


Division of Capital Planning
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

October 13, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Patrick Butler, Planner Coordinator
Montgomery County Planning Department Area 2

From: Joel Gallihue, Senior Planner 

Subject: Viva White Oak 320180040

Staff from the Division of Capital Planning (DCP) reviewed Concept Plan Submission-320180040. The White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan (approved July 2014) specifies a collocated school and local park for the Life Sciences/FDA Village Center. DCP believes the 8 acre collocated school and local park site is undersized for a functional collocated school and park site.

MCPS is now in the tenth year of significant enrollment growth. Initially this trend was felt at the elementary level but larger cohorts have now entered middle and high school and many of these buildings will become overutilized during the next six years. Viva White Oak is located in the Northeast Consortium where projected utilization of school capacities will be near or above 100 percent for all three school levels at the end of the six year capital plan.

The site requirements for secondary schools are larger. For example Montgomery County Public Schools regulation FAA-RA describes a desired middle school site as being a minimum of 15.5 acres in size. For this reason the concept plan for Viva White Oaks should anticipate the instructional program and site requirements of a secondary school in addition to the land needed for park collocation. Perhaps through coordination between departments and the developer it may be possible to plan a larger combined school and local park site for the Viva White Oak Project.

Copy to:
Mrs. Karamihas Mr. Adams