

October 6, 2013

## City's Traffic Expert Report Raises Doubts About FASNY Project

Dear Neighbors—

**New information** has come to light which significantly impacts the potential outcome of FASNY's application to construct its multiple school campus on the former Ridgeway CC property. TRC Engineers, Inc. (TRC), a consultant hired by the City to review aspects of the FASNY plans, issued its review of the Traffic and Transportation sections of the DEIS and DFEIS. The TRC Report is attached and posted on our website (www.GedneyFarms.net).

## The TRC Report firmly supports the view that the adverse impacts of FASNY's proposal have <u>not</u> been adequately mitigated to allow approval of the application.

To summarize its findings:

After considering FASNY modifications to its plan the:

- <u>Ridgeway access option</u> "would still result in traffic issues on Ridgeway" and mitigation efforts are inadequate
- North Street access option, regardless of whether the option involved the roundabout, the offset intersection or the aligned intersection:
  - places "more traffic along North Street", on the ramps to the Hutch and at the intersection of Bryant Avenue and North Street where there "is limited stacking for vehicles"
  - places "additional through traffic along North Street in front of Club Pointe and other properties in that area"
  - "is dependent on the success of the mandatory busing program";
    - and referring to mandatory busing: "due to the proposed size of the Project, there are several uncertainties about the actual trip generation and

bus utilization and there could be significant fluctuation in these numbers which then could **result in significant additional traffic impacts**."

- Bryant Avenue access option:
  - would lead to "significant delays at the intersection of Mamaroneck Avenue and Bryant Avenue"
  - "could not be fully analyzed with the information available" because "no detailed plan for this intersection was provided" (all emphases added)

We have only touched upon some aspects of the TRC Report. The TRC Report contains much additional information about the negative impacts on the neighborhood streets and the adjacent roadways. And, the report raises numerous, significant doubts about the effectiveness of FASNY's attempts to mitigate the adverse impacts.

The Common Council is aware of this report and will be receiving another traffic report from the expert hired by the Association, Mary Manning. The Manning report will review the TRC Report and evaluate its conclusions. The content of the TRC Report is long awaited affirmation of many of our positions concerning traffic impacts held throughout the FASNY application process. We have urged the Common Council to heed the warnings in the TRC Report and the Manning reports. And, we urge you to contact the Council to give them your views.

**Unfortunately**, we also need to inform you about the disturbing circumstances surrounding the TRC Report and its eventual disclosure to the public. The TRC Report was unknown to the Association and the public until FASNY's mention of it at the School Board meeting of September 23, 2013. We were aware of the City having a traffic consultant and had specifically requested the consultant's evaluation of FASNY's new options for entrances from North Street and Bryant Avenue. We made numerous requests for a copy of the consultant's report without a response from the City and/or acknowledgement whether the report even existed. It was not until the School Board meeting and FASNY's statement that we were able to confirm the existence of the report. Although the TRC Report is dated September 12, 2013 (the last day of the City imposed written comment period on the DFEIS), it was not until September 24 (after another request for the TRC Report), the FEIS documents available on the City website was amended. Council Member John Martin responded quickly and supplied us with the TRC Report after our September 24 request to the City. Thank you Councilman Martin.

Clearly, it should never be so difficult to obtain public information from the

City especially when the information is so critical to the proper understanding of this controversial project. We have been in consultation with legal counsel to determine what actions may be appropriate and will let you know what actions may be taken.

Please consider writing to the Mayor and Council to urge them to do everything they can to stop the FASNY project from coming to fruition.

Thank you.

Terence Guerriere President, Gedney Association