### CITY OF NEWTON

### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

### PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Albright, Salvucci, Gentile, Crossley, Danberg, and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Lennon

Also present: Ald. Linsky, Merrill and Yates

City staff: Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer), Arthur Cabral (Interim Public Buildings Commissioner), Joshua Morse (Facilities and Operations Supervisor; Public Buildings Department), David Turocy (Deputy Commissioner of Public Works), Michael Cronin (Operations Manager; School Department), and Robert Rooney (Chief of Operations)

#224-06(2) ALD. LINSKY, ALBRIGHT & JOHNSON, BAKER & SCHNIPPER requesting

further deliberation on the conditions set forth in the Site Plan Approval Board Order relating to the Newton North High School project, considering possible

expansion and modification of the conditions.

**ACTION: HELD 6-0 (Gentile not voting)** 

**NOTE:** Traffic Engineer Clint Schuckel provided the Committee with the attached PowerPoint presentation and an update of the traffic circulation, focusing on Elm Road and theparking plan for Newton North High School. The Traffic Engineer, the Traffic Consultants, and Newton North Principal Jennifer Price have worked closely to come up with an acceptable circulation plan. There is no change in the geometry of Elm Road; however, there is a change in the traffic circulation. The School Department believes that in order to eliminate competition on Elm Road from AM to 8:30 AM and 2 PM to 4:30 PM on school days, the leg of the loop closest to the school will be restricted to busses only during those hours.

Access to Elm Road from Walnut Street will be restricted to staff or authorized vehicles from 7 AM to 8:30 AM and 2 PM to 4:30 PM on school days. In addition, vehicles entering Elm Road from Walnut Street will not be allowed to continue on Elm Road once they have passed the parking lot from 7 AM to 8:30 AM and 2 PM to 4:30 PM on school days. The School Department will be responsible for enforcing the restrictions. The School Department feels that it should allow the teachers to access Elm Road from Walnut Street, as they generally arrive at school earlier then the students and it is more convenient for the staff. Mr. Schuckel pointed out that the access could be changed at any point if there is a problem and the Traffic Council will also be reviewing the proposed access to Elm Road.

Mr. Schuckel is proposing linkage between the traffic signals on Walnut Street in order to clear traffic exiting left from Elm Road onto Walnut Street. After a vehicle remains in the left-turn lane on Elm Road for over 20 seconds, a relay is triggered between the two traffic signals on Walnut Street, which turns the pedestrian light red and the signal at Cabot and Walnut Streets red for southbound traffic.

Mr. Shuckel provided an overview of the vehicle drop off/pick up areas and circulation for pedestrians and bikes. There are two drop off areas on Hull Road, one at the ceremonial drive and one at the loop at the entrance of the school on Elm Road. The special education vans will drop off and pick up at the ceremonial entrance to the school, which is considered the main entrance. The new school is set up to be easily accessible to pedestrians from all directions. However, some of the Elm Road neighbors would like a fence installed along Elm Road that would block pedestrians from accessing Blithedale Street and Kimball Terrace from Elm Road. There will be over 100 bike racks installed around the Newton North High School site to provide the students with the option of riding a bike to school.

Mr. Schuckel reviewed the parking availability at the new school. There will be 15-minute and 2-hour parking spaces along the ceremonial entrance, excluding the neck-downed portion where drivers enter and exit the drive. The ceremonial entrance will also include a live parking area near the entrance to the school similar to a blue zone. There will also be five handicap parking spaces located in the ceremonial drive. The Elm Road area will provide 227 staff or permit parking spaces during the 2010-2011 school year, which provides about ½ of the parking for the staff. An additional 323 off-site parking spaces are needed for the rest of the staff, students, and other special circumstances parking permits and it is likely that they will be gained through an extension of the "tiger permit" program. Some of the off-site parking spaces would be relocated to the Lowell Avenue parking lot in 2011.

An extension of the permit program will need to be discussed and voted on by the City's Traffic Council. There are also several other proposals related to parking and moving restrictions around the Newton North High School site that will need to be discussed in Traffic Council. The proposed limited access from Walnut Street to Elm Road at certain times of the day will need to be discussed and resolved before the opening of the new school. Some residents are also interested in a no parking restriction on the portion of Walnut Street in front of the school and parking restrictions and related signage on the public way section of Elm Road.

Mr. Schuckel concluded his presentation with a slide that addressed what the Newton North High School neighbors could do to assist the City with assessing the traffic flow and circulation once the new school is open. He suggested that the neighbors observe and report any changes in student parking patters, traffic conflicts, bottlenecks, and need for additional enforcement. The Committee held the item for further discussion, information, and updates related to the Newton North High School Project.

#67-10 NATIONAL GRID requesting a grant of location to install and maintain 200'+ of

4" gas main in RAMSDELL STREET from the existing 4" gas main at Pole #145 easterly to the rear of 936 Boylston Street and 65'  $\pm$  of 4" gas main in CURTIS STREET from the existing 4" gas main at 9 Curtis Street to the end of the traveled

way. (Ward 5) [02/22/10 @ 11:22 AM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 6-0 (Gentile not voting)

**NOTE:** Dennis Regan, National Grid Permit Representative, presented the request for a grant of location to extend two existing 4" gas mains on Ramsdell Street and Curtis Street. The

extensions are necessary to provide service to the properties located in the area while National Grid seals a 24" gas main that currently provides that service. It is likely that once the service switch takes place the properties will remain on the smaller gas mains, as they are generally used for service connections.

The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. The Department of Public Works has reviewed the proposed grant and recommended approval. However, Ramsdell Road was repaved in 2006, which means that National Grid will be required to cold-plane and pave 25' from curb to curb in either direction of the gas trench. The installation will begin in April and should take approximately two weeks to complete. The roadways will remain passable throughout the project. Ald. Salvucci moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#288-09(2) <u>DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE</u> petition pursuant to Sec 5-58 for site plan approval to place four modular classrooms with associated connectors at Oak Hill Middle School in order to accommodate increased enrollment. [02/23/10 @ 7:20

PM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 6-1(Gentile opposed)

**NOTE:** Public Buildings Commissioner Arthur Cabral, Architect Gene Raymond, and Facilities and Operations Supervisor Joshua Morse presented the item. The Design Review Committee recommended approval of the four modular classrooms to be located at the rear of the school in an existing parking lot with a strong recommendation that the modular classrooms be moved further away from the school. The Design Review Committee was concerned about the view from existing classrooms and the loss of natural light. The architect has revised the site plan to reflect the recommendation and the modular classrooms are shown 40' from the existing school. The move results in the loss of 26 parking spaces at the School instead of 18 spaces in the original site plan. However, there is a parking lot across the street that could accommodate the 26 lost spaces, after it is re-striped and the brush cut back.

The architect provided the Committee with the attached PowerPoint presentation on the modular classrooms. The project consists of the addition of four modular classrooms, and a connector to the Oak Hill Middle School site. The modular classrooms are 12' x 49' and the connector will be a stick built corridor. The architect recommends that the City install steel bollards along the modular classrooms on the parking lot side to protect them from damage by vehicles. The addition of the modular classrooms will require minor renovation work within the school, such as the relocation of a utility/storage room.

The proposed modular classrooms will be as "green" as possible with many energy efficient features. The roofs of the modular classrooms will be white rubber membrane with exposed heating and air conditioning units. The windows in each classroom will be as high as possible to provide natural light and light sensors will be installed to reduce energy use. The walls of the classrooms will be painted cement panel with patterns and the windows would be fiberglass with flashing and a channel fin.

The utility work to provide fire alarms, sprinklers, conduit, electricity, and gas heat will all be done by one contractor. Although there is only one means of egress, all of the windows are

### PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010 PAGE 4

operational. The City could also request doors between the classrooms to provide additional access. The addition of the modular classrooms will not require any additional drainage, as there is already drainage in the parking lot.

Ald. Lappin asked if all of the pieces of the project are included in the budget. Commissioner Cabral stated that the Public Building's Department is trying to assure that the cost comes in at \$1 to \$1.1 million. The City could write the bid to allow more flexibility in the proposals, individual vendors could submit bids with added values, and the City could determine the best values for the price. The Public Buildings Department will rank each proposal, look at the price, and determine which the best proposal for the City. In addition, the vendor would provide the technical specifications for the modular classrooms.

Ald. Albright asked if two-story modular classrooms had been considered, as they would have less of an impact on the parking. Mr. Raymond stated that it is much less complicated to connect the modular classrooms on the first floor. There are problems with trying to connect to the second floor of the school, in particular the impact on natural light for the classrooms. Commissioner Cabral pointed out that two-story modular classrooms are more expensive. Michael Cronin, Operations Manager for the School Department, felt that two-story addition would have a negative impact on the existing school.

The public hearing was opened and Chris Hill, 163 Suffolk Road, spoke on the item. Mr. Hill is in favor of the modular classrooms but was concerned that the area between the modular classrooms and the existing school may become an eyesore. Commissioner Cabral responded that it is possible to remove the asphalt between the modular classrooms and the school and plant grass to make it a more attractive area. Bruce Henderson, 52 Vaughn Avenue and Kurt Kusiak, 22 Ardmore Road, support the addition of the modular classrooms but would suggest that the City install a skirt around the bottom of the modular classrooms to prevent access to the crawl space.

Susan Allen, 100 Littlefield Road, has counted the spaces in the parking lot across the street from the school and there are only fifteen available spaces. She is very concerned that there will be a lack of available parking and teachers and parents will park on Littlefield Road. In order to counteract that possibility, Ms. Allen suggested that the fence around the school's property be extended to close access to Littlefield Road or that the City look at paving space behind Brown Middle School to provide additional parking. Ald. Gentile pointed out that if the City closes assess to Littlefield Road it will interfere with students walking to and from school and the cross-country team. Committee members suggested that Ms. Allen file an item with the City's Traffic Council to restrict parking on Littlefield Road. The Committee also requested that the staff of the Public Buildings Department and the School Department contact Ms. Allen regarding her concerns. Both Commissioner Cabral and Mr. Cronin agreed to contact Ms. Allen. The public hearing was closed as no one else wished to speak on the item.

Ald. Lappin moved approval of the item, which carried by a vote of six in favor and one opposed. Ald. Crossley thanked the Public Buildings Department and the architect for responding to the Design Review Committee's recommendation. Ald. Crossley added that she would like the Design Review Committee to receive these types of projects much sooner to

provide a better review. Ald. Gentile stated that he did not be support the site plan approval because he feels that the project was rushed. Although he realizes the need for additional space at the school, if the School Department and Public Buildings Department had addressed the space issue earlier, they could have done a cost benefit analysis of permanent construction versus modular classrooms. A permanent addition to the school would have been more aesthetically pleasing and could be as energy efficient as the modular classrooms.

### REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#81-10

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend ninety-one thousand dollars (\$91,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding operating costs associated with the new Newton North High School building for the month of June 2010. Ongoing operating costs for the new building have been included in the School Department's budget beginning July 1, 2010. [03/09/10 @ 7:08 PM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 6-0 (Albright not voting)

**NOTE:** Commissioner of Public Buildings Arthur Cabral presented the request for funds to pay utility bills, insurance, and overnight security at the new Newton North High School for the month of June. The School Department's FY'11 Budget already includes these costs from July 1, 2010 onward. The School was originally due to be turned over to the City in July, therefore; the costs were not included in the current FY'10 School Department budget. The costs are the responsibility of the construction manager until the turn over of the building, therefore; the June costs were included in the guaranteed maximum price and will be returned to the City at the end of the project.

Ald. Gentile had questions regarding the requested funds for utility costs for the building. Joshua Morse, Facilities and Operations Supervisor, explained that the City does not want to come up short and any left over funds would be turned back to the Free Cash account. Mr. Morse also pointed out that the new school is much more energy efficient and that the utility budget for the high school has already been reduced to \$460,000 for next year, which is less than half of the previous utility budget. Ald. Crossley asked if there would be a time when both the old and new school would be operating. Mr. Cabral responded that it may be the case in a portion of July, however; it has always been the plan that the School Department would pick up the costs for the new building and the contractor would take over the old building in July. Ald. Gentile requested a complete breakdown of the \$90,000 for the Finance Committee discussion of the item. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously

### REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#82-10

<u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting authorization to appropriate and expend one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the Public Works Department's budget for concrete supplies as follows:

Bituminous Concrete ......\$60,000 Redi-Mix Concrete .....\$90,000

[03/09/10 @ 7:08 PM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 5-0 (Crossley and Lappin not voting)

**NOTE:** Deputy Public Works Commissioner David Turocy presented the item to the Committee. The request for funds stem from significant cuts in the department's budget. The department reduced a work crew last year and reduced the materials and supplies accounts to reflect that reduction. However, the department is still using the same amount of material this year. Both accounts related to concrete are depleted, and one will be at a zero balance by the end of March 2010 and the other by the end of April 2010. The additional funds should allow the department to purchase concrete materials until the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Turocy stated that the department needs the funds as soon as possible to begin filling many potholes created by the winter weather and severe flooding this spring. The potholes are a threat to drivers and their vehicles, often causing significant damage to vehicles. Deputy Commissioner Turocy requested that the item be voted with an emergency preamble due to the necessity of obtaining material to fill the potholes.

Ald. Lappin asked if there was any plan to include additional money for concrete materials in the next budget. Mr. Turocy responded that the department would try to find money in the existing proposed budget to reallocate to the concrete supplies account.

Ald. Salvucci suggested that the Department of Public Works (DPW) replace sidewalk concrete panels in kind when they remove them. Mr. Turocy explained that the DPW often replaces the concrete panels with asphalt as it allows tree roots to grow without cracking the sidewalk. Ald. Crossley agreed with Ald. Salvucci regarding replacing the panels in kind. The majority of the trees bordering the sidewalks are Norway maples, which is an invasive species. She would suggest that the Norway Maples should be removed if they are damaging the sidewalks and suggested that the City may need a written policy regarding Norway maple removal.

Ald. Salvucci questioned Mr. Turocy about the Public Works Department's betterment policy. Mr. Turocy explained that the DPW is currently only doing betterments on streets that are being reconstructed. Several Committee members urged Mr. Turocy to look at doing other sidewalk betterments on streets that are not being reconstructed. Ald. Salvucci will raise the issue of betterments during the department budget discussion. With that, Ald. Danberg moved approval with a recommendation for an emergency preamble, which carried unanimously.

#385-07 ALD. SCHNIPPER AND GENTILE updating the Public Facilities Committee on

the progress of the Newton North High School Project. [11/21/07 @ 10:23 AM]

**ACTION:** HELD 5-0 (Crossley and Lappin not voting)

**NOTE:** The project is moving forward and the new building construction is on schedule. Neither Ald. Gentile nor Ald. Schnipper had anything new to update the Committee on; therefore, the item was held.

Please note the below items related to NStar were held without discussion as NStar Representative Marc Lucas was unable to attend the meeting.

#24-10 ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion regarding requiring any utility

company that requests permission to bury wires in the street (to handle increased capacity or for any other reason) be required to: (1) choose a section of the street that has enough clearance to add additional conduit at the time of the work, or in the future, to bury additional conduit; (2) to add sufficient conduit to bury that utility's wires currently on the poles on that street at the time the work requested

is undertaken. 01/11/10 @ 11:47 AM]

ACTION: HELD 4-0 (Albright, Crossley and Lappin not voting)

#418-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting discussion with NStar Electric Company regarding

standards for installing underground conduits and the possibility of providing

additional conduit for future undergrounding projects.

ACTION: HELD 4-0 (Albright, Crossley and Lappin not voting)

#457-08 <u>ALD. LAPPIN AND SALVUCCI</u> requesting discussion with NStar regarding the

timely repair of City streetlights and the development of a standard response

timeframe. [11/20/08 @ 12:51 PM]

ACTION: HELD 4-0 (Albright, Crossley and Lappin not voting)

#367-09 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting discussion with the Law

Department on how to resolve the dispute with NStar regarding whose

responsibility it is to repair the streetlight connection between the manhole and

the base of the streetlight. [10/21/09 @ 9:00 PM]

**ACTION:** HELD 4-0 (Albright, Crossley and Lappin not voting)

#111-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND MANSFIELD requesting discussion of recent

information (made available to the Land Use Committee) from NStar related to double poles, focusing on the 350 double poles waiting only for removal of wires

or streetlights by the City of Newton.

**ACTION: HELD 4-0 (Albright, Crossley and Lappin not voting)** 

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman

# Public Facilities Committee



Wednesday, March 17, 2010

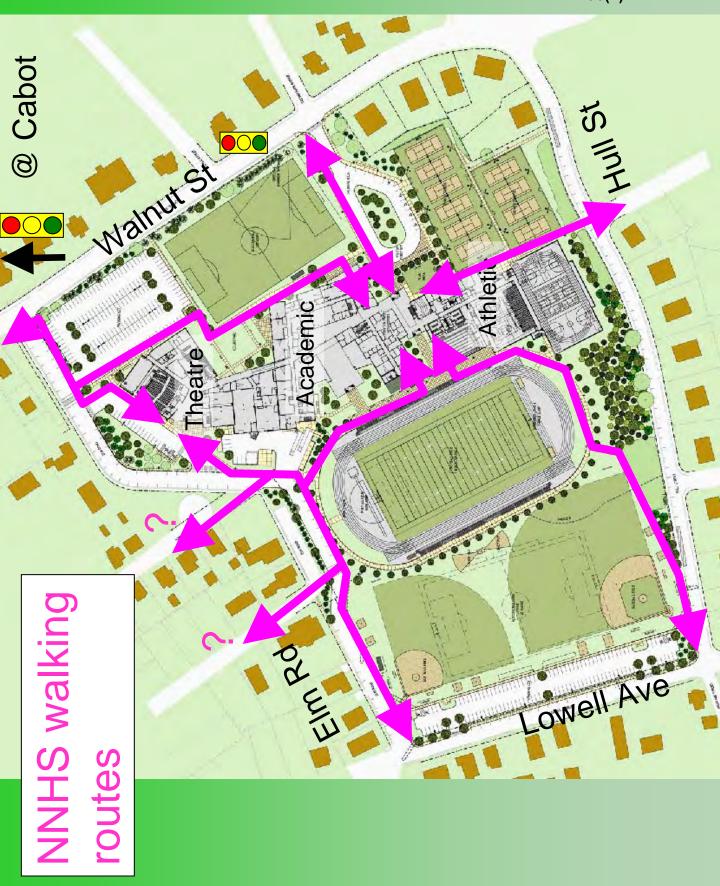
Clint Schuckel Associate City Engineer Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

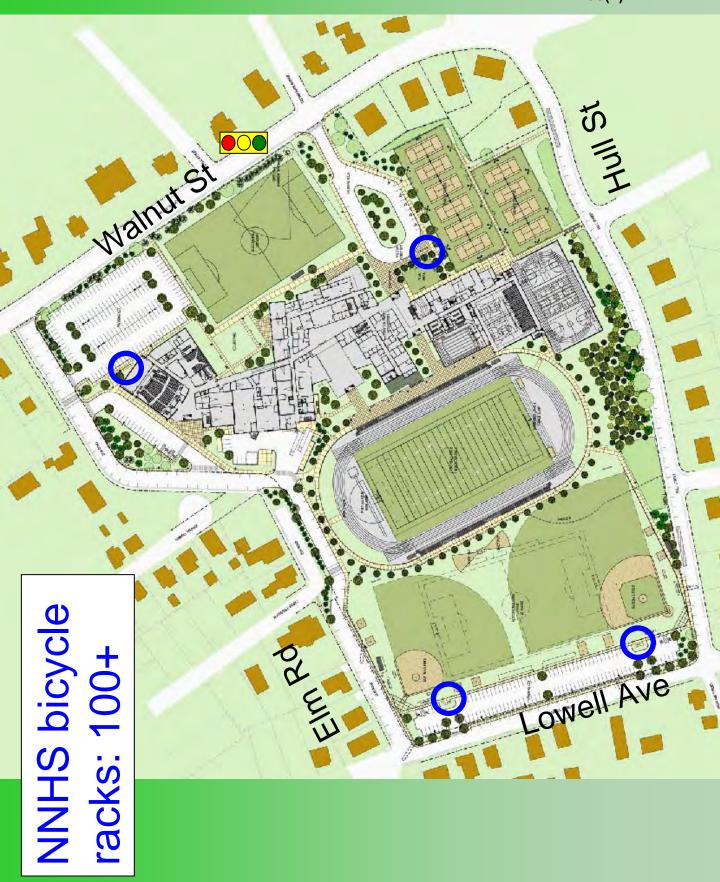
# NNHS Traffic/Circulation Goals

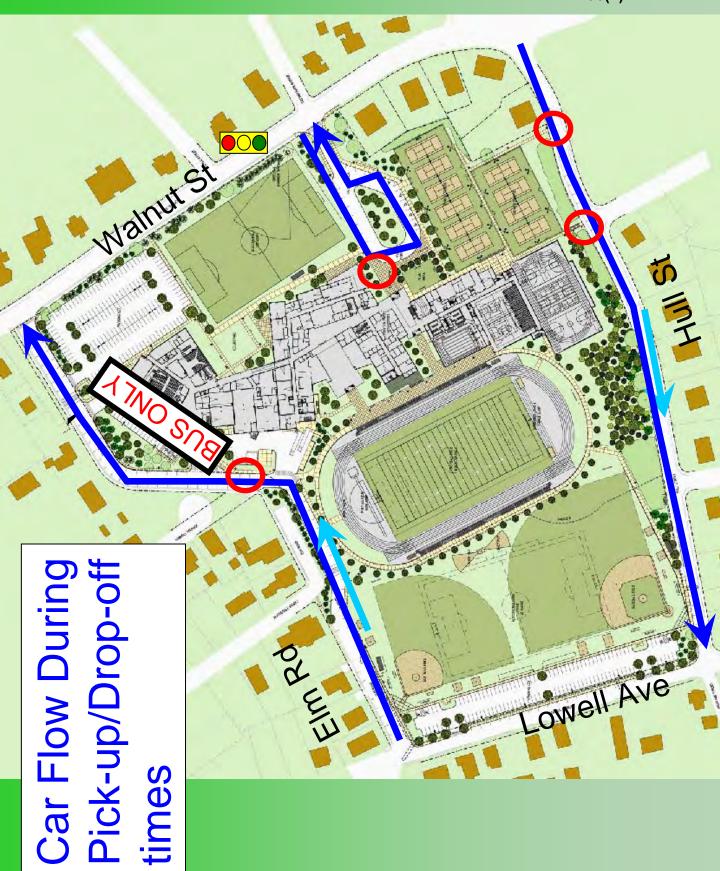
- access for pedestrians, bicycles, and buses Provide safe, convenient and preferred
- Walnut St crossing for points south & east
- Facilitate bus egress onto Walnut St
- Disperse vehicle access points and parking around the site
- Provide options
- Over time, drivers will use their own fastest route

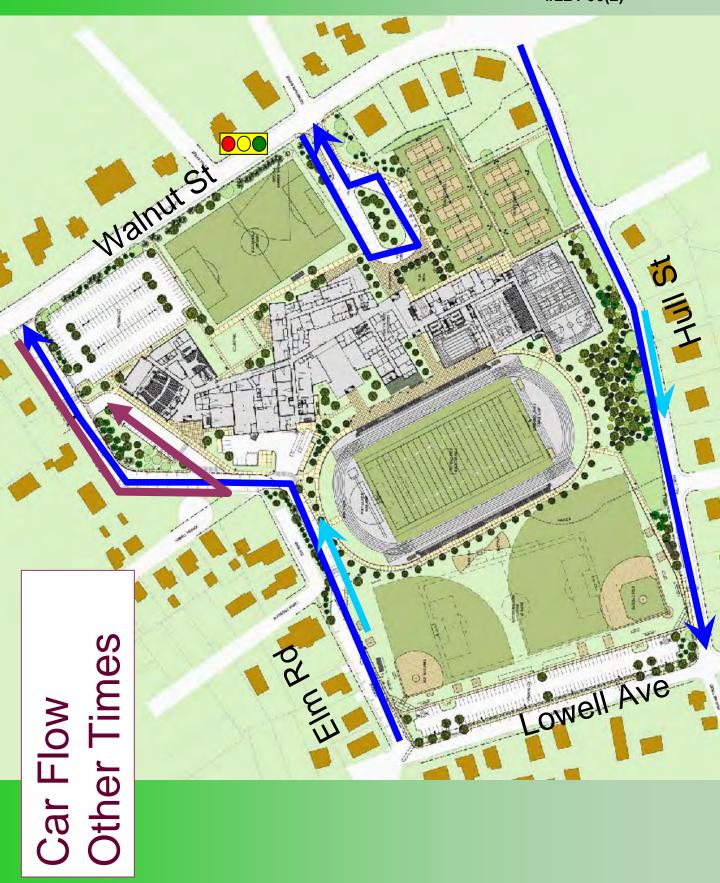
### Outline

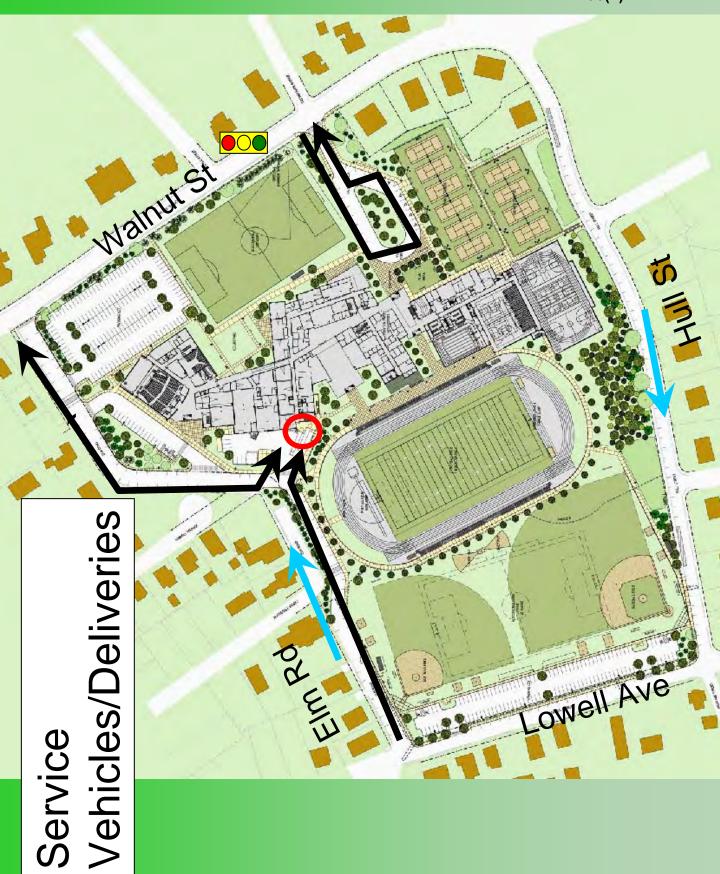
- 1. Review traffic flow patterns around NNHS
- Peds & bikes
- Buses
- Cars
- Service vehicles
- Review pending construction projects around SHUN
- 3. Parking for 2010-2011 School Year
- On school property
- Off school property









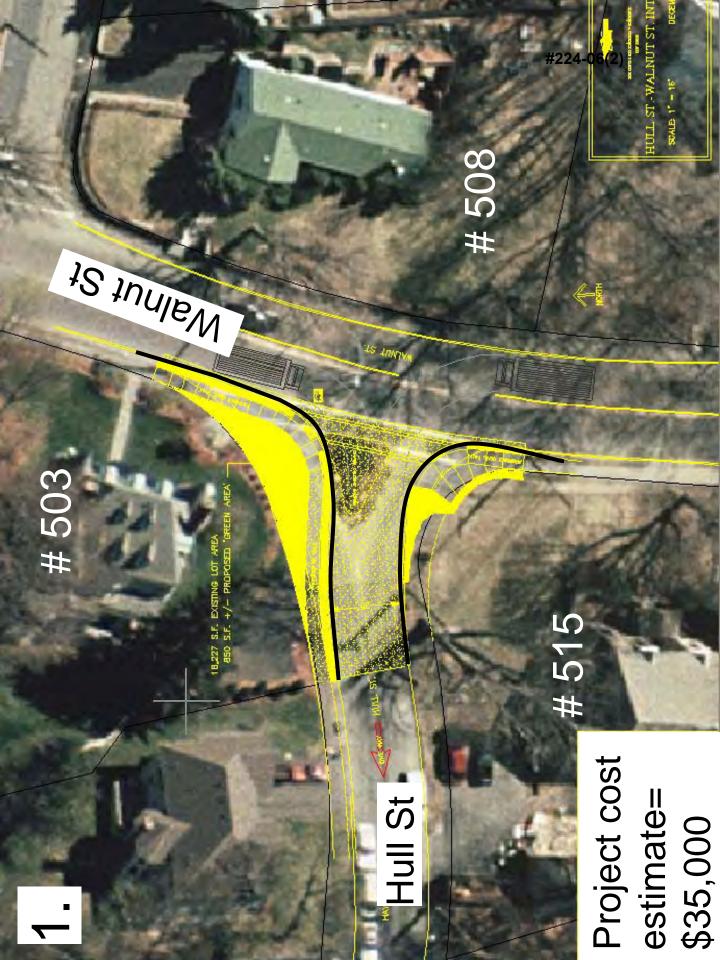


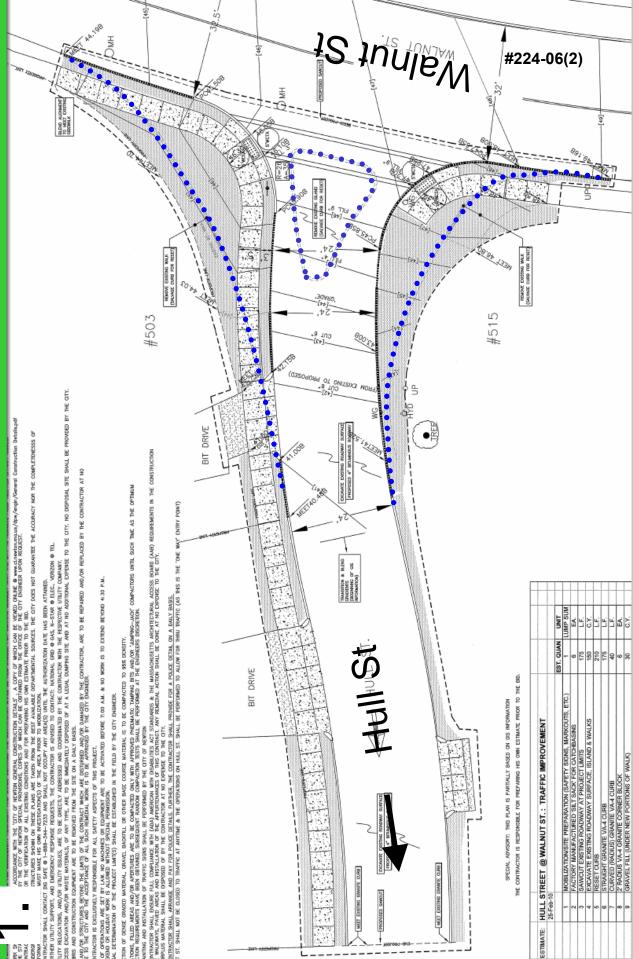
# Construction Projects Next 5 Months

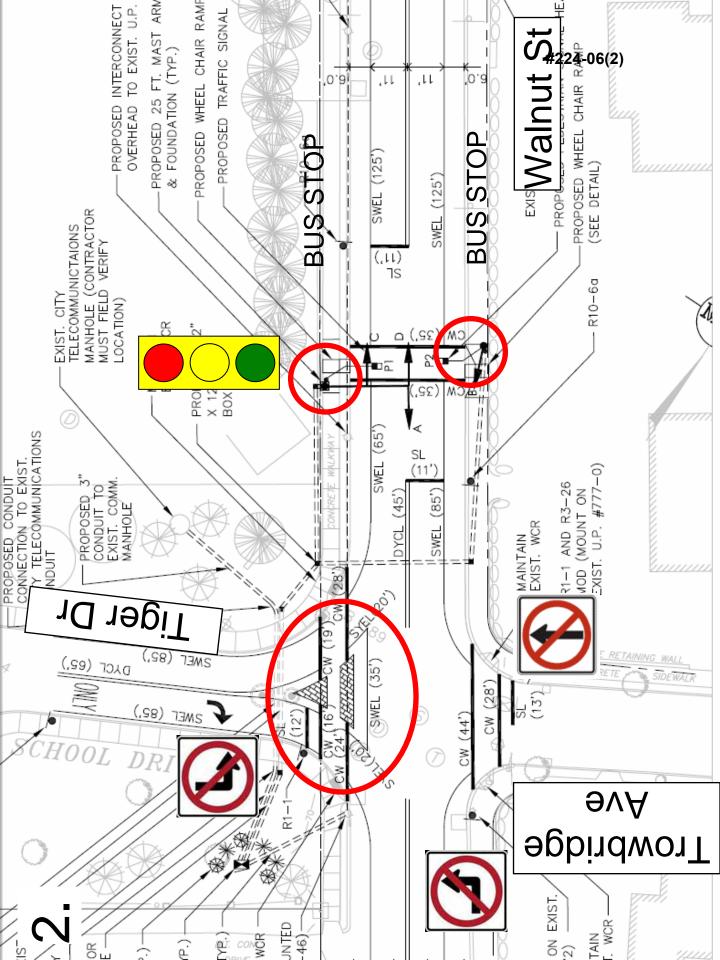
- Walnut @ Hull St
- Walnut @ Tiger Dr
  - Walnut @ Elm Rd
- Walnut @ Cabot St



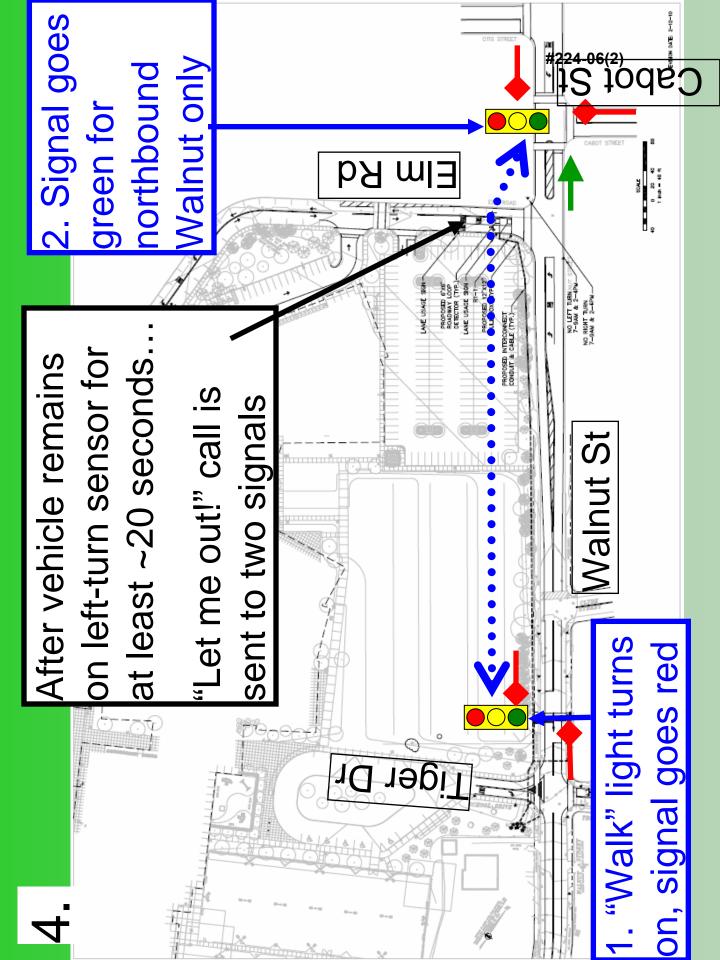












### **NNHS Parking**

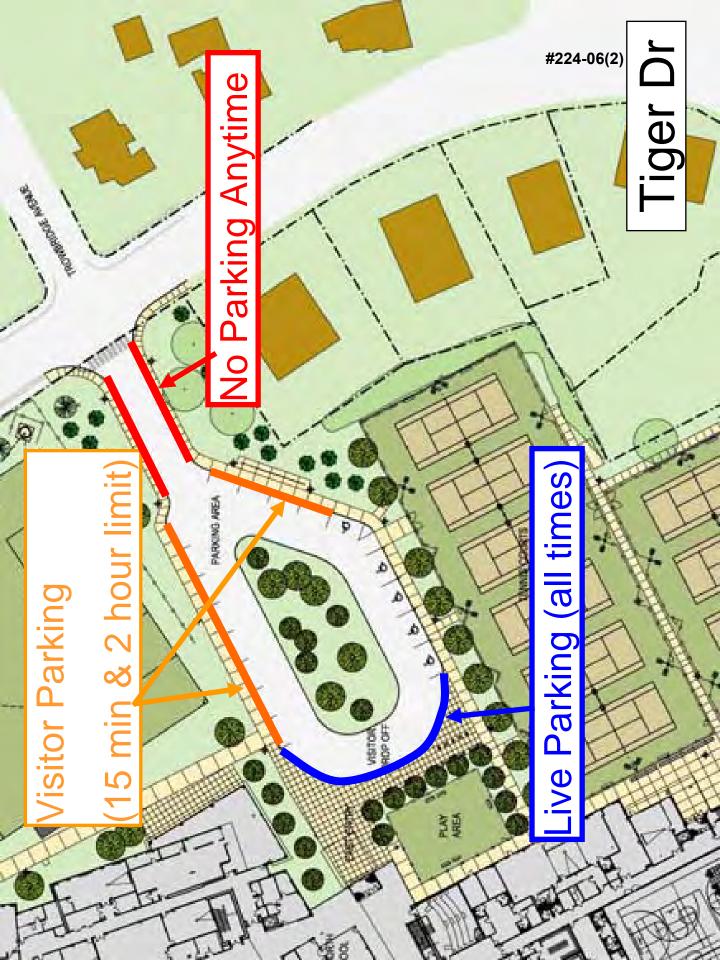


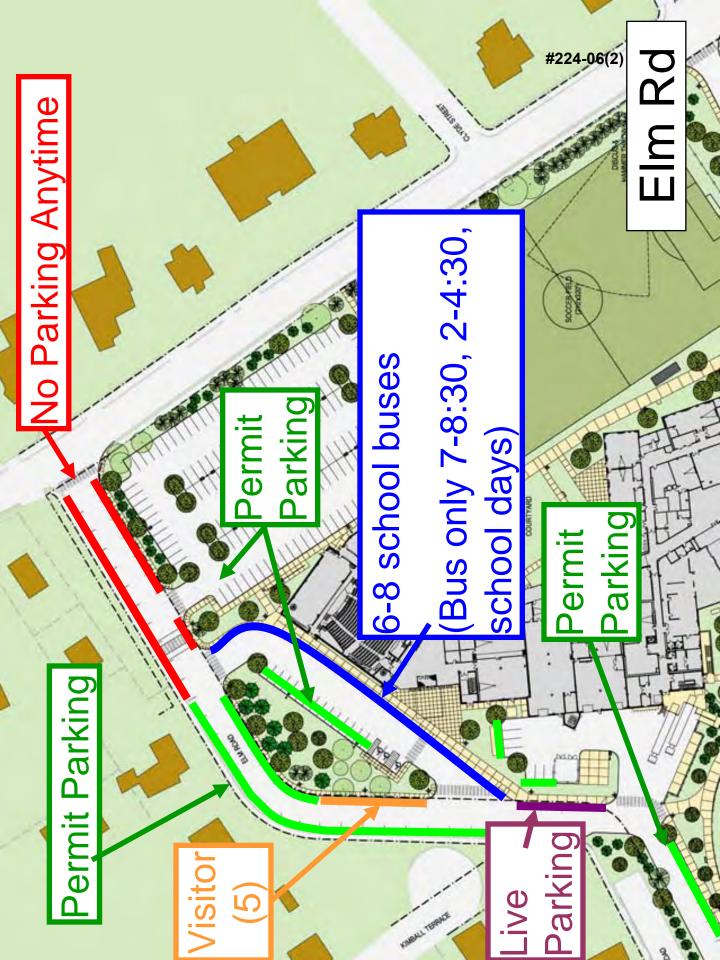
Tiger Drive

Elm Road

Tiger Permits







## Tiger Permits (TPR-204)

• 422

staff permits (100% issued)

100

students (60% issued)

"special circumstances"

10

Hull St residents (1 each)

10

"discretionary"

550 parking permits TOTAL

## On-Site Permit Parking

• 168 Elm Rd lot

Elm Rd bus loop

Elm Rd (not incl.areas near demo)

37

Loading dock

on-site staff spaces TOTAL\* 227

met on-site during 2010-2011 school year \* About half of staff parking demand will be

### Off-Site Parking

• 47 HU

Hull St

Lowell Ave @ Claflin, Elmwood

Austin St lot (students?)

On-street locations TBD\*

193

48

35

off-site spaces are needed 323

\* Some of these spaces could be relocated to Lowell Ave parking area in 2011-2012 school year

# Spring 2010 Traffic Council "To Do's"

- Walnut St "no parking"
- Walnut/Elm: time of day turn restrictions
- Elm Road public way section
- One-way flow
- Tiger Permits
- Hull St "live parking" areas
- Will meet in September 2010 to assess postopening traffic & parking situation

## What can neighbors do?

- Spread the word
- Set an example
- Observe and report
- Traffic Council September 2010
- Bottlenecks
- Needs for enforcement
- New student parking patterns

### THE END!



### Oak Hill Middle School

Newton, Massachusetts

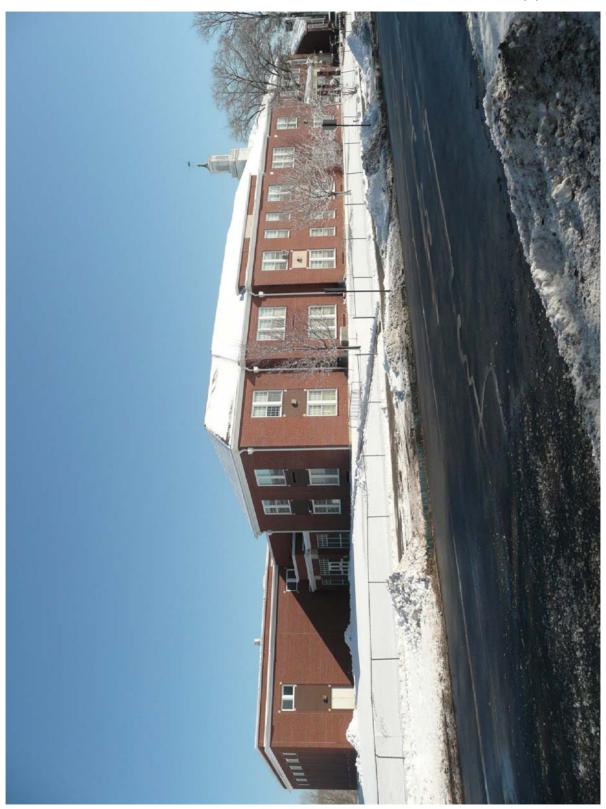
## "Green" Modular Classrooms

Site Plan Review Presentation

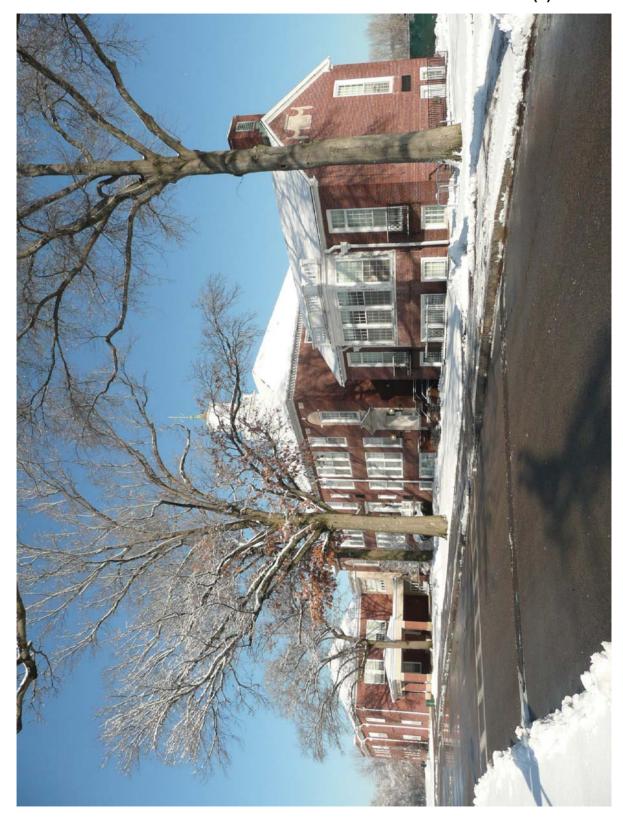
March 17, 2010





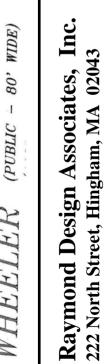


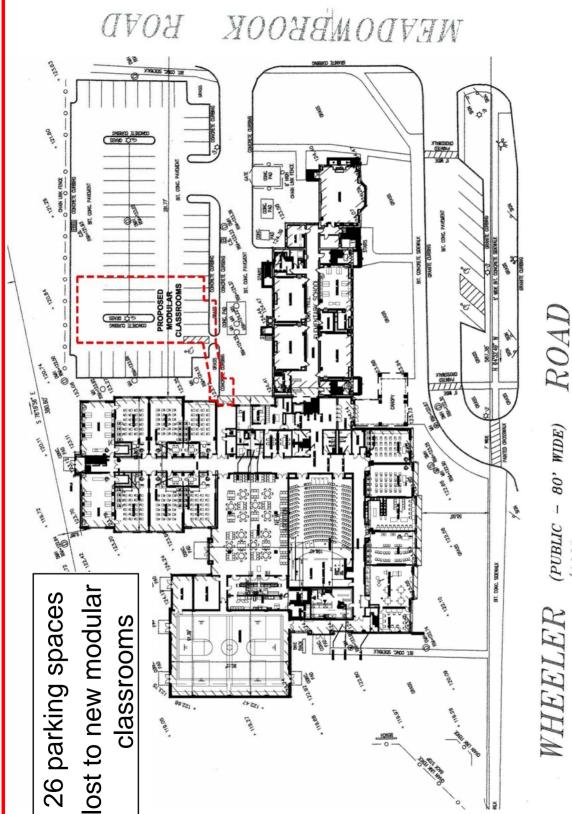
#288-09(2)





Green Modular Classrooms







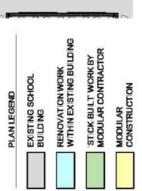






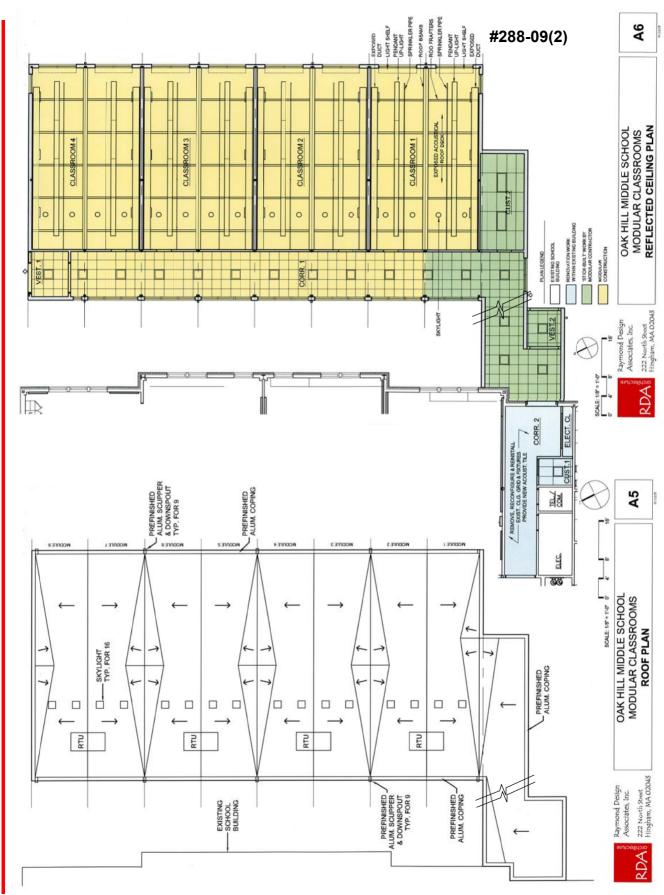
- Eight 12' x 49' modules 4640sf (yellow)
- corridor construction: "Stick-built" LGM 875sf (green)
- existing school building: Renovation work within 370sf (blue)
- Total construction:

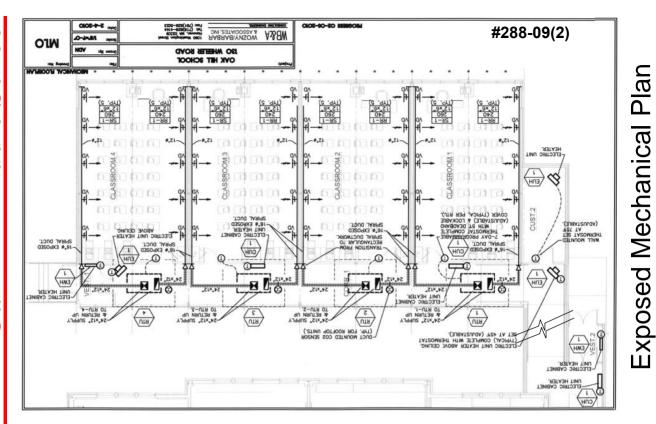
5885sf

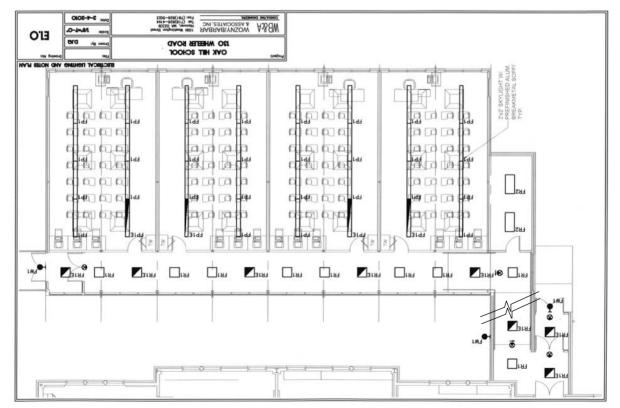


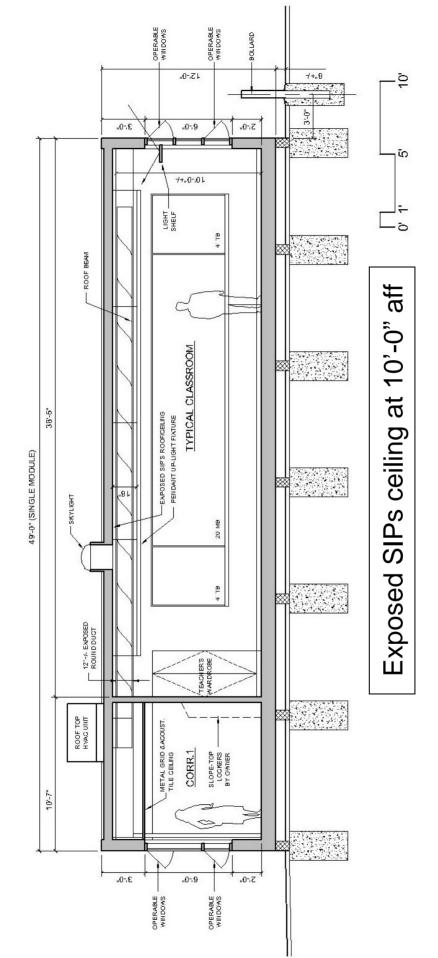








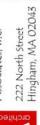




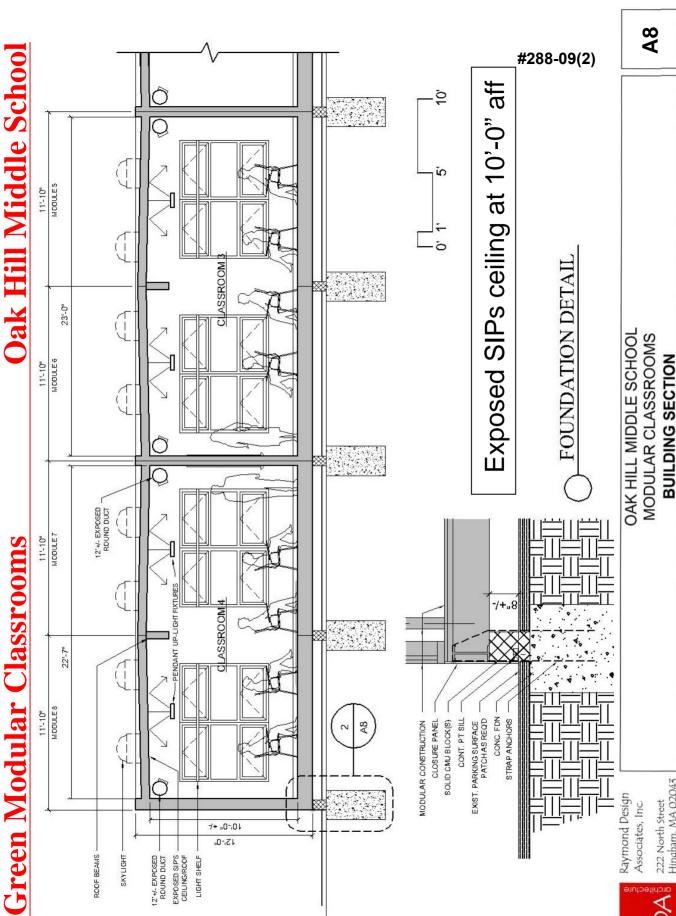
OAK HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS **BUILDING SECTION** 

A7









EXPOSED SIP'S CEILING/ROOF

LIGHT SHELF

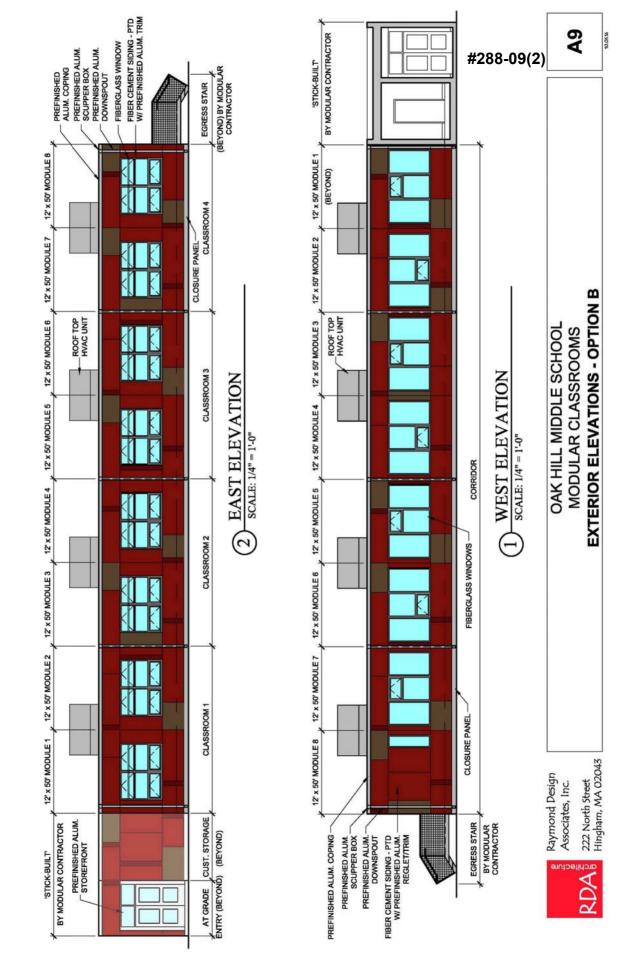
12"#. EXPOSED ROUND DUCT

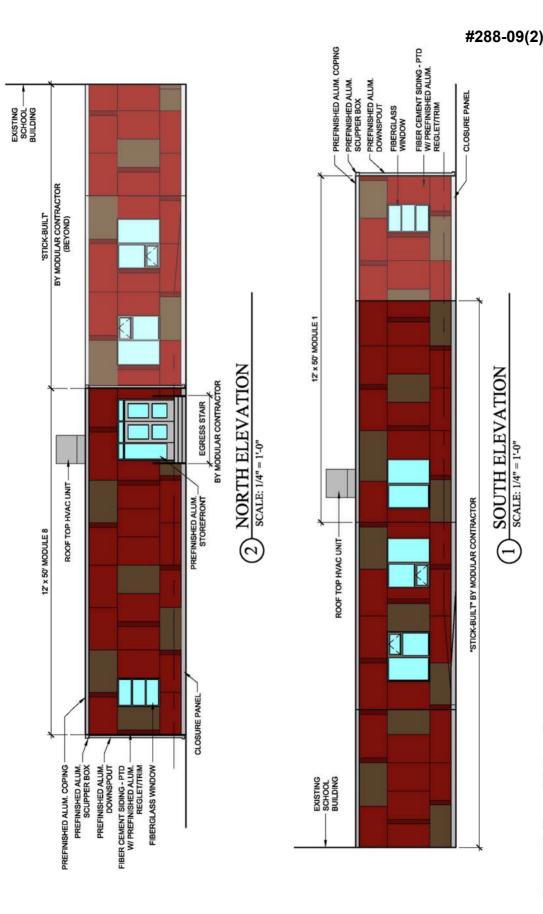
ROOF BEAMS

SKYLIGHT

Raymond Design Associates, Inc.

222 North Street Hingham, MA 02043



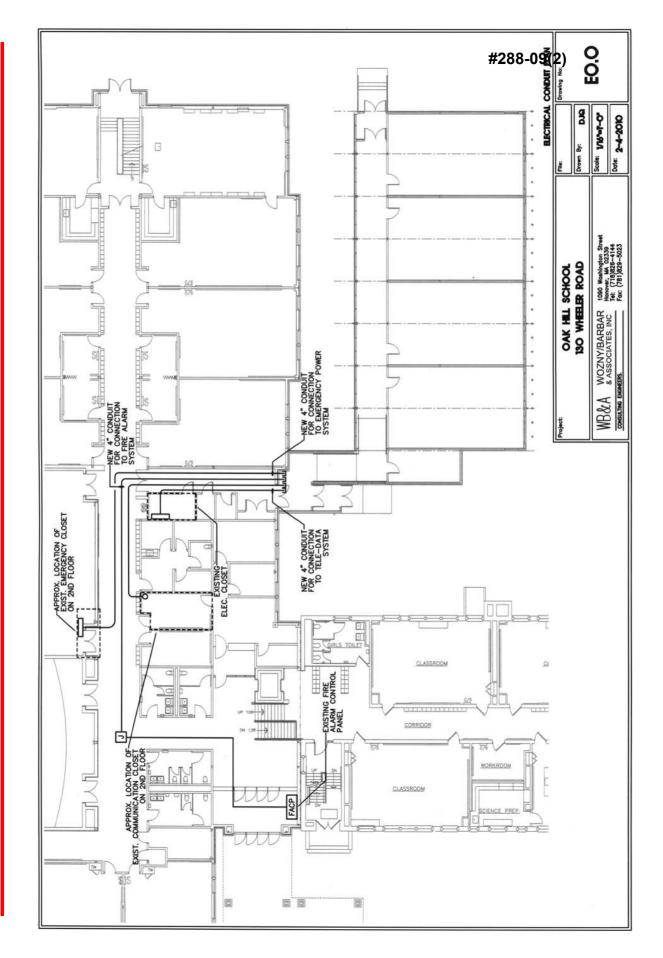


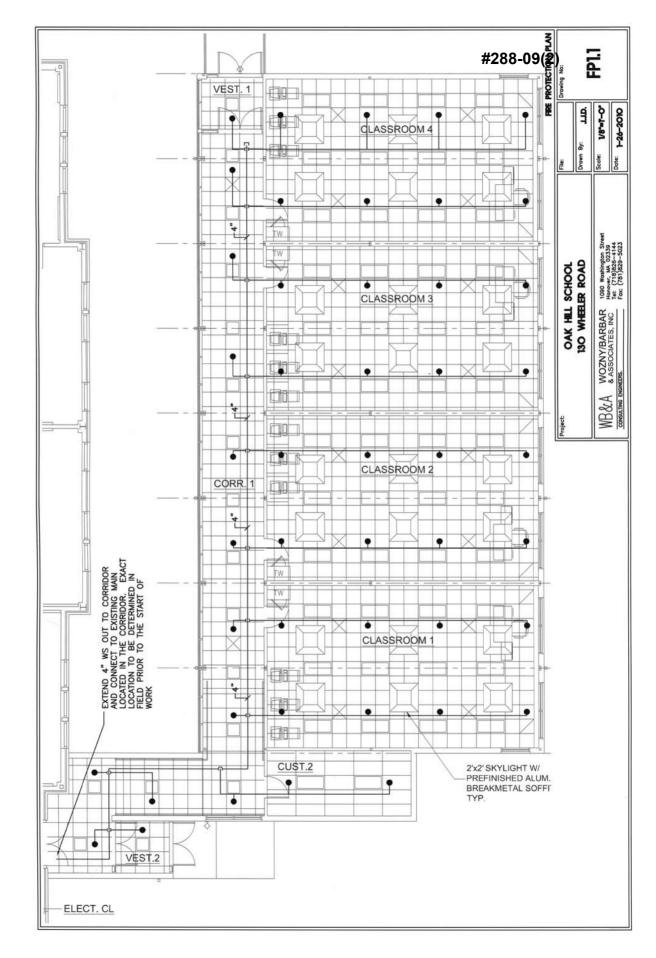
**EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - OPTION B** OAK HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS

A10

222 North Street Hingham, MA 02043

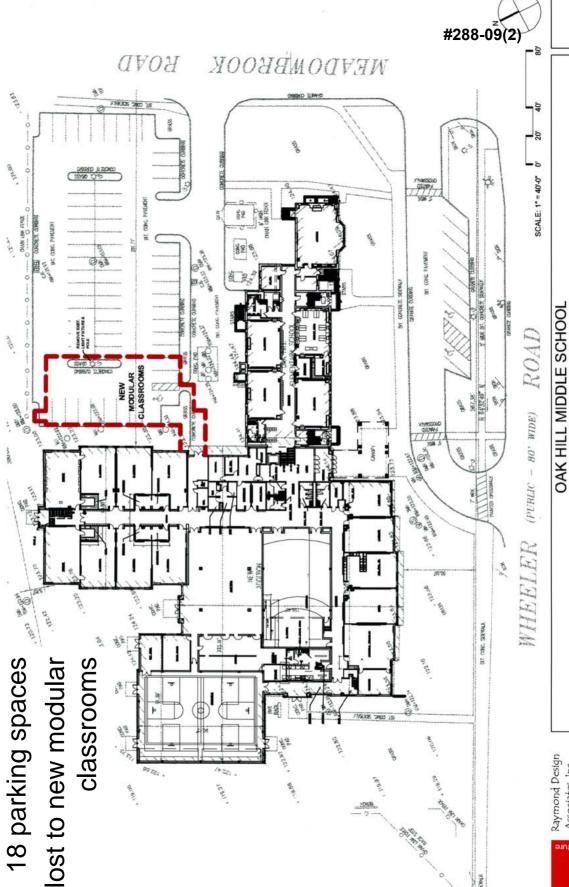
Raymond Design Associates, Inc.







End



Raymond Design Associates, Inc. 222 North Street Hingham, MA 02043



A

MODULAR CLASSROOMS SITE PLAN - EXISTING

Seven 12' x 48' modules and one 12' x 38' module:

4500sf (yellow)

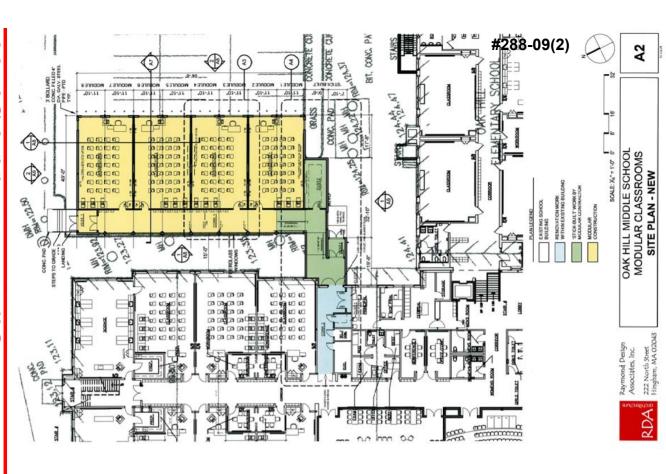
"Stick-built" LGM corridor construction:

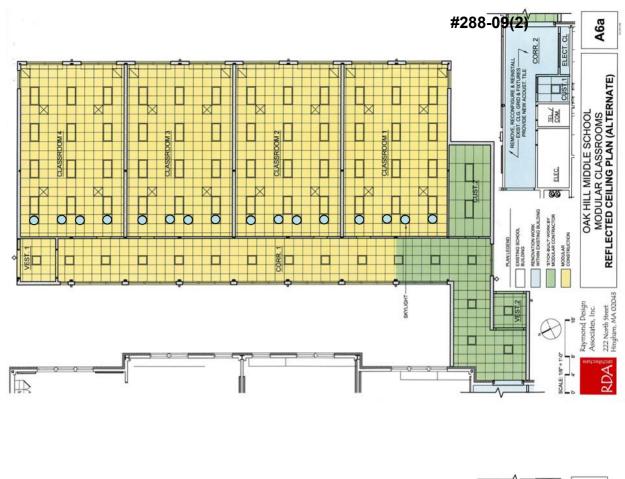
760sf (green)

 Renovation work within existing school building: 370sf (blue)

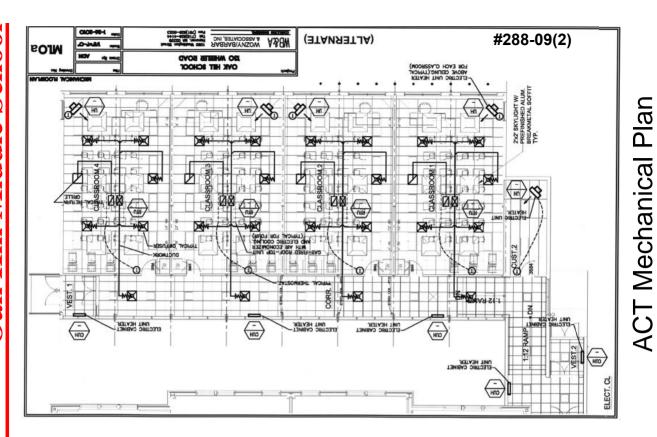
Total construction:

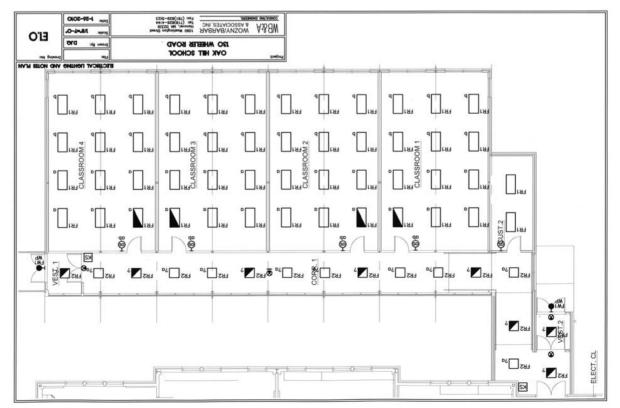
5630sf

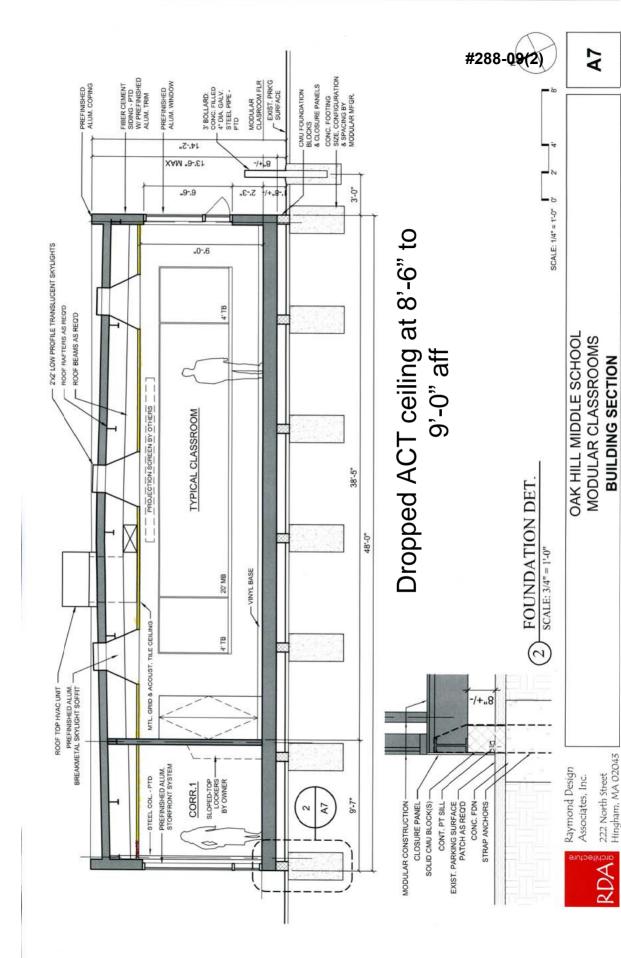


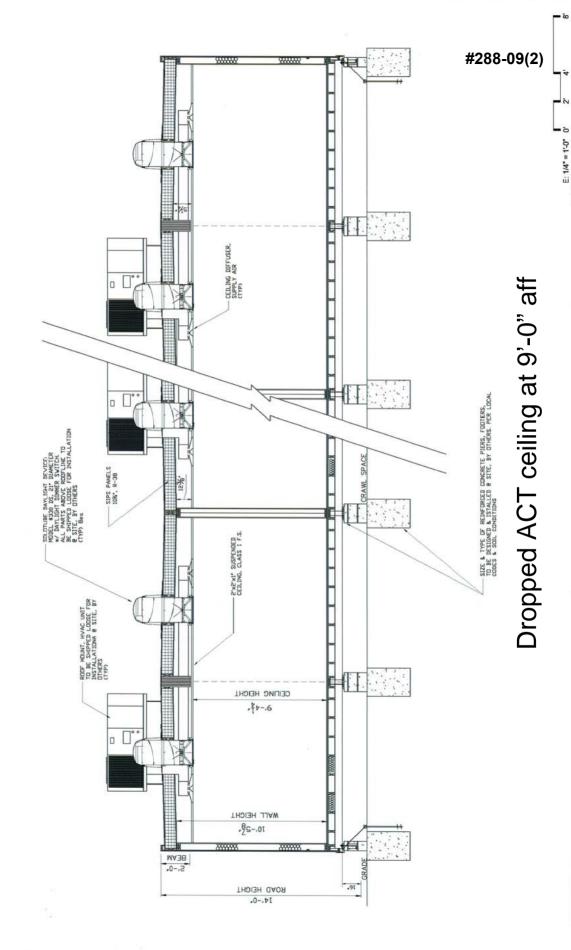












c. c. et

**BUILDING SECTION (ALTERNATE)** 

OAK HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS

A8a

Raymond Design
Associates, Inc.
222 North Street
Hingham, MA 02043

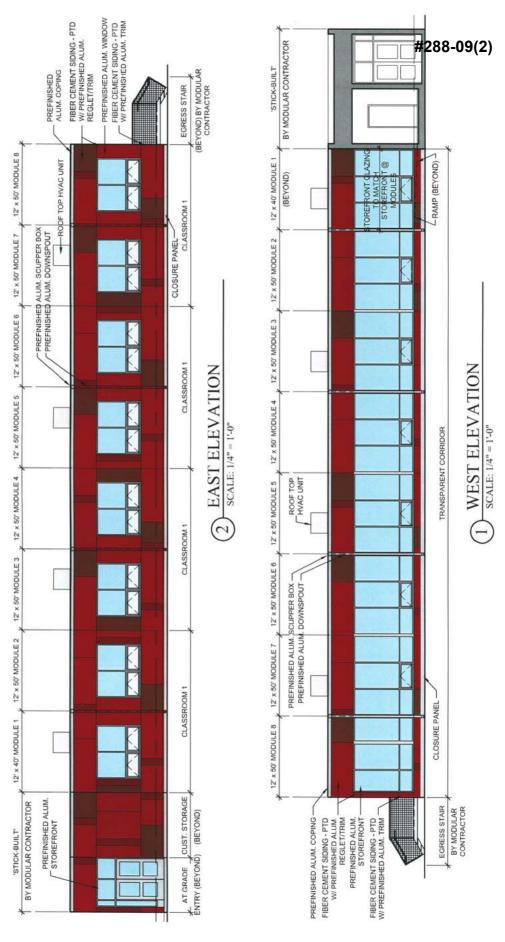












Raymond Design Associates, Inc.

OAK HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS **EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS** 

222 North Street Hingham, MA 02043

A8

BY MODULAR CONTRACTOR (BEYOND)

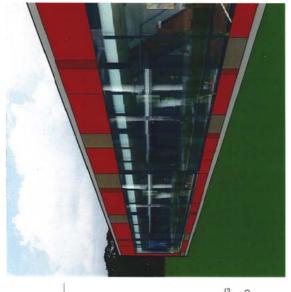
PREFINISHED ALUM. STOREFRONT

ROOF TOP HVAC UNIT -

PREFINISHED ALUM. COPING PREFINISHED ALUM. SCUPPER BOX PREFINISHED ALUM, DOWNSPOUT FIBER CEMENT SIDING - PTD W/ PREFINISHED ALUM.

12' x 50' MODULE 8

STICK-BUILT



BY MODULAR CONTRACTOR EGRESS STAIR

CLOSURE PANEL

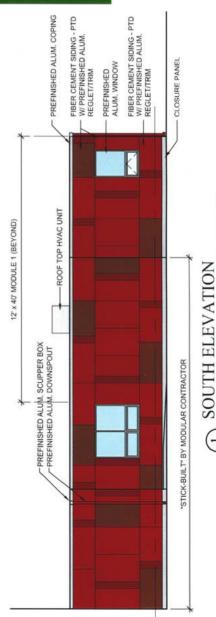
FIBER CEMENT SIDING - PTD W/ PREFINISHED ALUM. REGLET/TRIM

REGLET/TRIM

PREFINISHED ALUM. WINDOW

ONRTH ELEVATION SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

WEST ELEVATION VIEW



Raymond Design Associates, Inc.

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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