

BILLINGS

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September 24, 2012

Montana Environmental Quality Council
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

**RE: Drainage and Traffic Improvements
Roberts School, Roberts, Montana**

Dear Reviewer:

The Roberts Water and Sewer District is in the process of evaluating and installing storm water mitigation and pedestrian/traffic improvements. In order to determine needed improvements, the District completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the both storm water and traffic systems. After evaluating possible alternatives, the PER recommended improvements to install above ground detention basins and catch basins with boulder pits, sidewalk and pedestrian walk improvements, and one-way traffic west on Maples Street. A brief summary of each of the improvements is provided below.

Catch Basins and Detention Ponds

The school currently has no way to mitigate storm flow as it travels across campus. The gymnasium floor elevation is nearly two feet below the edge of Maple Street with no curb or sidewalk to protect the emergency exits from water running off of the street. The school has resorted to hiring a local contractor to dig a trench around the school during large storm events, but this must be filled after each event. Installation of Detention Ponds and Catch Basins with Boulder Pits will mitigate flooding of the gymnasium and protect students and faculty from air quality concerns such as mold.

Maple Street Sidewalk and Move Main Entrance

As children leave the front exit, they are immediately exiting into traffic as there are no existing sidewalks or marked pedestrian crossings. The students then fan out between parked cars to cross Maple looking for their parent's car or to walk home. Installing Sidewalk along Maples Street will raise students up to eye level with vehicular traffic and will separate them from the parked cars.

Highway Pedestrian Traffic

Students cross Highway 212 at the crosswalk to go home or to get lunch from the local convenience store; however, students at the crosswalk are not visible due to the burrow ditch until they are on the narrow 2-foot shoulder of the road. This alternative would involve building a ramp on the school side to allow for better visibility of pedestrians by vehicle traffic.

One-Way Traffic West

Parents currently park on both sides of the street so children are darting out from between parked cars to get to parents parked on the south side. By combining this alternative with

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the Pedestrian Traffic Alternative, this alternative will promote parents to park next to the school or in the west end parking lot to eliminate possible pedestrian-vehicle collisions.

Gravel Parking Lot Improvements

This alternative would involve creating a designated teacher parking lot on the east side and adding parking delineation in the form of pin down curbs to the west parking lot to encourage parents and students to park in the lot instead of the street.

Enclosed please find a map indicating the locations of the proposed site improvements. The improvements are primarily located in Section 32 in Township 5 South, Range 21 East. All improvements are located within areas or immediately adjacent to areas that have been disturbed previously as part of the school's construction.

Please review the proposed improvements and return to us any comments you may have regarding the potential environmental impacts of the project, if any, within 30 days. A written response from your program is required by the funding agencies that will be utilized on this project. If you have no comment on this project, please check the box below and countersign the end of this letter and return to us at the address listed above.

If you need further information or have any questions regarding the project, please feel free to contact me at (406) 652-5000 or jkuhl@greatwesteng.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Great West Engineering, Inc.


Jackie Kuhl, EI
Project Engineer

The Montana Environmental Quality Council has reviewed the enclosed proposed project and has no comments.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

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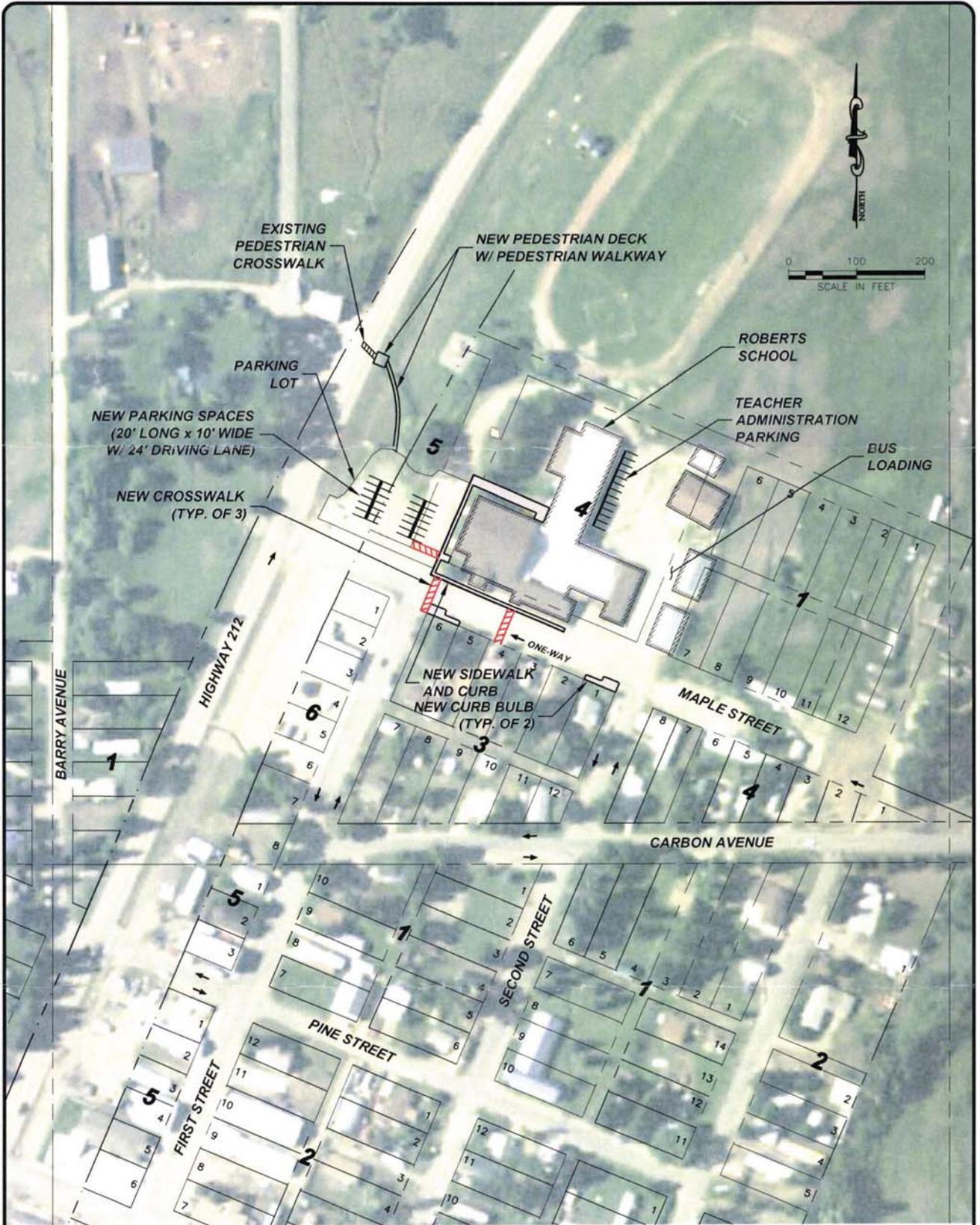


Figure 1
Preferred Alternative

COMMUNITY OF ROBERTS, MONTANA
2012 QUALITY SCHOOLS PER