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Eastern Mennonite School wishes to revise its Master Plan to incorporate grades PK-12 into a unified campus. As part of these Master Plan revisions, the School has completed a traffic and parking study, identifying existing traffic patterns and parking loads and capacities at each separate campus during the course of normal school operations. The study spanned multiple weeks, with samples taken on different days and at different times of day, including during peak traffic times of drop-off and pick-up before and after school. Additionally, aerial photos of parking lots were taken periodically through the duration of the study, parents were interviewed to determine any points of frustration with the current flow, and rental groups were reviewed to determine parking volume during peak events. Data resulting from this study informed the design of the proposed site plan.

Current Parking Needs - Elementary Campus

The current Elementary Campus has a maximum parking capacity of 88 vehicles. Daily parking volume during normal school operations averaged 15 vehicles during the study. There are 10 full-time (10-month) and four part-time employees working in the elementary division. Additionally, it is not unusual to have one or two parent volunteers on campus during the school day, with occasional drop-offs and pick-ups throughout the day.

Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up have had a line of up to 24 vehicles, requiring a queue length of at least 480 feet. During drop-off and pick-up, no passing is allowed, so it is important to have one-way traffic in the area.

Current Parking Needs - Main Campus

The Main Campus has four parking lots, with a total capacity of 368, plus 13 designated handicap spaces. Main Campus includes grades 6-12, with enrollment capacity is 295 students (approximately one-third of which could have driver's licenses). Additionally, Main Campus employs 50 faculty and staff.

The "Front Circle" Lot has 6 designated parallel parking spaces, plus 1 handicap space. Additionally, there is space for another 8 vehicles to park along the sidewalk during non-drop-off and pick-up times, though this space is rarely used during the school day, and is preserved for loading and unloading only. During drop-off and pick-up times (the 20 minutes before and after school), an average of 75 (am) and 42 (pm) vehicles moved through the lot, with a maximum of 9 parked (unattended) vehicles occupying the space at any given time.

The Dining Hall Lot, with a capacity of 66 + 2 handicap, is primarily used for student parking. Daily parking volume during normal school operations averaged 50 vehicles (75% capacity) during the study.

The Auditorium Lot, with a capacity of 218 + 8 handicap, is used by some students and some faculty for parking during school days. Daily parking volume averaged 25 vehicles (11% capacity). This lot is primarily used for special events held in the auditorium.

The Gym Lot, with a capacity of 78 + 2 handicap, is used primarily by faculty & staff, plus a few students for parking during school days. Daily parking volume averaged 35 vehicles (45% capacity) during the study. This lot is adjacent to and used to access our designated fleet parking area and rear maintenance area. This lot sees the highest level of usage during indoor sporting events (held in the late afternoon and evenings), at which point it often reaches capacity.

Conclusion

Eastern Mennonite School, after conducting a traffic and parking study, has determined that 135 parking spaces are sufficient to support its normal operations, including student, staff, and visitor parking. This number of spaces is sufficient to support a unified K-12 campus with present and projected enrollment capacity within the currently proposed facility.

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