

Bolton Neighborhood Association
Resolution 02-13-2018
Student Parking Recommendations

In January of 2018, the West Linn Youth Advisory Council (YAC) developed a map requesting the city permit up to 175 student parking spaces along streets within the Bolton parking district. The students argue that parking lot spaces on the WLHS campus are inadequate.

The Bolton Neighborhood Association (BNA) agrees that student parking on the WLHS campus is insufficient for current student needs. In contrast to the YAC, the BNA submits that there are other options to consider for solving the current parking problem. We, the members of the BNA present the following objections and recommendations to the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, West Linn City Council, citizens, and students.

Objections to Additional Street Parking within Bolton Parking District

1. Safety: This is our primary objection.

- a. West A Street frequently sees traffic at speeds over 45mph, despite a posted speed limit of 25 mph.
- b. West A Street serves as a designated first responder route; adding parking would impede responders' efficiency and increase response time.
- c. Lighting throughout the parking zone is sparse and not as bright as parking lots.
- d. The majority of the streets lack sidewalks. Students walking to and from their cars would be difficult to see, especially on dark, rainy mornings and afternoons.
- e. West A and Broadway streets are flat, so they see a greater than usual amount of pedestrian, runner, and bike traffic. WLHS sports teams run West A, Terrace and Webb streets in the afternoons.
- f. Saturated parking will interfere with ingress and egress from driveways and side streets, creating "blind" merging throughout the zone.
- g. Any additional parking along the streets decreases safety.
- h. Students should not be subjected to unwanted interactions and/or solicitation on public streets in order to arrive at and leave school. Parking lots can be patrolled to exclude non-students--streets cannot.
- i. Parking along the street may inconvenience a student for two years while he/she is in high school, but residents are inconvenienced by student street parking every school year.

2. Liability

The WLWV School District accepts liability for student safety when on campus ("in loco parentis").¹ When students park in the street surrounding the school, the responsibility for student safety does not rest with the school until students arrive on campus. When the city permits students to park along streets, it is de facto accepting a higher burden of

¹ See *College and School Law: Analysis, Prevention, and Forms*, By Michael Prairie, Timothy Garfield, p 377.

liability for student safety. A city, and individual residents, should not bear a legal liability which the school district is qualified and designated to bear.

3. West Linn-Wilsonville School District Responsibility

- a. The school district acknowledges that WLHS is overcrowded.² When the high school was rebuilt in 2006, it was not designed to support its current enrollment of 1810 students.
- b. Additional parking was included in the WLHS original building plan; however, not all of it was built. This indicates that the school district and West Linn residents intended for WLHS to have more student parking than currently exists.
- c. The fact that students are currently requesting more than 150 additional spaces above the available 342 indicates that the students (and the parents who allow them to drive) still expect to be able to drive to and from school.
- d. The fact that WLWV School District has provided enough parking at Wilsonville High School for all juniors and seniors who want to drive indicates that the district values parking for students.³
- e. The fact that WLHS offers “early bird” classes without supplying transportation to them, and after school activities and sports without supplying transportation home from them, indicates that the district expects, and by default requires, students to provide their own transportation.

4. Neighborhood Livability

- a. The reasons for creating the parking district in 1996 are still relevant:
 1. Loss of parking space for residents’ friends, family and service providers during school hours.
 2. Parking during school hours also impedes parking after hours, as activities require students to stay past 3:00 pm.⁴
 3. Added safety concerns for walkers, bikers and street vehicle traffic due to more parked vehicles and blind merging from sloped driveways.
 4. Problems with litter, blocking driveway access, and lack of consideration by students for private property.
- b. Street parking for students already exists on McKillican, Holly, and Skyline streets.
- c. On First Court, from McKillican to Easy Street, residents maintain the “side street” area, providing gravel on the side of the road. Excessive student parking has degraded the conditions of these areas.
- d. No other neighborhood in West Linn bears a parking burden as disproportionate to its own residential size and density as what the YAC parking plan proposes for the Bolton

²<http://pamplinmedia.com/wlt/95-news/360362-239413-are-transfers-to-blame-for-overcrowding-in-school-district>

³ Wilsonville High School has a 2017-2018 enrollment of 1200 and 280 student parking spaces, compared to WLHS enrollment of 1810 students and 324 student spaces..

⁴<http://katu.com/news/local/students-say-they-risk-detention-for-trying-to-avoid-parking-tickets-at-south-salem-high>

neighborhood. The burden of creating and maintaining safety for students is meant to be borne by all citizens in a community, through the taxation of property owners.

5. Bolton Neighborhood Plan

- a. Additional street parking runs counter to the goals and intent of the Bolton Neighborhood Plan, which the city has committed to support. Specifically, these goals include increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety.⁵
- b. Lack of sufficient parking spaces in student lots already impacts livability outside the parking district, along Clark and Holly streets.

We, the members of the Bolton Neighborhood Association, submit that the city *cannot* and *should not*, in good faith, assume the role of “in loco parentis” to WLHS students. It exposes the students to knowingly unsafe conditions and exposes the city and residents to lawsuits.

As taxpayers, citizens, neighbors, and parents, we strongly object to the children of West Linn being exposed to unsafe conditions on their way to school. We can, and should, do better. In the spirit of the district’s “Safe Routes to School” initiative, we urge the WLWV School District and City to take action to address the unsafe and inadequate parking situation, to include providing additional, safe parking lot spaces for the students driving to the school on the WLHS campus. To this end, the BNA recommends the following:

Recommendations

WLWV School District:

1. Additional parking lot spaces: Build new parking lots and/or additional level/s on top of the current parking lots.
2. Investigate the possibility of purchasing the lot next to the staff parking lot, which is owned by the LDS church but is no longer used for classes, and converting it into a student parking lot.
3. Meet its original commitment: The WLWV School District committed to build more parking for WLHS. The district should keep this commitment and fulfill its original promise to provide adequate parking for its students.
4. The WLWV School District should not expect or require the city or its residents to serve “in loco parentis” for the students of WLHS. That should remain the exclusive legal responsibility of the school district.
5. Add more bus transportation: The WLWV School District should provide suitable transportation to early bird classes and transportation from school-sanctioned after school activities. We counted 12-15 buses, each with a capacity of 52 students, but only half full each morning. We urge the WLWV School District to give value to taxpayers by increasing ridership.
6. Reduce Overcrowding: Assign all students attending Stafford Primary School to attend Wilsonville High School.

⁵ See Bolton Neighborhood Plan, Ordinance No. 1536, Exhibit “A,” sections 2.6, 2.7, 3.7, 7.3, and 7.4.

7. Reduce senior traffic: Develop a more robust dual credit program with Clackamas Community College, to include the opportunity to earn an Associate's degree in conjunction with a high school diploma.⁶
8. Do not assign students to specific parking spaces. This leads to empty, unused spaces in student lots.

City of West Linn:

1. Conduct regular, consistent City enforcement of the current parking zone as it currently exists. Parking should be enforced daily, and equally throughout the zone, not simply in response to citizen complaint.
2. Illegally parked vehicles in the neighborhood zone should be subject to towing, just as illegally parked vehicles in the school parking lots are currently subject to towing.

Please remember that our concerns for neighborhood livability and safety for all travelers take precedence in our recommendations. We believe these recommendations deserve further development, and look forward to working with the city and school district to help meet the transportation needs of the students. To accomplish these goals, we see a city committed to enforcing the parking permit zone and we see a need for the school district to optimize the use of school buses. The City Council and WLWV School District should commit to work with the BNA, students, and teachers, to discuss and implement solutions.⁷

**Approved unanimously by the neighbors attending the Bolton Neighborhood Association meeting
of February 13, 2018.**

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http://wcmsprod.clackamas.edu/ACC/HighSchools/CourseList.aspx?name=West_Linn_High_School&code=WL&type=s

⁷ This meets the intent of the Bolton Neighborhood Plan, section 9.3.