifically looking at just the volumes at that intersection. It doesn't consider that there is an intersection to the -- fairly close to the north where it's going to be providing gaps in traffic for cars to make a right turn out. <br> And so that's where I mentioned previously we also have a tool that we use called Sim Traffic where that takes into consideration how the inter -- how the full corridor operates as a whole. So understanding 10 that the results at Spruce Street take into 1 consideration that Beech is closed and it may be easier 12 for vehicles to make that right turn movement because it is providing gaps in traffic because the north and 4 southbound traffic has stopped, so vehicles are able to 15 make a right turn movement out. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Wouldn't that be reflected in the -- in the delay on Spruce Street? <br> THE WITNESS: So yes, you are correct, you are asking good questions. <br> So what we are required to submit are results to in our LATRs. We have to use Synchro delay, and so Synchro again is the traf -- is the software tool that 3 doesn't consider the up and down stream intersections. 4 And then, we use another -- the other tool, Sim Traffic, 5 to report queuing, which is how long vehicles are <br> stopped, and that does take into consideration the other <br> vehicles. And so that's where it's difficult -- that's <br> where, and that's why we use the two different tools <br> because Synchro doesn't take into consider -- that into consideration, and so we need to look at the other -the other simulation tool and understand how the corridor is actually operating. <br> And so we look at our queuing results, and the <br> queuing results that Sim Traffic has given us indicate <br> that Spruce Street and Alta Vista operate very similarly <br> 11 in existing conditions as they do with -- and with the <br> School. So the queuing results using Sim Traffic are <br> 13 very similar in existing with the School, and that's <br> 4 where SHA is wanting us to mitigate an existing <br> condition. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So you're saying that the problem already exists? <br> THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes. As you heard from <br> Allen Myers where he said his community is they can't <br> get out of their driveways sometimes because there's <br> people trying to make leff turns and it's blocking <br> driveways. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Did you have anything else? <br> Thank you for taking the time to answer -- |  |
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| 1 letter. In time for the first Planning Board meeting, | 1 And so it's not just a single drive aisle. It's two |
| 2 and then, we tried to get it in time for this hearing, | 2 cars stacked so that it really maximizes the number of |
| 3 and now, we have a third chance of getting it in time | 3 vehicles that can be on site, and don't have to their |
| 4 for the preliminary plan hearing. | 4 eliminates the opportunity for cars to queue on Old |
|  | 5 |
| 6 working | 6 The entire site would be used for queuing, so |
| 7 | 7 it's for all the cars waiting to either pick up or drop |
| 8 | 8 off students, and as well as then additional the lines |
| 9 | 9 shown in blue on this exhibit for cars waiting to get |
| $10$ | 10 out of the site. There is also plenty of space for them |
| 11 suggestion | 11 to -- to be there. And then, that there are |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You | 12 heard Kathy Chumas described, it's an all hands on deck |
| 13 | 13 situation when it comes to pick up and drop off |
| 14 Let's -- let's finis | 14 operations to get kids in and out of cars as efficiently |
| 15 to have M | 15 and as effectively |
| 16 MS. CARRIER: Sure | 16 Q And are there provisions in the TMP that |
| 17 | 17 specifically describes steps that the School will take |
| 18 commen | 18 during drop-off and pick-up to prevent cars from |
| $19 \quad \text { MS. }$ | 19 stacking on Old Georgetown Road? |
| 20 HEARING EXAMINE | 20 A Yes. The TMP details out how it reviews, goes |
| 21 | 21 through all the specific details of the -- the pick-up |
| 22 | 22 and drop-off operations that I just went through. It |
| 23 HEARING EX | 23 will encourage parents to stay in their cars. It has |
| 24 Wagner to testify to | 24 details on how the teachers are actively involved. And |
|  |  |
| 102 | 104 |
| 1 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And then, Mr. Myers, | 1 Q |
| 2 you know, maybe we can free you on this beautiful day | 2 staff w |
| 3 MS. CARRIER: All right. Thank you. | 3 site is full and a parent drives up wanting to come in? |
| 4 Q Ms. Wagner, I'd like to ask you a li | 4 A Yes. There will be a staff member positioned |
| 5 bout the c | 5 at the entrance of the School that will when vehicles |
| 6 not going to ask you to repeat what you've | 6 do, if they to ever queue up, to the site access, that |
| 7 but there were a couple of things I'd like to ask you | 7 they will currently vehicle encourage vehicles to use |
| $8 \quad$ As Diener's approached site design and | 8 the orange dotted line area which is where the buses |
| 9 transportat | 9 will be picking up and dropping off students. But that |
| 10 overriding top priorit | 10 also can be used for to accommodate more vehicles on |
| 11 A Yes. | 11 site, and should that fill up as well, they will no |
| 12 Q -- to Old George | 12 allow cars to queue on Old Georgetown Road, but they |
| 13 A Yes. So the top priority is | 13 will turn them away and have them circulate and come |
| 14 the impact of the School on adjacent street netvor | 14 back to the Scho |
| 15 That was one of the first design elements that | 15 Q |
| 16 considered, is how to maximize the amount of queuing | 16 area and the drop-off, pick-up process be enough to |
| 17 space onto the site, and then, providing the safe and | 17 allow 120 students to be dropped off or picked up with |
| 18 efficient pick-up, drop-off plan for the School. | 18 a 30-minute period? |
| 19 Q What steps have the | 19 A Yes, especially |
| 20 parties fromqueuing on Old George | 20 two buses for a significant number of students to also |
|  | 21 then arrive by -- by bus and not by private vehicle. |
| 22 A | 22 Q And in your professional opinion, will the |
| 23 that | 23 onsite guy queuing space and the drop-off, pick-up zone |
|  | 24 procedures, together with the measures in the TMP, be |
|  | 25 enough to prevent site traffic from queuing on Old |


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| 1 Georgetown Road? | 1 understood their visitor needs, and so these spaces |
| 2 A Yes. | 2 would be able to accommodate all expected visitors. |
| 3 Q And in the event of an emergency, how will | 3 Q Thank you. And I just have a few more |
| 4 emergency vehicles circulate? | 4 questions relating to the findings required for all |
| 5 A So the driveways are designed, both the north | 5 conditional uses under Section 59.7.3 |
| 6 and south driveway are designed to accommodate emergency | 6 Ms. Wagner, are you familiar with the details |
| 7 vehicles. The curb cuts are wide enough. Vehicles, | 7 of the parking proposed for you -- for this project, and |
| 8 emergency vehicles, are able to circulate around the | 8 in your view, does the number of spaces comply with the |
| 9 site, that the site is desig | 9 requirements of the Zoning Cod |
| 10 emergency vehicles. Following the purple lines shown on | 10 A Yes. The 65 spaces provided in Phase 1 and 42 |
| 11 the screen on Exhibit 35B, they also are able to | 11 phases -- 42 spaces provided in Phase 2 are adequate to |
| 12 circulate through the bus area shown in with the orange | 12 prevent parents from parking on neighborhood streets. |
| 13 lines. Yes. | 13 And then, it should also be noted that it is a |
| 14 Q Thank you. In your pro | 14 significant walk to park on a neighborhood street, that |
| 15 onsite circulation be safe, adequate and efficient? | 15 there are not -- there are not neighborhood streets that |
| 16 A Yes, the site will be safe, adequate, and | 16 are within a close walking distance that would provide |
| 17 efficient. | 17 opportunities for parents to park in the neighborhood. |
| 18 Q In your view, will the site access points be | 18 Q Ms. Wagner, you mentioned parents, but who is |
| 19 adequate and effic | 19 the parking intended for on this site? |
| 20 possible for driveways connecting directly to a major | 20 A The parking is intended for staf |
| 21 highway? | 21 Q So if parents need to come to the site, wher |
| 22 A Yes, the site driveways have been - have been | 22 would they park? |
| 23 designed to accommodate all vehicles coming into the | 23 A They would park in the visitor spaces. |
| 24 site, both buses and passenger vehicles. Inbound and | 24 Q Thank you. Based on your knowledge of the |
| 25 outbound vehicles, as we described earlier, will have | 25 School's operations, do you expect the proposed parking |
| 106 | 108 |
| 1 two separate driveways to eliminate the com -- the | 1 to be safe, adequate, and efficient for future use in |
| 2 possibility of conflicts, and then, we will also | 2 both phases? |
| 3 providing the improved pedestrian facility along the | 3 A Yes. |
| 4 same frontage. | $4 \quad \mathrm{Q}$ The Planning Board will make a finding on the |
| 5 Q Thank you. I have a couple | 5 adequacy of public roads to service project at the |
| 6 regarding compliance with the requirements for the | 6 preliminary plan stage. For purposes of this record, is |
| 7 requested conditional use in the County Zoning Code. | 7 it your opinion based on your studies of the Local |
| 8 First, some findings under 59.3.4.5. In your | 8 Transportation Network and the anticipated impact of The |
| 9 professional opinion, will the proposed school be a | 9 Diener School, that the proposed school will be serviced |
| 10 nuisance at the subject site due to traffic? | 10 adequately by public roads? |
| 11 A No. For all the reasons previously discusse | 11 A Yes, for all the reasons discussed previously. |
| 12 Q In your professional opinion, will the number | 12 Q And finally, would you consider the level of |
| 13 of students proposed be appropriate for this site from a | 13 traffic the School is expected to generate to be typical |
| 14 transportation standpoint considering the local | 14 of private educational institutions generally and |
| 15 transportation network, the site design, and the | 15 therefore, an inherent characteristic of the use? |
| 16 measures in the TMP? | 16 A Yes. |
| 17 A Yes, this is a very small number of students | 17 Q Thank you very much, Ms. Wagner. I have no |
| 18 and can easily be accommodated on the site. | 18 further questions. |
| 19 Q Is there a need for student parking at this | 19 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. |
| 20 site? | 20 Ms. Wagner, have you done an analysis of how |
| 21 A No, the oldest students would be in eighth | 21 much -- do you have an analysis of how much the |
| 22 grade and won't be able drive | 22 additional traffic from The Diener School increases the |
| 23 Q Do you consider the three visitor spaces | 23 delay? |
| 24 provided to be adequate for the use? | 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's what the purpose of |
| 25 A Yes. We had conversations with the School and | 25 our traffic study is. |


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| 1 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yeah. And how much | 1 MR. MYERS: Oh, let me -- I'm going to reiterate |
| 2 did it increase the delay? | 2 a couple things, but let me mention one thing in terms |
| 3 MS. CARRIER: Do you mean the delay at the two | 3 of the discussion that was made on resignalization of |
| 4 side streets or delay on Old | 4 the light on Beech Avenue. It may have come up during |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Two side streets. | 5 The French School hearing or it has come up separately, |
| 6 THE WITNESS: I do have that information. The | 6 but The French School was concerning about getting its |
| 7 difficult thing -- the difficult -- I can't give you a | 7 buses out of the middle school and high school on Beech |
| 8 specific number, and part of the reason is because our | 8 and turning left onto Old Georgetown Road. I know they |
| 9 models don't calculate it after a certain amount. And | 9 had concerns of wanting that signal extended, because |
| 10 so it says error, and so that's where I can't giv | 10 it's a very short turn bay there. One or two buses will |
| 11 - | 11 tie up that turn bay completely and clog up the road. |
| 12 MS. CARRIER: Is that because it's such a small | 12 So they -- they -- there's a -- there's a conflicting |
| 13 number or such a big number? | 13 interest of having The French School being able to get |
| 14 THE WITNESS: It's such a big number. And so | 14 their vehicles out and anything that this school would |
| 15 that's why I can't give you those specific numbers, but | 15 propose. So I don't know how that's going to play out. |
| 16 it is an error in existing conditions for some of the | 16 I think MCDOT will have to work on that, but there are |
| 17 side street movements too. | 17 conflicting interests. |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. That's -- | 18 What we -- what I said earlier, we did meet |
| 19 that's helpfil. Okay. What I'd like to do, if it's | 19 with the School in March of $20-$ - of this month, March |
| 20 okay, Mr. Myers, are you still with us? I know | 2015 th this year, and there was no concern with the |
| 21 MR. MYERS: I'm still with you. I haven't | 21 basically because the traffic was seen as little impact |
| 22 faded. | 22 on the neighborhood. We didn't expect a lot of |
| 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you so much. | 23 cut-through traffic. The School being located in the |
| 24 I'm-- do you have -- I'm going to ask you for any | 24 Wingate -- the Wingate neighborhood, we didn't feel it |
| 25 comment -- well, first of all, does anyone else have | 25 appropriate for us to say yeah or nay because it's their |
| 110 | 112 |
| 1 questions of Ms. Wagner | 1 -- as you know, at the The French School, we have |
| 2 MR. MYERS: I have one. | 2 there's a lot of other issues that involve in siding |
| 3 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead. | 3 with the school or residential neighborhood. |
| 4 MR. MYERS: And that is what month were the | 4 The issue I have is with this latest rub in the |
| 5 traffic studies conducted in 2022? | 5 changes that SHA and MSDO -- SHA, really, wanted in |
| 6 THE WITNESS: Let me pull that up very quickly. | 6 terms of delays. And I don't know how the neighbor is |
| 7 I'll check in the LATR here. | 7 gonna react. I do have a -- I will bring to the -- to a |
| 8 I'm going to share my screen. This is Exhibit | 8 vote the issue of the no U-turns even though the School |
| 9 32. This is our Local Area Transportation Review. I am | 9 is withdrawing that because sometimes things take on a |
| 10 on page 28. And we detail when our traffic volumes were | 10 life of their own. Once it's out there, it just keeps |
| 11 collected. So we collected traffic volumes in June as | 11 on going. And so I think that needs to be on the record |
| 12 well as September of 2022. | 12 from the association. |
| 13 MR. MYERS: Okay. As long as because traffic | 13 One final question. I didn't invite the |
| 14 between June and September are often considerably | 14 members of the association to the -- and the individual |
| 15 different. | 15 residents to participate today because I didn't know |
| 16 THE WITNESS: Those are when -- we collected | 16 what -- what the situation would be, and then, and |
| 17 traffic counts when schools were in -- when school was | 17 having a bunch of people come testifying on things that |
| 18 in session. | 18 may not be relevant or are not yet in evidence, or it |
| 19 MR. MYERS: Okay. I don't have any other | 19 may be in evidence later on, I didn't want to invite |
| 20 question. | 20 them. How -- how can anything be handled with residents |
| 21 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: For the -- for the | 21 who want to provide letters? Can they do so? |
| 22 record, it's page 24, not page 28. | 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: We can keep the record |
| 23 Mr. Myers, I'm -- are you -- do you have any | 23 open for a certain period of time. |
| 24 comments at this point or do you want to meet with your | 24 MR. MYERS: But then that's -- |
| 25 association? | 25 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Now, the other option |

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is to have a brief follow-up hearing solely limited to
-- it sounds to me like the issue was traffic.
    MR. MYERS: Yes.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And you know, it's --
if there's a possibility of having a very brief
follow-up hearing just for traffic, we can do that, but
we would have to set the date today or wait 30 days.
And -- and I'm not sure just because of the notice. I
can set the date or wait }15\mathrm{ days, but I can set the date
at the end of this hearing for a follow-up hearing, and
then, we don't -- we aren't required to mail new notice
out.
    And I know that the -- that the School has
legitimate reasons to want to get this done. I don't
think it would delay my decision because I can work on
the decision, all the other aspects of the decision
until, you know, and then, just fill in what happens at
the other hearing. But that's a possibility.
    You can submit letters, but they aren't sworn,
and we don't give them quite as much weight because they
aren't subject to cross-examination. So I throw that
out there.
    MR. MYERS: I love the idea of the second
hearing if it doesn't delay things simply because I
didn't have -- we'll have the vote. Maybe we will have
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heard from SHA by that time, and --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I'm not holding my
breath. I'ma little -- I feel -- I'ma little shocked
that this has not been finally resolved by the time of
the conditional use, but --
MR. MYERS: Yeah.
MS. CARRIER: We are shocked by that.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And the lack of -- the
lack of response to as to why it's taking so long. But
I -- I could do that. We could set a hearing for a week
after February 17. Again --
MS. CARRIER: You mean May 17th.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I'm sorry, yes. But
solely, solely, to -- to deal with the traffic and the
neighborhood concerns.
MR. MYERS: I think that would make everybody
happy in the neighborhood. I don't know how the School
feel about it.
MS. CARRIER: You know, the School is very, very
concerned about timing, as we've discussed. If it's
only a week after May 17th, and you know, Ms. Hannan
having graciously said she will start working on the
report without waiting for that hearing, I would have to
consult with my client, but my expectation is that they
would not object to an additional hearing for that very
limited purpose just of hearing from Mr. Myers'
neighborhoods and members of his association.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And Mr. Myers, if you
could make the scope of the hearing, I don't want to get
the -- the time to deal with other issues would be this
hearing. So all I want to deal with is -- and the reason I'm giving this opportunity is because everybody kept waiting for the SHA to weigh in. I don't have much hope that they're going to weigh in in two week if it's been this long.

MR. MYERS: Well, I think our residents could speak on basically what on these two issues, which is the U-turns and -- and the no left turns. And that's, I think, what we need to clarify and understand.
I -- there -- since the School is coming to our 16 meeting on the $7-$-- on the 17 th, and Katie, if you can 17 bring the diagram, and I will get the screen up for you so they can see the traffic movements that we're talking about from that exhibit, that would really help our residents.

I do not know how they're going to react. I
know there would be, as I said, greater pushback on the
-- on the U-turns. I don't know how they feel about the
left turns. And -- and I -- I don't want to put words
in their mouths at this -- and this time. And I think
they probably would like the opportunity to express
themselves. I think it would be a coordinated effort as we did with The French School where we know who the participants would be in advance and I can work with them to make sure that we don't unduly lengthen the hearing and have extraneous material brought into the hearing.

MS. CARRIER: I would like to state on the record that there was an opportunity for residents of 10 Maple Wood to attend this hearing. There would be no 11 new -- it is unlikely to be new information available 12 that was not already available. I understand that it 3 would have been difficult for Mr. Myers to communicate 4 with his community members before they have their 15 scheduled meeting on May 17th, but I just wanted to be 16 on the record that the Applicant is -- you know, the Applicant has prepared for this hearing today.
18 MR. MYERS: Yeah.
19 MS. CARRIER: And -- and we just hope that the
20 -- if this additional date takes place, that it really
21 is limited just to talking about the issues related to
22 the State Highway Administration's comments on traffic.
23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, it would be
24 because as I said, I -- I don't -- the day to have done
25 any other issues was today. And I think part of Mr.

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Myers' confusion is that we were all hoping to see the
SHA, and it's not here. So I am willing to schedule it.
It will be brief.
    And Mr. Myers, if you can work with -- work
with your community so we don't have repetitive
testimony. I think that would be very helpfil.
    MR. MYERS: I think I can get people, like one
person on Alta Vista, one person on Spruce Street as we
have with The French School to represent the concerns of
each street.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So we can set
something up for the 19th at 9:30.
    MR. MYERS:9 --
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: But I'll do that at
the end of the hearing.
    MS. CARRIER: We don't mean -- I don't think you
mean -- the 19th is -- is a week from today.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh, I messed up. I
messed up.
    MR. MYERS: 26th.
    HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I'm sorry, I was going
-- the 26th, yes.
    MR. MYERS: Yeah.
    MS. CARRIER: Well, the 24th is one week after.
Do you not do hearings on Wednesdays?
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HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: No, I'm-- you got to
excuse me. The 24this when it should be.
MR. MYERS: Okay.
MS. CARRIER: May I -- I -- I need to make sure
that Ms. Wagner is available then and my client --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Absolutely. We don't
have to do anything. We don't have to set the specific
date until the end of this hearing.
MS. CARRIER: Okay. All right. Then, we will
speak at a break to make sure that the date works. And
also that my -- that my client is okay with what I just
said about agreeing to the second hearing.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I totally understand,
and I understand your position, and I actually, as I
said, I'm shocked that you're in this position. And so
but I think it will be helpful to get it all out, and
then, I think it will be better -- well, for a lot of
reasons, I -- I was actually thinking at the beginning
of the hearing maybe we should have another hearing. So
20 just for this one, and it will not delay the decision
21 even if I have to do whatever it takes to do it. So --
22 MS. CARRIER: We appreciate that.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So I am going to do
that because I do understand the constraints. So you --
we'll go through with -- we'll address this at the end
of this hearing, again. And if you want to contact Mr.
Myers or and Ms. Wagner, that's fine too.

I see -- do you have any of your parents or any
of your individual yet, and we can take them--
MS. CARRIER: Yes.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- and then, we are going to take a lunch break.

MS. CARRIER: Yes, I see Mr. Padilla is here. I
don't know if Catherine Coleman is on the call. I had
asked her to join the call at noon, so she may just not
be quite signed up yet.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Well, we can take Mr. Padilla.

MS. CARRIER: Yes.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Mr. Padilla, please 6 raise your right hand.
Whereupon,
CHRISTOPHER PADILLA,
being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was
examined and testified as follows:
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Please state your
name, address, street address and email address for the record.

MR. PADILLA: My name is Christopher Padilla.

My street address is 5 Sprinklewood Court in Potomac,
Maryland 20854. And my email address is
cpadilla11@yahoo.com.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Is he your
witness, or Mr. Padilla, do you just want to make a statement?

MS. CARRIER: Yeah, I'm not planning to ask Mr.
Padilla questions. I just introduced him --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay.
MS. CARRIER: -- So he can make a statement. HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. MR. PADILLA: Well, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today. Let me introduce myself. My wife, Christine, and I, who are residents in 15 Potomac, have a son, Matthew, who is a student at The 16 Diener School. Matthew is currently the president of 17 the Student Government Association at Diener, and I 18 believe he may have written you a letter.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: He did.
MR. PADILLA: We were -- maybe -- maybe that's where I can start.

When Matthew began at The Diener School in second grade seven years ago, I never would have 4 imagined that he could have written a letter like that. 5 And I can't tell you how proud we were of him for being

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| 1 able to express his point of view, I think very clearly, | 1 to live in the neighborhood where Diener I hope will |
| 2 in a well-written letter. But more important than just | 2 move to. We -- we used to live on Malvern Drive, very, |
| 3 a form, the sentiments that he expressed about hi | 3 very close to the location on Old Georgetown Road. We |
| 4 self-confidence, and how he has gone from an environment | 4 drove on Old Georgetown every day. I still commute most |
| 5 where he felt bullied and out of place | 5 days on Old Georgetown Road. |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: U | 6 I can understand what Mr. Myers and others were |
| 7 MR. PADILLA: To being a self-confident young | 7 saying in their concerns about traffic. I can tell you, |
| 8 man ready to go to high school, and hoping to go to | 8 though, having been a parent at the School for seven |
| 9 college beyond that. We were so proud of him. I sent | 9 years, Diener knows how to run a carpool, very |
| 10 that letter to his grandfather to many other people | 10 efficiently. And everywhere they've done it, whether on |
| 11 because it's an -- it's an example of what this school | 11 Falls Road or in the neighborhood at Green Acres, |
| 12 does for young people. And it's a -- it's a school that | 12 they've -- they've worked with community to make sure |
| 13 fulls I think a unique niche in Montgomery County, and | 13 that you didn't have cars sitting on the main road; that |
| 14 in fact, in the broader metropolitan area. | 14 -- that parents knew how to get their kids dropped off |
| 15 Students who learn differently are intelligent, | 15 and picked up in a way that was efficient. And I know |
| 16 as Matthew is, but they have challenges that the public | 16 that that obviously will be a concern on a main road |
| 17 school system or other private schools are just not | 17 like Old Georgetown, but I want to assure residents of |
| 18 equipped to handle. And that leads to kids who feel a | 18 our former neighborhood that this is a school that will |
| 19 lack of confidence, or who may not achieve up to their | 19 work with yo |
| 20 abilities. | 20 So I would just conclude by saying this is a |
| 21 Matthew has been at Diener for seven years | 21 school that fills a unique need in this area. We feel |
| 22 When we started there, they had a few classrooms at | 22 so privileged to live in an area where there's an option |
| 23 Har Shalom Temple on Falls Road. Then, we were thrill | 23 like this for our son, and -- and it's helped him grow |
| 24 when they opened a middle school which was happened | 24 and transform in ways that as you can see from his own |
| 25 right as Matthew was getting ready go to middle school. | 25 letter, he's aware of the transformative effect it has |
| 122 | 124 |
| 1 My wife and I were concerned, we didn't know | 1 had. And we're just so excited that the School has the |
| 2 where he was going to go school next, we were looking | 2 opportunity to have its own building, its own |
| 3 around, and -- and Kathy Chumas told us they were | 3 facilities, to be able to serve more families in the |
| 4 opening a middle school, and we were thrilled, glad to | 4 community. |
| 5 be among the first parents and students in the middle | 5 So I hope that that's helpful to you. I'd be |
| 6 school. | 6 happy to answer any questions, but thank you very much |
| 7 And Matthew has thrived. He's looking forward | 7 for the opportunity to speak today. |
| 8 to graduating in a few week. He's going to go to | 8 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you |
| 9 Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria next year, and he's | 9 Just for record, does anyone have any questions |
| 10 ready. And he's ready because of the great team at | 10 for Mr. Pad -- Padilla?. |
| 11 Diener. | 11 THE WITNESS: Ye |
| 12 But Diener has outgrown the facility where | 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- Mr. Padilla. |
| 13 they're are located. They're leasing space at the Green | 13 Okay. Hearing none, you may be excused. Thank |
| 14 Acres School. Which has been great, that was a great | 14 you for coming. |
| 15 move from Har Shalom, but they're -- they're tenants, | 15 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. |
| 16 and they're not -- they don't have their own home, they | 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Ms. Carrier, is |
| 17 don't have control over the facility, and they need | 17 your second individual here yet? |
| 18 their own home. And I think they're ready for one | 18 You're -- you're on mute. |
| 19 We and many other families have already | 19 MS. CARRIER: I am speaking to myself again. |
| 20 committed significant financial commitments to help | 20 Yes, our next speaker is Katherine Coleman. |
| 21 Diener make this move. We are proud to do so. I'm busy | 21 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Ms. Coleman, |
| 22 recruiting family members to try to see if I can get | 22 can you -- there we go. Can you raise your right hand, |
| 23 them to contribute as well, because Diener has been | 23 please. |
| 24 transformative. | 24 Whereupon, |
| 25 I -- I want to mention that my wife and I used | 25 KATHERINE COLEMAN, |


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| 1 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the | 1 have believed you. |
| 2 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was | 2 They just know how to teach him. And when we |
| 3 examined and testified as follow | 3 go to parent-teacher conferences there are eight people |
| 4 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Go ahead. | 4 sitting around the table who all care about him, and |
| 5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. | 5 know him, and care about his academic development, his |
| 6 My name is Katherine Coleman, and my wonderful | 6 social and emotional development. It is truly a |
| 7 son, Johnny, attends Diener. He st | 7 one-of-a-kind place. And this opportunity for it to be |
| 8 Johnny is hilarious and smart and engaging, and wa | 8 able to serve children in a permanent home and a home |
| 9 able to thrive in our local elementary school. His | 9 that will be even more wheelchair accessible than the |
| 10 sister sailed through, but for Johnny, it just became a | 10 current situation, would be just thrilling for us. |
| 11 place of anxiety, and I really thought, and he thought | 11 And you know, I -- I do -- I would echo that |
| 12 he certainly couldn't learn math | 12 they are very serious about not putting any burden on |
| 13 Johnny also uses a manual wheelchair. He has | 13 the neighbors or on traffic, and they really do know how |
| 14 spina bifida. He is on the spectrum, but doesn't need a | 14 to run a carpool line. |
| 15 whole lot of support. He had ADHD. He loves musical | 15 So I welcome any questions. |
| 16 theatre and history. | 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Anyone have any |
| 17 So it became clear | 17 questions for Ms. Coleman? |
| 18 pandemic when I had a front row seat to how he was not | 18 Okay. Hearing none, thank you for coming, and |
| 19 being served by our local school, that he needed to find | 19 you may be excused. But thank you for coming. |
| 20 somewhere else. I visited schools where they were not | 20 THE WITNESS: Thank you. |
| 21 wheelchair accessible. There are several -- it's not | 21 MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much. |
| 22 uncommon, believe it or not, among independent schools. | 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you. |
| 23 There are other schools that really, it was just too | 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: All right. With that, |
| 24 much support; he didn't need that level of support. | 24 we are going to take a break for lunch. |
| 25 Places where they're not interested in a child who may | 25 Mr. Myers, I can excuse you as long as you're |
| 126 | 128 |
| 1 have a diagnosis of autism. | 1 available just so we can set a date before the end of |
| 2 So we finally we were -- we hired an | 2 the hearing, if you want to contact Ms. Carrier |
| 3 educational consultant because we just didn't know what | 3 individually, it's up to you. |
| 4 to do. And thinking she would have a lot of options for | MR. MYERS: I -- I think I can contact her |
| 5 us, she gave us one option; that was Diener. He | 5 individually. I would have meetings, numerous meetings, |
| 6 visited, and it was so positive, and everyone there was | 6 individually, because this has gone on. And my is |
| 7 so positive. And I remember in the interview when they | 7 fairly flexible. If I have to change something, I will, |
| 8 said, So what other schools are you looking at? I said, | 8 because I think this is more important than anything |
| 9 Ah , none. So no pressure. | 9 else I might be doing. |
| 10 But as Matthew said, just said, for us it has | 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So I will wait |
| 11 been transformative. He -- I mean, one thing before | 11 to hear back from Ms. Carrier, and if you could let her |
| 12 school started, Kathy called me, and she said, you know, | 12 -- Ms. Carrier, if you can't do the date we discussed, |
| 13 we have this van we use for field trips, and it's not | 13 you'll contact Mr. Myers -- |
| 14 wheelchair accessible. And I thought I know where this | 14 MS. CARRIER: Yes. |
| 15 is going. This has been my life, you know. I -- I'll | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- and coordinate a |
| 16 come on a field trip, I'll drive Johnny. That's what | 16 date before the end of- |
| 17 happens. She said, No, we are -- we're just going to | 17 MS. CARRIER: Yes. |
| 18 sell the van, and we will charter a wheelchair | 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- today. |
| 19 accessible bus when we need to. And I mean, I just I | 19 MS. CARRIER: May I just ask one question? Do |
| 20 started to cry. It was just to have someone on our side | 20 you think that I need to have any of my experts |
| 21 like that was so meaningful. | 21 available other than Ms. Wagner? |
| 22 And he has thrived there, and the tutor who | 22 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: No. |
| 23 worked with Johnny while he was in our local school and | 23 MS. CARRIER: Okay. |
| 24 still works with him said, If you had told me that | 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Because I'm really not |
| 25 Johnny would be doing this level of math, I would not | $25-$ - this hearing is not to redo -- |


| 129 | 131 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 MS. CARRIER: Right. | 1 been covered by your -- either your testimony or your |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- today. All of | 2 experts -- experts, particularly the carpooling |
| 3 today. It's just to address the mitigate -- it's really | 3 operations were very helpful. So I think we're okay. |
| 4 to address the mitigation measures that have been | 4 You could be excused. |
| 5 submitted and get feedback on that. | 5 MS. CARRIER: Thank you. If we do have any |
| 6 Is that your understanding, Mr. Myers? | 6 other questions, we have two other Diener |
| 7 MR. MYERS: Yes, it is. | 7 representatives in the meting. One is Beth Freedman, |
| 8 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And feedback | 8 who is the president of the board, and the other is |
| 9 and feedback on the traffic. So I would like to limi | 9 Laurie Aaronson, who is the director of operations. |
| 10 it to the mitigation measures. And you won't need | 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. That is great. |
| 11 anybody but I don't want to put the expense on The | 11 MS. CARRIER: They will both stay for the |
| 12 Diener School to have all their experts back in the | 12 duration. |
| 13 hearing again. | 13 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. |
| 14 MS. CARRIER: I appreciate that | 14 I think -- okay. I think that we are on |
| 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- it would be a very | 15 whoever your next witness is, Ms. Carrier. |
| 16 limited hearing. | 16 MS. CARRIER: Yeah. |
| 17 All right. Mr. Myers, with that | 17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Is it Mr. La Vay? |
| 18 excused. | 18 MS. CARRIER: That would be Mr. La Vay. |
| 19 MR. MYERS: Thank you very muc | 19 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Mr. La Vay, |
| 20 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. And then, | 20 think you've already been sworn in. You're still under |
| 21 we are going to take a -- how many -- so we have get | 21 oath. |
| 22 back to Mr. La Vay | 22 MR. LA VAY: Great |
| 23 MS. CARRIER: Yes. | 23 Whereupon, |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And you have an | 24 PATRICK LA VAY |
| 25 architect. | 25 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the |
| 130 | 132 |
| 1 MS. CARRIER: Yep. And that's it. | 1 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And that's it. Okay. | 2 examined and testified as follows: |
| 3 Would you like to take like an hour for lunch, and then, | 3 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT: |
| 4 we'll come back at 1:15 and hopefully finish up? | 4 BY MS. CARRIER: |
| 5 MS. CARRIER: Yes, that sounds fine. | 5 Q Mr. La Vay, use -- let's -- let's pull up the |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And I do appreciate | 6 Conditional Use cover sheet, which is Exhibit 21A. |
| 7 you adjusting like this. And I'm still not going to say | 7 A Okay. |
| 8 what I -- I am shocked ed that you are in this position. | 8 Q And would you please describe in a little more |
| 9 So anyway, don't -- for those of you who | 9 detail than you did earlier what the Applicant proposes |
| 10 stayed, don't leave the meeting, but mute your camera or | 10 for the subject property? |
| 11 mute your mic and -- because we can hear what you say to | 11 I think we're going need to zoom that up, zoom |
| 12 other people, so -- when you don't leave the meeting. | 12 that -- |
| 13 So turn off your camera and mute your mic, and we'll be | 13 A Yeah. |
| 14 back on the record at 1:15. | 14 Q -- so we can get the picture bigger. Is that |
| 15 Thank you. | 15 possible? |
| 16 MS. CARRIER: Thank you. | 16 A Yeah, I was going to say if it's okay, I think |
| 17 (Lunch was taken.) | 17 I might use 21B, and then, 21C so we can talk about the |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. | 18 phasing if that's okay? |
| 19 Carrier. | 19 Q You're welcome to use whatever you lik |
| 20 MS. CARRIER: I just wanted to mention tha | 20 A So you know, generally, as you've already |
| 21 Kathy Chumas is going to have to leave early today. She | 21 heard, the main crux of the project is a conversion of |
| 22 has to leave at 2 o'clock. So if we have -- if you have | 22 existing to office to a private educational institution |
| 23 any questions for her at this point, we'd be happy to | 23 for up to 120 students and 57 staff members. But that |
| 24 entertain them | 24 - that the development of the site will occur in two |
| 25 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I think they have all | 25 phases. Although the useful change, phase 1, obviously. |


| 133 | 135 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 So what I - | 1 minore restriping of parking to provide fire compliant |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Mr. La Vay, real | 2 access aisle widths. Under current conditions, there is |
| 3 quick, just for the record, which exhibit are we looking | 3 some angle parking, and the drive aisles are narrower |
| 4 at right now? | 4 than 20 fe |
| 5 THE WITNESS: So I have just pulled up Exhibit | 5 And at the rear of the existing, which is on |
| 6 21B. | 6 the west side of the existing building, there will be |
| 7 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Great. | 7 approximately I believe it's 24 spaces, that will be |
| 8 THE WITNESS: I just scrolled down because they | 8 removed to install an exterior play space. |
| 9 are -- 21 A , B and C are in one file. | $9 \quad$ Q And that would be 24 parking spaces? |
| 10 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Great. | 10 A Correct. And then, on - and so I'mgoing to |
| 11 A So this is - this is 21 B , which is the - | 11 move now to Exhibit 21C, if that's okay. Let's scroll |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. | 12 down here. And this depicts the full blowout of the |
| 13 A - is a site plan for what we're calling Phase | 13 site. The main component of Phase 2 is an approximately |
| 14 1. And Phase 1 includes interior renovations of the | $14 \mathbf{1 1 , 0 0 0}$ square foot gymnasium additional. And then, |
| 15 building, and then, construction of essential elements | 15 around that, there will be some play places and exterior |
| 16 for this building and a the site to function as a | 16 flex places that can be used for classroom activity, |
| 17 school. Which include, as you've heard a little bit | 17 outside or other determined opportunities. And then, |
| 18 earlier, frontage improvements along Old Georgetown | 18 because of that addition, that addition will be placed |
| 19 Road. | 19 over top existing parking that will remain in Phase 1. |
| 20 The area between Old Georgetown Road and the | 20 And so the lots of that parking needs to be made up, so |
| 21 building is where the majority of the work will happen | 21 there will be some additional regrading on the west side |
| 22 in Phase 1 , and a lot of that is a little bit of a | 22 of the property and reconfiguring of parking in |
| 23 ripple effect from the frontage improvements. But that | 23 the drive aisle |
| 24 area between the building and Old Georgetown Road will | 24 Q Is that regrading in Phase 2? |
| 25 be regraded, heavily landscaped, and include two new | 25 A Exactly, yeah. |
| 134 | 136 |
| 1 storm water management bioretention facilities. | 1 MALE SPEAKER: I thought we were just gonna -- |
| 2 Within that same zone, I'd say just north of | 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Can you mute |
| 3 the southern curb cut driveway to Old Georgetown Road, | 3 whoever is - |
| 4 there will be an exterior elevator structure, a | 4 MS. CARRIER: Yeah, he just did. |
| 5 stairway. | 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Would you, please -- | 6 MS. CARRIER: Sorry about that. |
| 7 would -- would you please point that out with your | 7 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Go ahead. Go ahead. |
| 8 cursor, Mr. La Vay -- | 8 A I think that's about it. There's - there's, |
| 9 THE WITNESS: Sure. Yes | 9 like I said, there is additional grading, parking |
| 10 A So again, for the reporter that orienting - | 10 adjustments, drive aisle reconfiguration on the west |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh, great. | 11 side of the property in Phase 2 as well, as well as |
| 12 A - you just north of the southern curb cut, | 12 additional storm water management to accommodate the new |
| 13 southern driveway, about - it's about 50 feet north of | 13 impervious surfaces. |
| 14 there, and again, that will be an exterior elevator | 14 Q Okay. Mr. La Vay, would you please describe |
| 15 structure, and then, a stairway adjacent to it. And | 15 how the parking will change both between now and Phase 1 |
| 16 that is intended to provide both general and accessible | 16 and between Phase 1 and Phase 2? |
| 17 access from the public right of way to the school. | 17 A Sure. If you don't mind, I'm gonna go - I'm |
| 18 Again, pointing back to that 16 feet of grade change I | 18 going to use our newly introduced site aerial photo. I |
| 19 mentioned earlier between street and the first floor of | 19 don't remember which exhibit number that was, but I have |
| 20 this building, there's quite a bit. | 20 that up on the screen now. |
| 21 So that will help, you know, with - with | 21 Q That's 41. |
| 22 general access. Again, that's what the goal is about, | 22 A 41. So referring to |
| 23 not other means of travel that will help facilitat | 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You're right. |
| 24 that. | 24 A Referring - |
| 25 Around the rest of the building, there are some | 25 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Go ahead. |

1 A -- to Exhibit 41 on the screen, in Phase 1, 2 there will be three areas of parking either removed or 3 adjusted. The first is the parking that's closest to 4 Old Georgetown Road. I believe there are seven spaces 5 that re closest to Old Georgetown Road. Those will be 6 all be removed.

You can then see on this image there's angled parking spaces on the north side of the building. Those will all be converted to parallel spaces to allow for 10 the, like I said earlier, a fire access compliant 24 11 foot drive aisle.
12 And then, in immediately behind the existing 13 building to the west, that's where the spaces I 14 mentioned earlier as well, and that will be removed for 15 -- that double loaded corridor will be removed for a 16 play space.
17 I -- I was incorrect earlier. The total net 18 reduction of Phase 1 is 24 spaces. It's not 24 spaces 19 just in the rear of the building.
20 Q And what about when we go to Phase 2.
21 A In Phase 2, there are an additional 19 spaces
22 removed, and the majority of those are because of the --
23 as I mentioned here, I'll use this image, the second 24 going west from the rear of the building, the second 25 parking bay, double loaded parking bay, will also be

1 removed for this gymnasium addition, and that coupled
2 with some reconfiguring will result in a loss of
3 additional 19 spaces.
4 So I think I believe Ms. -- Ms. Wagner
5 mentioned earlier the net parking in -- in Phase 1 will
6 be 65 spaces, and then, 46 space phases at the end of
7 phrase 2.
$8 \quad$ Q Thank you. Please also describe for us the
9 outdoor lighting plan for the site just in general 10 terms.
11 A Sure. Essentially, there will be new pole 12 mounted LED fixtures. They are 15 feet in height, which 13 is consistent with the zoning code. And those are 14 really just for general parking lot safety and 15 illumination.
16 Q Will all the outdoor lighting have full or 17 partial cutoff fixtures or the modern equivalent?
18 A Yes. The fixtures that are shown on the
19 photometric plan, which I have a note that's 8 F is the 20 exhibit, have a BUG rating. BUG stands for back light, 21 up light glare, with a rating that's equivalent to what 22 we used to call full cutoff. The most important of that
23 is the up light value, which is zero, and full cutoff
24 means that no light is shed above a 90 degree plane.
25 And that up light value of zero means all light directed
down from a horizontal.
Q What would the illumination levels be along the property lines?

A Based on the photometric study, they will actually be zero foot candles, and that is consistent with the Zoning Code requirement for 0.1 foot candles at the property line for special exception uses in a residential zone.

HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I thought I read
somewhere that they were 0.2 but it was along Old
Georgetown Road?
THE WITNESS: Yeah, that's -- that's the right,
so the right of way is exempt from that provision. It's
just the wrong residential property -- adjoining side
rear, a lot of lights.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Got you. Okay.
Q Mr. La Vay, would you please outline the
frontage improvements that are proposed for this project
as well as the storm water management plan?
A Sure. I'll go back to Exhibit - we'll just
use Exhibit - what is it. It was Exhibit 21B.
Q That was 23 --
A 21B will be the Phase 1 site plan.
The frontage improvements, and I believe Ms.
Wagner may have mentioned this earlier, consists of an
140
11 foot wide side path that will replace - there is an existing five foot wide concrete sidewalk that's
directly behind the curb. There will be an eleven foot
wide what we call side path which is an asphalt path
that acts as a hiker biker shared use facility for both
bicyclists and just walkers or runners. And that would
be separated from the curb by an eight foot landscape
buffer. And that that geometry in that cross-section is
derived from the 2021 Montgomery County Complete Street Standards.

In regards to storm water management, like many projects these days, it is utilizing micro bioretention 3 to the maximum extent practical. So in Phase 1, as I mentioned earlier, there are two micro bioretentions 15 facilities which are landscaped rain gardens. You hear 16 that term sometimes. Those will be in the front of the 17 site in the sloped area between the building and the Old Georgetown Road, and they'll capture the impervious area that runs toward Old Georgetown.

Due to space constraints, there is - there is 1 an additional leftover volume that will be managed in 22 underground. It's what's called a storm filter device. 23 And that can be - that can be seen on exhibit 4 exhibit on the screen. In the south, south of the 5 center of the building, there's sort of a U-shaped

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underground facility there that's corrugated metal
system. Basically it's a - it's an underground storage
array, and then there is a cartridge filter system.
    And then, in Phase 2, there will be additional
bioretention added to manage the replaced impervious
areas, the gymnasium and so forth created.
    Q Thank you very much.
    Turning to timing, we heard from Kathy Chumas
that Diener hopes to move into its new location in the
middle of the summer 2024. Based on your experience
with development approvals, building permits, and
construction timing, when would Diener need to have
approval of the preliminary plan for this project to be
able to achieve that summary of 2024 goal?
    A Based on the schedule that our office
established and our experience with the regulatory
matters ahead, I believe that need to occur before their
summer recess, so they would need to have - the project
would need to have planning - preliminary plan approval
by the Planning Board in July of this year.
    Q Thank you, Mr. La Vay.
    With that background established, I'd like to
ask you a series of questions regarding compliance with
the requirements for the requested conditional use in
the Zoning Code.
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First, I'll address some of the findings
required for a private educational institution under section 59.3.4.5. In your professional opinion, will the proposed school constitute a nuisance for any reason?

A No, The Diener School will not constitute a nuisance. Schools themselves are a common part of residential communities, and this particular school, as you heard, has a very low enrollment, and would therefore would create very little exterior noise, light in traffic.

The School also doesn't have organized official sports teams where you may see additional acts, such as like noise and traffic especially after hours.

And as you heard from Ms. Wagner earlier, the School - and Ms. Chumas, the School has a very detailed plan in place to manage arrivals and departure without adverse impacts.
Q In your opinion, will the proposed school, either by itself or in combination with other nearby
land uses, affect adversely or change the character or
future development of nearby -- the nearby residential community?
A No, most the impacts of a nonresidential nonresidential development were established a very long

1 time ago when the office building here was constructed.
2 I believe it was the 1960s. And as I mentioned earlier
3 in my testimony, there are several nonexisting -- excuse
4 me, existing nonresidential uses along Old Georgetown
5 Road that have created an established character of Old
6 Georgetown Road.
7 Although these uses contains slightly larger 8 buildings and different features, parking lots, perhaps 9 you can have it with more heavily landscaped ed than 10 residential properties, that does create a buffer that 11 helps protect the adjoining neighborhood from what's 12 become quite a busy road of Old Georgetown Road.
13 Q In your opinion, will the number of students be 14 appropriate for the site particularly considering noise 15 and types of physical activity?
16 A Yes. The property is two-and-a-half acres, and 17 the enrollment is $\mathbf{1 2 0}$ students. Therefore, the 18 population is well below the threshold. Of 87 people 19 per acre, the established use standards for proper 20 educational institution where additional findings and 21 justification required. Again, as I mentioned earlier,
22 The Diener School has a much smaller enrollment than
23 many private educational facilities, and the lack of
24 athletic program means there would be very little $\mathbf{2 5}$ exterior noise and physical activity especially after

144
hours.
Q In your opinion, will the School's after
recreation facilities be adequately screened from abutting residential properties?

A Yes. The recreational facilities both in Phase 1 and Phase 2 are located to the rear of the existing building. And there is under both existing and proposed conditions significant th vegetation to the northwest and south side that will screen these facilities.
10 Q Now, I'd like to turn to the findings required
11 for all conditional uses, and section 59.7.3.1. Based
12 on your extensive experience applying Montgomery County
13 development standards to individual projects, will this
14 project meet all the requirements the R60 zone as well 15 as applicable general requirements under Article 59.6 of 16 the Zoning Code?
17 A Yes. The development will meet all of the 18 standards of the R60 zone, such as coverage, setbacks 19 and heights as well as most of the requirements, the 20 general requirements in 59.5 which include things like 21 parking, landscaping, lighting and screening. There is 22 what the exception of we are seeking three waivers from 23 standards for parking lot design and screen.
24 Q Would you please outline for us what those 25 waivers are for?

| 145 | 147 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 A The first is for reduced side parking setbacks. | 1 that have the accessibility symbol on them, where my |
| 2 The requirement is $\mathbf{1 6}$ feet which is derived from the | 2 cursor is. Those existing spaces will remain, and they |
| 3 special exception standards for parking in residential | 3 are eight feet from the property line under existing |
| 4 zones require that parking be set back twice the | 4 conditions. And so the eight feet that - or the space |
| 5 applicable side yard, and the applicable side yard in | 5 that's left that are there between all of the parking |
| 6 R 60 zone is $\mathbf{8}$ feet, and therefore the requirement is $\mathbf{1 6 .}$ | 6 and the property line which is the southern dark dash |
| 7 The request for 8 feet on the south side and $\mathbf{1 2}$ feet on | 7 line is eight feet |
| 8 the no | 8 |
| $9 \quad$ Q And why is a waiv | 9 looking at the Phase 1 plan, so this is where we have |
| 10 parking lot setbacks? | 10 now taken what are currently head-in parking spaces and |
| 11 A Well, in the case of Phase 1, the parking is an | 11 converted them to parallel spaces, but the existing |
| 12 existing condition, and because of the available space | 12 head-in spaces are approximately 12 feet from the |
| 13 between the building and that parking, and again, the | 13 northern property line. |
| 14 need to provide a fire department compliant access drive | 14 So if I flip to the Phase 2 site plan, which is |
| 15 aisle, there is no room to shift the parking. | 15 Exhibit 21C, again, because the space is in the rear of |
| 16 On the north side of the site, the 12 foot | 16 the property, west side will be displaced. We will |
| 17 setback requirement is actually only in Phase 2. And | 17 convert those spaces back to head-in on north of the |
| 18 that is when there's additional parking space is | 18 building, and that's where we will reestablish that |
| 19 displaced in the rear of the property due to the | 19 roughly 12 foot setback from the property line. |
| 20 gymnasium addition. What will be parallel parking in | 20 Q And it's not whole length of the northern |
| 21 Phase 2 would be converted back to head-in parking, and | 21 property line, right? |
| 22 that will have a 12 foot setback from the northe | 22 A No, it's |
| 23 property line, which is more or less within a foot I | 23 Q AmI correct that the parking meets the setback |
| 24 think of the existing parking that's there today. | 24 standard for part of the northern property line? |
| 25 Q And then, the other two waivers? | 25 A Yeah, well, the parking, only the - only the |
| 146 | 148 |
| 1 A Sorr | 1 dozen or so spaces that are running adjacent to that |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Before you leave -- | 2 property lin. The rest of the parking that's sort of in |
| 3 before you leave that the waiver on the south side - | 3 Phase 2 is in the middle of the site and meet the |
| 4 okay. The amount of waiver and the setback, they'r | 4 setback requirement. |
| 5 both eight feet, correct? | 5 Q Okay. And then, let's move on to the other two |
| 6 THE WITNESS: Yes. On the south s | 6 waivers that Diener is requesting. |
| 7 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. And on the | 7 A Sure. The second is for preliminary - |
| 8 north side, the setback -- the setback you propose is 12 | 8 perimeter planting widths, excuse me. The Zoning Code |
| 9 feet, so the requested waiver is four feet. | 9 has a requirement for 59 sticks for a perimeter - |
| 10 THE WITNESS: That's correct. | 10 perimeter planting width of 10 feet where you - a |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And what is -- | 11 parking lot adjoins residential property. Again, |
| 12 somebody mentioned the property below you. That is a -- | 12 because of the eight foot existing condition on the |
| 13 is south of you. That's a house, but it's abandoned and | 13 south side, we're requesting a waiver of two feet from |
| 14 in corporate ownership, is that what you said? | 14 that requirement. |
| 15 THE WITNESS: That's correct. | 15 Q And that's only on the south side? |
| 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead. | 16 A Correct. |
| 17 Q Okay. I wonder if it's -- if it's possible for | 17 Q And then, the last waiver that's -- that we're |
| 18 you to show on the -- on the exhibit how much of the -- | 18 asking for? |
| 19 of the north and south property lines are covered by | 19 A The last waiver is a - sort of - is a less a |
| 20 these waivers? | 20 geometric item and more a detailed landscaping |
| 21 A Sure. So on the north side -- well, I tell you | 21 requirement. There's a requirement for a minimum of two |
| 22 what, let's start with the south, because the south is | 22 understory trees planted for every canopy tree where you |
| 23 triggered in Phase 1. The Phase 1 site plan. | 23 have screening established, and we're asking for a |
| 24 So south, sort of south central of the site, 25 you can see that there's some accessible parking spaces | 24 waiver from that provision and only a select area. <br> 25 Q Why don't you show us what that area is. |



2 boundary between the parking lot and the property to the south.

Q Between the parking lot, is this the Phase 1
where there's a parking lot at the rear?
A It's - it's in both, so that this is
applicable in both phases. Well, yes, this is
applicable in both phases because even though we won't
have head-in spaces adjacent to the property in the
10 south, I believe the drive out would still would be
11 considered part of the parking facility.
Q And why is it that we're asking for that waiver?
A Well, typically, so there's a couple things.
It mostly do with space constraints, so we're going to
16 have light posts in there which those always drive where
the trees can be placed and other shrubbery, but mostly
8 when you have to implement a screening of a ten foot
wide screening or even 12 foot wide screening area, or
eight feet, you would stagger the landscape material a
little bit to be able to fit everything in. And when
you get down to eight feet, it's just very difficult to
fit all of that without crowding out trees or trees
being - trees and scrubs competing. So on that
southern area, we're reducing it down to I believe it's

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just one shrub between each tree or one understory tree,
I should say, between each tree rather than two
Q And is that also affected by the retaining wall on that side?

A In Phase 2 will be. That retaining wall won't come into play in Phase 1, but in Phase 2, that will also be a space constraint.

Q Mr. La Vay, have you read the discussion in the
9 Staff Report about the requested waivers?
10 A I have.
11 Q And does the Staff support the waivers?
12 A Yes, they did.
13 Q And do you agree with Staff's analysis?
14 A Ido. Yes, I do.
15 Q Thank you. In your professional opinion, would 16 the parking lot design and plantings as proposed satisfy
17 the intent of the Zoning code to ensure that parking
18 areas are effectively screened from the view from the 19 neighboring properties?
20 A Yes. Although we are asking for some slight
21 waivers, there will still be significant vegetation
22 involving existing and proposed to adequately screen
23 from adjacent properties.
24 Q Turning to the Master Plan. In your opinion,
25 does the proposed project substantially conform to the
recommendations of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Master Plan?
A Yes. And I would agree with Staff's findings in the report as well.

Q Would you also agree with the discussion of the Master Plan in the Statement of Justification?

A Yes, I would.
MS. CARRIER: For the record, the Staff Report
discusses the Master Plan on pages 24 through 26. And
the Statement of Justification discusses the Master Plan
on pages 27 through 31, and the Statement of
Justification is Exhibit 25 in the record.
And Ms. Hannan, I would propose to have Mr. La
Vay rely on his adoption of the discussion in the Staff
Report and SOJ regarding the Master Plan's goals and
objectives unless you prefer to hear of a more fulsome
16 testimony on that.
17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: No, that's fine.
8 Thank you.
Q Okay. Mr. La Vay, in your professional
0 opinion, is the proposed conditional use harmonious with
1 the surrounding neighborhood?
A Yes, I do think the proposed con -- yeah, I
think there's some uses that's harmonious with the
surrounding neighborhood.
Q Will it alter -- would the proposed use alter
the character of the neighborhood in a manner inconsistent with the Master Plan?

A No, the proposed use will not alter the
character in there. That's inconsistent with the plan.
In fact, the change from office to a community serving
school will even be more consistent with the character
of the surrounding residential neighborhood.
Q Would you like the adopt the conclusions in the
Staff regard regarding the adequacy of public facilities?
A Yes. And I can confirm that water and sewer services were deemed available and adequate to serve the proposed use, as well as fire and rescue services. And you heard testimony earl - testimony earlier from Ms. Wagner regarding traffic capacity.

MS. CARRIER: For the record, the revised Staff
17 Report discussed the adequacy of public facilities on page 27.

Q Mr. La Vay, my final topic for you is inherent
and non inherent adverse affects.
In your professional opinion, will the proposed conditional use cause undue harm to the surrounding neighborhood as a result of a noninherent adverse effect either alone or in combination with inherent adverse 5 effects?

| 153 | 155 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 A No, the adverse impacts of the nonresidential | 1 A Yeah, I am a registered architect and I have |
| 2 use, things like paid parking lots, larger buildings, | 2 certifications from the American Institute of |
| 3 site lining, there are mostly in existence today, an | 3 Architects, and from a -- a LEED certification in green |
| 4 they had been for a very long time. | 4 building. They are sustainability certifications. |
| 5 The transition from what's there today to a | $5 \quad \mathrm{Q}$ What is your position at Lord Aeck Sargent and |
| 6 community serving school would be more compatible with | 6 what are your responsibilities? |
| 7 the surrounding residential neighborhood. | $7 \quad$ A I'm a principal and a shareholder in the fir |
| 8 There are some newly introduced adv | 8 And I am a design architect, so I lead a lot of design |
| 9 effects, such as noise from children, traffi | 9 projects related to that, and have various overarchin |
| 10 generation, but those are very minor given the low | 10 leadership roles within the firm |
| 11 involvement and lack of outdoor, after school forma | 11 Q How long have you been a practicing architect? |
| 12 activities. | 12 A 24 y |
| 13 Q And are they typical for | 13 Q And what type of projects do you typically work |
| 14 institution? | 14 on? |
| 15 A They are. They are typical, but they are | 15 A I tend to work on project like this, like K12 |
| 16 relatively minor compared to many other private | 16 projects as well as a lot of higher end projects as |
| 17 educational institutions. | 17 well. |
| 18 Q | 18 Q Can you estimate roughly the number of projects |
| 19 MS. CARRIER: That completes my questions fo | 19 you've worked on during your career as an architect? |
| 20 Mr . La Vay. | 20 A I -- sure. I would say over 60 conservatively. |
| 21 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Are there any other | 21 Q Are you licensed in the State of Maryland, Mr. |
| 22 questions from anyone else? | 22 Andrews? |
| 23 Okay. Hearing none, | 23 A I am not licensed in Maryland |
| 24 You may be excuse | 24 Q You have worked on this application with |
| 25 MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much. | 25 architect from your firm who is licensed in Maryland? |
| 154 | 156 |
| 1 Okay. So our next and final witness is Josh | 1 A Absolutely, yes. |
| 2 Andrews. Just having a little technical problem here | 2 Q And his name would be? |
| 3 getting the questions up on my screen. There we go. | 3 A Warren Williams. |
| $4 \quad$ And Mr. Andrews is ready to be sworn in. | 4 Q Will Mr. Williams be responsible for signing |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Just on | 5 and sealing the architectural drawings? |
| 6 second. | 6 A Yes, he will be. |
| 7 Mr. Andrews, please raise your righ | $7 \quad$ Q Thank you. Have you ever qualified as |
| 8 Whereupon, | 8 expert witness in architecture before a judicial or |
| 9 JOSH ANDREWS | 9 administrative body? |
| 10 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to th | 10 A Yes. Once before, not in this simila |
| 11 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was | 11 capacity, more working with a contractor who was having |
| 12 examined and testified as follows: | 12 some issues with the subcontractor. |
| 13 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Please state your | 13 MS. CARRIER: Ms. Hannan, Mr. Andrews' résumé |
| 14 name, business address, and email for the record, | 14 was submitted as an attachment to the Applicant's |
| 15 please. | 15 Prehearing submission marked Exhibit 22. And I would |
| 16 THE WITNESS: My name is Josh Andrews. I'm with | 16 request that he be qualified as an expert in |
| 17 Lord Aeck Sargent Planning and Design. My email is | 17 architecture |
| 18 josh.andrews@lordaecksargent.com. And address is 1730 | 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Does anyone have an |
| 19 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 450, Washington, D.C. | 19 objection to qualifying Mr. Andrews as an expert in |
| 2020006. | 20 architecture? |
| 21 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Thank you. | 21 Okay. Hearing none, I will qualify him as an |
| 22 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT: | 22 expert |
| 23 BY MS. CARRIER: | 23 MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much. |
| 24 Q Mr. Andrews, what is your profession and what 25 professional certifications do you have? | 24 Q Mr. Andrews, would you please put up on your 25 screen the Phase 1 site layout exhibit that you have |

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ready to submit.
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        A Yes.
            MS. CARRIER: The Applicant would like to have
    this drawing marked as an exhibit.
A Yeah.
MS. CARRIER: And I'd like to note for the
record that this exhibit also appears on page 12 of the
Statement of Justification.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I thought I had seen
this before.
MS. CARRIER: Yes, yes. Most of these -- most
of these --
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I have --
MS. CARRIER: Most of these you have already
seen.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Can I -- can you put
-- I can't see it.
THE WITNESS: No, I'm sorry. Give me one --
MS. CARRIER: He's still working on it.
THE WITNESS: Give me one second.
MS. CARRIER: If you have trouble finding it, I
can always pull it up.
THE WITNESS: I have it here.
MS. CARRIER: There we go.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Before you go
ahead, I'm going mark it as Exhibit -- I think we're on
42.
MS. CARRIER: I think it -- I think it might be
43. I think the TMP was 42.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Oh, you're right.
Exhibit 43. And what did you call this?
MS. CARRIER: The Phase 1 site layout exhibit.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Go ahead.
(Exhibit 43, Phase 1 site layout, was marked
for identification.)
(Exhibit 43, Phase 1 site layout, was admitted
into evidence.)
Q Did you or your office prepare this exhibit?
A Yes.
Q Would you please walk us through the Phase 1
site design, including the proposed changes to the site
and the building exterior using this exhibit.
A Absolutely. And you've already heard some of
this already from - from some of the other witnesses,
but let me walk you through a few of the things.
I'll sort of start over here working our way
from the - from Old Georgetown Road in. A majority of
23 the site moves for Phase 1 really occurs from - from a
24 public standpoint from the face of the existing building
25 here, working our way back towards Old Georgetown. And

1 so we'll see probably a little bit later some of the
existing conditions. You've seen some of that already.
3 But some of the main things is really removing a
4 significant amount of asphalt and parking those right up
upfront. And so this is really an intentional around
creating a much nicer frontage to - to from a -- from a
County perspective. It's really setting this up well
for that. As -- as Mr. La Vay had mentioned, from the
storm water scenario, this is the storm water zone right
10 here, and there's a little bit over here. Those are --
11 those would be planted. This was --
12 Q Mr. Andrews, I'm just going to interrupt you --
13 A Yes.
14 Q -- because the transcript, it can be a little
5 confusing when there are a lot over heres, so if you
6 would -- if you would please try to use -- like be more
17 descriptive like talk about --
18 A Excuse me.
19 Q -- north of this, west of that, that would be 20 helpful.
21 A Okay. Yes. All right. Yeah, I was using my 22 arrow to point to where those --

Q Yeah, I know.
A Right.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You can't -- the
transcript can't see the arrow.
THE WITNESS: I understand.
HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you, Ms. -- I
was just about to say that. Thank you, Ms. Carrier.
A Forgive my novel -- novice ability on this.
So to the west of Old Georgetown Road, the storm water zone is located between that and the face of the existing building. And as mentioned previously, there's also in that similar zone the exterior elevator. 10 And that's being placed in -- in this portion of the 11 site because there's a flat portion running from the 12 west of what would be the new sidewalk that will allow 13 ADA accessibility to take that elevator up and be able 14 to come across to the west towards the front of the 15 school.
16 As mentioned previously by other of other 17 witnesses, there is significant grade change running 18 from the sidewalk to the west of the side all the way 19 towards the rear portion of the side. And so 20 specifically between the face of the building and the 21 sidewalk, there is a significant amount of grade change
22 that needs to be made up to make this side accessible 23 for anyone arriving from the sidewalk in the public way.
24 Directly south of that exterior elevator is an 25 exterior stair, and that's if you didn't need to take

| 165 | 167 |
| :---: | :---: |
| over this -- this exact building. <br> A few things to also note is that strategically <br> this is trying to strike a nice balance between having a new element on the side to really approve its overall accessibility and way to move up to the front door by -by having a balance of having some new elements that really speak to the school, having the school's logo, the school colors, things that really start to appropriate it more for -- for speaking to the school itself. But also using elements to start to really tie it back and blend in with existing context. <br> So the use of brick that matches the existing brick of the existing building, the use of precast that 4 sort of matches the same color as being used on the existing building. The way that the side walls 6 themselves try to blend into the existing grade that's 17 there. The way also that the stairs themselves sort of embed themselves into the grade that's there as well. So it's trying to strike a strong balance between both the two elements fitting into the overall context, and giving some identity for the School itself. <br> It also occurs directly behind, you know, a <br> 3 series of trees and within landscaping, so we feel that <br> 24 it has a nice meshing between those two different <br> 25 version scenarios within the overall site. | moving towards the east towards Old Georgetown; that that was all installed within the thought of we really have finished that portion of the frontage improvement. <br> The major changes really happened beyond those red dash lines that indicated the ornamental security gates zone. So beyond that, and as is testified by other witnesses, there are some slight changes relative to the drive aisle that works around the overall side to help some improvements from that standpoint. <br> From an architectural standpoint, the addition of the gym, there would be on the rear of the site to the west of the existing building, and a - and a bridge connector, corridor connector, that connects those from the gym running east to the - into the existing building. <br> That's what's depicted in this image. <br> There are then some new exterior spaces that <br> become created by that. Again, because the grade <br> changes across the length of the side to the - to the <br> west of the - to the west and the north of the gym, <br> there is a higher elevation outdoor space that can be <br> accessed from the upper level of the gym to be able to <br> have greater access for outdoor play areas and flexible <br> 24 space. And then, to the east between the gym and the <br> 25 existing building, there are two other outdoor classroom |
| 166 | 168 |
| Q Thank you, Mr. Andrews. <br> I'd like to go through the same thing now for <br> the Phase 2 site layout. If you would please pull up <br> the Phase 2 site layout drawing. This is also in the <br> record. It appears on page 14 of the Statement of <br> Justification. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Is this a new exhibit <br> though or -- <br> MS. CARRIER: This is a new exhibit. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: This will be the Phase <br> 2 site layout, Exhibit 45. <br> MS. CARRIER: Thank you. <br> (Exhibit 45, Phase 2 site layout, was marked <br> for identification.) <br> (Exhibit 45, Phase 2 site layout, was admitted <br> into evidence.) <br> Q Mr. Andrews, did you or your office prepare this drawing? <br> A Yes, we did. <br> Q Please go through the Phase 2 site design just <br> as you did the Phase 1 design, and be sure to point out changes from Phase 1. <br> A All right. For the most part, the Phase 1 <br> remains pretty much unchanged. That was very <br> intentional, but from the face of the existing building | spaces, flex spaces, that will be added to the overall design of the project. <br> There, as - as noted previously, there are some changes to how the overall parking starts to work within the - within the secure line of the overall facility to improve overall circulation of flow. <br> With the addition of the gym, that gives the <br> School one other student drop-off location that's <br> indicated by the purple arrows to the south of the <br> building. So that allows for even greater ability to <br> unload students and do that more quickly, because you <br> could really take students, older students in one area, <br> maybe to the gym, and some of the younger students closer to the existing building. <br> Q Thank you very much. <br> Next, please put up on your screen the Phase 2 <br> rendering. <br> MS. CARRIER: This is also a new exhibit, but it <br> appears both in the Statement of Justification on 14, <br> page 14, and also in the Staff Report. <br> HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Any objection to any <br> of these exhibits? <br> Okay. Hearing none, I will admit it as Exhibit <br> 46. <br> 25 MS. CARRIER: Thank you. |


| 169 | 171 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 Q Mr. Andrews -- | 1 integrate this into the overall context of both the |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Phase 2 rendering. | 2 neighborhood and this existing building. |
| 3 Sorry. | 3 So you'll sort of note that the roof shapes are |
| MS. CARRIER: Yes | 4 very similar, the roof design is very similar, and |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Sorry, Phase 2 | 5 materials, the color that you use are very similar. |
| 6 rendering. | 6 Similar to our previous conversation about the |
| 7 MS. CARRIER: Thank you. | 7 elevator design is that the brick of the gym will match |
| 8 (Exhibit 46, Phase 2 rendering, was marked for | 8 the brick of the existing building as a way to start |
| 9 identification.) | 9 creating a stronger connection between the two. But |
| 10 (Exhibit 46, Phase 2 rendering, was admitted | 10 also, the existing building has some limited |
| 11 into evidence.) | 11 opportunities to bring in more natural light. And so |
| 12 Q Mr. Andrews, did you or your office prepa | 12 the new additions provide more windows, more glazing |
| 13 this exhibit? | 13 allow greater natural light into those - those existing |
| 14 A Yes, we did | 14 - those new spaces and provides for greater connection |
| 15 Q Please tell us what it depicts and what you | 15 to the outside. So the new - the newbuilding, you'll |
| 16 find most significant about it | 16 sort of know there are new, new glass part of the gym |
| 17 A Okay. So this is really taking that Phase 2 | 17 the lower level, you'd be able to exist from the gym to |
| 18 side background we saw, and we really start to see it | 18 the east to the outdoor flex space. Similar spaces |
| 19 three-dimensionally. So here is the existing building. | 19 exist on the north and the west sides of the gym on the |
| 20 That would be what's the building that's shown in the | 20 upper level to be able to go out onto those flex outdoor |
| 21 right-hand corner of this image. To the upper left-hand | 21 spaces there as well. |
| 22 comer is the new addition of the gym, and the | 22 Q Is there any element of this rendering that is |
| 23 connecting corridor element between the two. And then, | 23 outdated? |
| 24 you have a sense of the overall site design itself | 24 A There is one little piece that is different |
| 25 A few things to note, this starts to give you a | 25 As we sort of walk through the site design, I'll just |
| 170 | 172 |
| 1 good sense of the landscaping around the overall site | 1 note that there a set of steps that's shown adjacent |
| 2 itself that's really highlighting rather dense trees all | 2 the existing -- existing entry, which is in the bottom |
| 3 the way around the north, the west, and the south sides | 3 right-hand corner of the -- of the drawing. That those |
| 4 of the site itself. There is some existing trees that | 4 no longer exist in the final design. The ramp that is |
| 5 are ther | 5 shown does exist, just not those exact steps. |
| 6 This also starts to highlight some of exterio | 6 Q Thank you. The last demonstrative exhibit I'd |
| 7 spaces that were noted. As you can see, the -- the | 7 like to ask you to pull up is the rendering of the |
| 8 playground space that's fenced in to the south of the | 8 proposed gym. |
| 9 existing building, some of the open flex spaces that are | $9 \quad$ A $S o$ as I pull that up, this view will be taken |
| 10 between the new gym and the existing building. And | 10 from some where standing over in the area between both |
| 11 then, some of the upper flex spaces that are located to | 11 the gym and the new and existing building. So that |
| 12 the north and west of the existing gym facility. | 12 would probably be on the south -- southe ast corner of |
| 13 A few architectural things that we think are | 13 the next to one of the parking spaces. So somewhere |
| 14 really important here. There is -- there is a great | 14 located -- |
| 15 amount of strategy that went into really trying to | 15 Q Mr. -- Mr. Andrews, I need the time while |
| 16 integrate this building into the overall side. And | 16 you're pulling it up to talk about the exhibit -- being |
| 17 similar to our conversation about the elevator on the | 17 a new exhibit. |
| 18 front of the building, this is trying to strike a nice | 18 MS. CARRIER: So the Applicant would like to |
| 19 balance between relating to the existing building, and | 19 mark this rendering as an exhibit as well, and I will |
| 20 providing a way to really express some -- some interest | 20 note for the record, this appears on page 15 of the |
| 21 of the School and what the School is all about. So the | 21 Statement of Justification, and I believe it is also in |
| 22 School colors are used in the -- in the gym itself | 22 the Staff Report. |
| 23 trying to use some of the colors which you will see in | 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Anyone have any |
| 24 their logo as a way to express more about what the | 24 objection to admitting this as an exhibit |
| 25 School is. But then, some very strategic moves to | $25 \quad$ Okay. Hearing now, I'll mark this 47 gym |


| 173 | 175 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 rendering. | 1 overall scale fits in with the surrounding neighborhood |
| 2 MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much. | 2 itself. But also settings for a lot of really good |
| 3 (Exhibit 47, Gym rendering, was marked for | 3 improvements that are happening here. When you look at |
| 4 identification.) | 4 - if you're, you know, on Old Georgetown, and you're |
| 5 (Exhibit 47, Gym rendering, was admitted into | 5 looking back towards the site, there's a significant |
| 6 evidence.) | 6 amount of asphalt and parking that's there. And all the |
| $7 \quad$ Q Okay. Mr. Andrews, did you or your office | 7 changes that we're talking about really helps improve |
| 8 prepare this rendering? | 8 the overall visibility from, you know, this look and |
| 9 A We di | 9 feel and what it's like from being in the public way |
| 10 Q Please tell us what we're seeing and what you | 10 looking back towards the site itself. |
| 11 find significant in it? | 11 And then, and thinking about from a Phase 2 |
| 12 A So this is a view taken from the south side of | 12 perspective, these adjustments are to the rear of the |
| 13 existing building looking back towards the east side and | 13 site, and as - as different strategies we've discussed |
| 14 east end south side of the gym addition. A few things | 14 are really embedded into the site itself. So most of |
| 15 that are really important here just for orientation | 15 this won't even be visible from the - from the front of |
| 16 standpoint, on the right-hand side of the image is a | 16 the site itself along with the landscaping that goes |
| 17 piece of the existing building, starts to understand how | 17 around the perimeter creating some of the visual |
| 18 that the new addition relates to the existing space. | 18 barriers. I feel very confident saying this fits in |
| 19 A few things to note is that the, as mentioned | 19 nicely to the existing neighborhood. |
| 20 previously, the shape of roof of the new gym really ties | 20 Q Thank you. |
| 21 in nicely to what the existing building is doing. A | 21 Mr. Andrews, I'd like to ask you a few |
| 22 strategic move that was going to occur here was really | 22 questions about landscaping. |
| 23 embedding this gym into the hill of the site, rather | 23 A Yes. |
| 24 than trying to have it elevated up so it's sort of | 24 Q Has your career as an architect included site |
| 25 extended up for greater view for the surrounding -- | 25 design work? |
| 174 | 176 |
| 1 surrounding buildings and views. This was embedded into | 1 A Yes. |
| 2 the side. So as you'll sort of note on the far | 2 Q And what's your role in that? |
| 3 left-hand side how the slope of the grade occurs down to | 3 You know |
| 4 where is the entry floor to the gym, it embeds itself | 4 A Well |
| 5 into the grade itself. So reducing the overall height | 5 Q -- when you're talking about site design. |
| 6 of the building proper. And that allows for a portion | 6 A Sure. I'll say, for an example, with this |
| 7 of the building to be essentially under grade on the -- | 7 project, placing - placing the auditorium, think - I |
| 8 on the west side of the gym. | 8 mean, the gym, the connecting corridor between the tow |
| 9 So reducing that overall height is an important | 9 how the circulation works, thinking about how parking |
| 10 move. Using the same brick of the exist - of the | 10 happens, different elevations of playground spaces, |
| 11 existing building as a part of the gym is an important | 11 working directly with landscape architects on the look |
| 12 move to make those connections between the two. And | 12 and feel of the way that the project worked, those are |
| 13 then, the differences become as mentioned previously a | 13 all things that would be under my purview. |
| 14 greater transparency of some school colors start to find | 14 Q Have you had occasion to become familiar with |
| 15 their way into it. | 15 landscape plans generally during the course of your |
| 16 I'll also note this creates a really nice and | 16 career? |
| 17 safe way to unload students into this kind of outdoor | 17 A Yes. |
| 18 plaza area before they go into the school proper. | 18 Q And are you familiar with the landscape plans |
| 19 Q Thank you for all of that. | 19 for the Diener site? |
| 20 In your professional opinion, is the existing | 20 A Yes. |
| 21 building with the proposed changes compatible with the | 21 Q Could you please pull up on your screen the |
| 22 residential character of the surrounding neighborhood? | 22 approved natural resources -- natural resources |
| 23 A I really think it is. I mean, the existing | 23 inventory or NRI. This is Exhibit 9. |
| 24 building has been there for a long time from 1666. Its | 24 Pleas identify in a general way the existing |
| 25 materials, its architecture shape of the roofing, of the | 25 landscaping and plantings on the subject site. |


| 177 | 179 |
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| 1 A All right. | 1 was for the overall site plan, the majority of |
| 2 Q Particularly what's, you know, along the | 2 landscaping moves really occurs from the face of the |
| 3 perimet | 3 existing building towards the east going towards 0 |
| 4 A Yes. Yes. So there is a handful of zones | 4 Georgeto |
| 5 around the existing site that are worth noting. So if | 5 So this, so I would put this into a couple of |
| 6 we start with working our way off of Old Georgetown | 6 categories. When we think about landscaping along - |
| 7 Road, that is where significant amount of landscaping | 7 along this portion of the project one falls into the |
| 8 material is not really landsca | 8 category of screening. So to both to the north and the |
| 9 mostly asphalt between the -- between the drive aisles | 9 south edges of the site, what's being inputted there is |
| 10 and parking that is along that edge. | 10 similar to what - what Mr. La Vay had mentioned |
| 11 There is a small lawn area that's just to the | 11 previously, is the idea of screening trees that would |
| 12 south of some of the existing parking that's | 12 have some taller canopy trees, some understory trees, |
| 13 area, and a few shrubs and trees that are along that | 13 and some scrub material. And that's what you start to |
| 14 edge. | 14 see indicated along those edges to help provide greater |
| 15 Along the north edge of the site is a series of | 15 screening to the properties north and south. Those are |
| 16 evergreen trees, as well as some smaller kind of scris | 16 very similar between both the north and south scenarios. |
| 17 material that provides a pretty strong visual barrie | 17 So sort of in the screening scenario. |
| 18 currently. | 18 Then, I would say we have plantings that are |
| 19 On the southwest portion of the site is, as | 19 more related to Old Georgetown Road itself that are |
| 20 mentioned previously, a significant stand of bamboo | 20 about those types of improvements. We saw some of that |
| 21 that's along there that creates a really strong barrier. | 21 in the rendering on the - on the of front of the |
| 22 And then, on the rear portion of the site, and that | 22 |
| 23 would be the west and on the south side of the site is a | 23 And so those are trees that are set up to be |
| 24 mixture of deciduous trees along those edges that also | 24 larger canopy trees all the way along this edge, along |
| 25 have some scrub material along that. And so thos |  |
| 178 | 180 |
| 1 those also provide pretty strong visual barriers that | 1 of the sidewalk along Old Georgetown Road to the -- to |
| 2 are already in place currently, very mature trees on not | 2 the west |
| 3 all side of the -- of the -- of the sides of the -- of | 3 Then, we have plantings that are about this |
| 4 the project from north, west and south. | 4 central zone that $I$ would say would be between the |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Are you going to | 5 sidewalk and the -- and the face of the existing |
| 6 retain those bamboos? | 6 building. That would be zones for the storm water |
| 7 THE WITNESS: I -- that is currently the -- tha | 7 management that would happen. There's going to be |
| 8 notion that those would -- that would remain currently. | 8 plantings directly within that storm water zone to help |
| 9 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. | 9 deal with filtration. And then, some ornamental trees, |
| 10 MS. CARRIER: It was something that some of the | 10 shade trees that are planted. It's just an overall kind |
| 11 neighbors requested. | 11 of beautification of the front of the building. |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay | 12 And then, finally, we have some interior |
| 13 MS. CARRIER: As part of the existing screening. | 13 plantings that are plantings along the face of the |
| 14 Q Next, I'd ask -- like you to put up on the | 14 existing building and some other ornamental trees, just |
| 15 screen the Phase 1 landscape plan, which is Exhibit 23A. | 15 some overall kind of landscape design element. |
| 16 Would you please identify generally -- nope. | 16 For the most part, all of that landscaping |
| 17 Did your firm prepare this exhibit? | 17 occurs from the face of the existing building towards |
| 18 A Yes. | 18 the east. There's a few -- a few plantings along the |
| 19 Q Can you walk us through this and tell us | 19 perimeter of the -- of the building that go inside that |
| 20 generally what's going to be planted in the front | 20 secure lawn that we looked at previously, but the |
| 21 portion. This is the Phase 1, right? | 21 majority is all sorts from the existing face of the |
| 22 A Yes. And let me zoom into this just a little | 22 building to Old Georgetown. |
| 23 bit more | 23 Q Will there -- will any of the existing |
| 24 Q Oh, great | 24 perimeter landscaping in the rear part of the site be |
| 25 A For the Phase 1, similar to what our discussion | 25 removed during Phase 1 ? |


| 181 | 183 |
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| 1 A No, we really don't have much intention of | 1 add to the existing context, and already has really |
| 2 removing much of any of the existing landscaping along | 2 strong visual barriers, and I think this will only add |
| 3 the - the existing portion of the site back there since | 3 to this overall scenari |
| 4 we have - we have good coverage and visual barrie | 4 MS. CARRIER: And that completes my questio |
| 5 along those ed | 5 for Mr. Andre |
| 6 Q In your opinion, will the combination of | 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. |
| 7 existing and proposed landscaping during Phase 1 provide | 7 Andrew |
| 8 an attractive and adequate buffer between the Schoo | $8 \quad$ Any questio |
| 9 property and neighboring | 9 Okay. Hearing none, you may be excused. Thank |
| 10 A I do. I mean, I feel like there's a really | 10 |
| 11 good barrier that's already there, and all the things | 11 THE WITNESS: Thank you |
| 12 we're doing are only improving, and I think | 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Ms. Carrier? |
| 13 significantly improving the look of the overall | 13 MS. CARRIER: Yep, I have a couple of things I |
| 14 facilities, especially fr | 14 wanted to put on the record and a very short closing |
| 15 Q Would you please put up on your screen the | 15 statement |
| 16 Phase 2 landscape p | 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. |
| 17 Did your firm prepare this exhibit as well? | 17 MS. CARRIER: I wanted to mention that we w |
| 18 A Yes, we | 18 be submitting signed and sealed copies of all of the |
| 19 Q Can you walk us through this one and show | 19 plans in this period -- |
| 20 what's being done in -- what's being proposed in Ph | 20 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Great. |
| 212 | 21 MS. CARRIER: -- when the record is open. |
| 22 A Yes. So for this one, I'd probably say there's | 22 And do I need to move admission of all the |
| 23 two things to consider. One is still the similar kind | 23 exhibits into the record or h |
| 24 of scr | 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I |
| 25 plantings that are - that are in the scope of sort of | 25 MS. CARRIER: -- moving them as we went along? |
| 182 | 184 |
| 1 beautification of the site. | 1 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: I -- well, I can do it |
| 2 So for the existing, what would be existing for | 2 now. All the exhibits, you mean, not just the ones we |
| 3 Phase 1 with the screening elements that we spoke -- | 3 just did. Okay. |
| 4 just spoke about from the north and south edges of the | 4 MS. CARRIER: Yes. |
| 5 site, those in this drawing are slightly lighter shade | 5 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You can. And |
| 6 that are grayed out on the north and south. That | 6 MS. CARRIER: I would so move |
| 7 similar arrangement is being radiated a around the | 7 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: And any objections? |
| 8 south, the west, and the north sides of the site. So | 8 Hearing none, I'll accept them |
| 9 really just extending the landscaping that's been | 9 MS. CARRIER: Thank you. |
| 10 established in Phase 1 from a screening standpoint. | 10 I'd like to reiterate a request that we put in |
| 11 Internally to the site, once you have the new | 11 the Statement of Justification to revoke the special |
| 12 -- the new gym, and the new connecting element between | 12 exception that is currently on the site for the existing |
| 13 the two, there are ornamental planting and shade | 13 owner, which is the American Podiatric Medical |
| 14 plantings around the outdoor flex space and playground | 14 Association. That's Case Number BA 22-02. |
| 15 areas. Those areas are noted around parking spaces on | 15 There's also another special exception in the |
| 16 the west side, and specifically on the north and south | 16 Board of Appeals records, BA 15-43. It's not a |
| 17 sides of the new connector between the gym and the | 17 operation on the site, but if it's still in effect, |
| 18 existing building. | 18 Diener would like to request revocation of that special |
| 19 Q And I have one remaining que | 19 exception as well. |
| 20 Andrews. In your opinion, will the combination of | 20 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Those only the |
| 21 existing and proposed landscaping during Phase | 21 Board of Appeals can do. |
| 22 provide an attractive and adequate buffer between the | 22 MS. CARRIER: Oh |
| 23 School property and neighboring residences? | 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: So what I would -- |
| 24 A I absolutely think so. Again, I feel lik | 24 MS. CARRIER: -- of course. |
| 25 everything that would happen in Phase 2 is only going to | 25 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Yes. You -- you |


| 185 | 187 |
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| 1 remember many things from your former position. | 1 consideration are offsite -- |
| 2 MS. CARRIER: Not enough -- | 2 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Right. |
| 3 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: That it is confusing | 3 MS. CARRIER: -- but should there be any changes |
| 4 no | 4 to the TMP, the Applicant will commit to submitting |
| 5 MS. CARRIER: Yeah. | 5 those to the Hearing Examiner with a request to reopen |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: But what I was going | 6 the record to admit that final TMP so that your record |
| 7 to do is just say you have to put a condition on my | 7 is complete. |
| 8 approval, our approval saying you have to abandon the | 8 And with that, we thank you very much. |
| 9 special exceptions prior to issuance of the building | 9 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. |
| 10 permit. That would give you time to get through Court | 10 MS. CARRIER: Oh, and we are available on May |
| 11 of Appeal. | 11 24th, and the School has -- does -- is willing to |
| 12 MS. CARRIER: Okay. That's great. | 12 consent to having that additional hearing date as you |
| 13 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Is that okay with you? | 13 discussed earlier. |
| 14 MS. CARRIER: That's plenty of time. Thank you | 14 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you. Did you -- |
| 15 very much. | 15 MS. CARRIER: Did I say September? |
| 16 It's also a recommended as a condition by the | 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- confirm-- |
| 17 Staff , and I'm sure it will be a condition on the | 17 MS. CARRIER: I meant May. |
| 18 preliminary plan as well. So that that's simple | 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: No, you said -- you're |
| 19 That's we can -- we can approach the Board of Appeals on | 19 right. You're in the thousands here. You're right. |
| 20 that. I really ca | 20 Did you get a chance to confirm with Mr. Myers? |
| 21 I wanted to thank the OZAH Staff for preparing | 21 MS. CARRIER: I didn't because we didn't change |
| 22 this hearing, and it's been -- they've been very a | 22 the date. And I had understood that he -- |
| 23 pleasure to work with. And thank the Hearing Examiner | 23 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Said that date was |
| 24 for all your time and consideration to carry on all that | 24 acceptable. |
| 25 traffic stuff this morning. | 25 MS. CARRIER: -- he was comfortable with May |
| 186 | 188 |
| 1 The Applicant's witnesses have demonstrated | 1 24th. |
| 2 compliance with the applicable Zoning Code requirements | 2 MS. CARRIER: Okay. Then, what I will do is |
| 3 including consistency with the Master Plan and | 3 postpone -- not adjourn, I will postpone this hearing to |
| 4 compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood | 4 May -- this went out my head. Sorry -- May 24th at |
| 5 Diener School requests approval of the | 5 9:30. Correct? |
| 6 requested conditional use to operate within the | 6 MS. CARRIER: Yes, that's right. Wednesday. |
| 7 parameters specified in the Applicant's pre-hearing | 7 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Solely to hear |
| 8 submission, Exhibit 22, including the changes in their | 8 testimony on the proposed mitigation and traffic |
| 9 Motion to Amend. And consistent with the conditions of | 9 concerns regarding the mitigation. So I expect you only |
| 10 approval recommended by the Planning Staff and the | 10 to bring Ms. Wagner. |
| 11 Planning Board. | 11 I have a question but maybe I should wait for |
| 12 The Planning Staff and Planning Board ha | 12 |
| 13 recommended several conditions of approval related to | 13 Has SHA ever not approved a traffic study? |
| 14 transportation issues. As I stated early on, that the | 14 MS. CARRIER: I don't -- |
| 15 School requests that the Hearing Examiner adopt those | 15 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: You don't know? |
| 16 recommended conditions of approval and grant the | 16 MS. CARRIER: I don't believe so. I mean, not |
| 17 requested conditional use conditioned on getting | 17 I've ever heard, you know. I've been in this field a |
| 18 approved from the State Highway Administration of the | 18 long time in this county -- |
| 19 transportation study. | 19 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well done. |
| 20 And if there are any -- if there are any | 20 MS. CARRIER: -- and there have always been -- |
| 21 changes to the TMP, we don't expect any changes to the | 21 SHA has always been the most challenging agency to get |
| 22 Transportation Management Plan because that the TMP only <br> 23 covers actions by the School and -- | 22 approvals from in a timely manner. It is, you know, for <br> 23 years, it has been not uncommon that you know, the |
| 23 covers actions by the School and -- <br> 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: R | 24 Planning Board date is approaching, everybody else |
| 25 MS. CARRIER: -- the elements that are under | 25 signed off, the Staff Report has been completed, and |


| 189 | 191 |
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| 1 there is, you know, days before going to Planning Board, | 1 we're just waiting for one camera. But right now, it'll |
| 2 the Staff finally gets something from the State of | 2 be on Teams. And so it'll be May 24th at 9:30 via |
| 3 Highway Administration. But I've not -- I do know that | 3 Teams, and we'll have -- you may want to get -- I will |
| 4 recently, there have been case where they had to | 4 ask Mr. Myers to any exhibits, say we don't need all the |
| 5 postpone the Planning Board hearing because they didn't | 5 exhibits that were up today, so if you want to get what |
| 6 have something from State Highway. | 6 you want Hanna, Johnson Navarro (phonetic) office, and |
| 7 Ms. Wagner, have you experienced that in recent | 7 I'll ask Mr. Myers to get any he wants so we don't have |
| 8 months? | 8 to repost exhibit. |
| 9 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Well, my question is | 9 MS. CARRIER: Um. Okay. We'll let her -- we'll |
| 10 what -- I guess I'm trying to think through. What | 10 let her know. |
| 11 happens if they don't approve the traffic study?. | 11 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. So with that, I |
| 12 MS WAGNER: And I -- I don't think we are in the | 12 am continuing this case to May 24th at 9:30 a.m via |
| 13 state of not -- them not approving the traffic study. I | 13 Microsoft Teams. And the link will be on OZAH's website |
| 14 think that it's they just want additional mitigation | 14 at least two days before the hearing. All right. |
| 15 measures. And so I think that we're not in the state -- | 15 MS. CARRIER: Okay. |
| 16 I don't think that they are -- | 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Thank you very much. |
| 17 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: But those mitigation | 17 MS. CARRIER: Thank you very much. |
| 18 -- | 18 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. Bye. |
| 19 MS WAGNER: -- considering not approving. | 19 MS. CARRIER: Bye-bye. |
| 20 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: -- those mitigation | 20 (Off the record at 2:24 p.m. EST) |
| 21 measures are not under your control. I mean, you can't | 21 |
| 22 left -- restricted left turn signs, right. | 22 |
| 23 MS WAGNER: No. | 23 |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: No. | 24 |
| 25 MS WAGNER: And these mitigation measures are | 25 |
| 190 | 192 |
| 1 very minor, they're common, they're seen throughout the | 1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER |
| 2 area where there's turn restrictions, and no U-turns, | 2 I, Merinda Evans, AAERT, the officer |
| 3 and don't block the box. So these are all pretty minor | 3 before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, |
| 4 mitigation measures. It's just a matter of -- we | 4 do hereby certify that said proceedings were |
| 5 believe it's just a matter of them responding, them | 5 electronically recorded by me; and that I am |
| 6 coordinating internally and telling us which ones they | 6 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by |
| 7 want. | 7 any of the parties to this case and have no |
| 8 They -- the emails and correspondence that we | 8 interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome. |
| 9 have gotten fromPark and Planning and fromSAJ have |  |
| 10 been in a cooperative nature. It's not been a we're not |  |
| 11 going to approve this study type of nature. | 11 |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: Okay. All right. I'm | 12 Notary Registration No.: |
| 13 just thinking ahead. So we can talk. Who knows. Maybe | 13 My Commission Expires: |
| 14 you'll get an answer by the 24th. | 14 |
| 15 MS. CARRIER: I hope. | 15 NIT, 6 |
| 16 HEARING EXAMINER HANNAN: But with that, it | 16 melimada Luans |
| 17 keeps our contractor ten days to get the transcript to | 17 Merinda Evans, AAERT, Court Reporter |
| 18 us. So I would probably be leaving the record open to | 18 5/12/2023 |
| 19 get the transcript for the second hearing for ten days | 19 |
| 20 from the 24th. And again, that doesn't mean I won't be | 20 |
| 21 working on the decision, but I'mjust alerting you we'll | 21 |
| 22 wait and see how the other hearing goes. | 22 |
| 23 But so right now, we will be scheduling another | 23 |
| 24 hearing at 9:30 via Teams. We're almost -- we finally | 24 |
| 25 got the late little part we needed to go hybrid. Now | 25 |

## Conducted on May 12, 2023

| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER <br> I, Jerome E. Harris, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information; and that $I$ am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome. |  |
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