

SCHOOL CONCURRENCY: ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

School siting and land use must be coordinated and integrated more completely than it does at the present. That means a change of **culture** within the School District, County/Cities and Development Industry when participating in making this work. No one entity should bear the cost or responsibility of meeting school concurrency. Public/private partnerships can be worked out not only between the County and Cities and the School District, but also between the Development Industry/School District and Development Industry/County and/or Cities.

The school site planning done by the School District is not working with our middle and high schools. Suggestions to consider:

1. Consider reducing schools from campus size to neighborhood size. High schools, middle schools and elementary schools would have to be analyzed independently; however, co-location of various schools should be considered as well.
 - a. Reduced size to fit into the neighborhoods - more schools, less acreage, more site choices - especially with co-location of other activity uses referenced below. Note: Just recently a site was saved within a subdivision by Bill Bishop. Due to neighborhood resistance and school size issues - that opportunity was missed.
 - b. History shows citizens participate and interact with schools when they feel part of their neighborhood.
 - c. One of the few fundamental tenets of the planning profession is the neighborhood school concept - with the elementary school being the focal point for the neighborhood.
 - d. Classroom size amendment plays a huge part in this issue. Possible legislative relief/re-evaluation?
2. Consider co-locating sections of a school with the Parks Dept. for sports and recreation; co-locate libraries. The facilities can be shared and used more often - several schools would utilize the facilities as could the public when the sports fields and libraries weren't in use. Shared use/shared expenses - all within the neighborhood.
3. Consider better siting of schools in which School District needs to be more actively involved with the County and Cities in land use decisions:
 - a. Instead of just being present at the Planning Commission meetings, how about a voting seat?
 - b. Add Planning Commission representative in some capacity on School District Board for purposes of school siting or other land use issues.
 - c. Having a County Commissioner an ex-officio member of the School Board.
 - d. Require Developer Agreements at the time of Preliminary Plan approval. This will allow time for discussions between the developer and School District for solutions.
4. Reconsider the County's No Impact Fee Zones in south county where they are growing exponentially without proper infrastructure. We need funding for infrastructure right now. This is just a piece of it.
 - a. Consider repeal and/or create a tighter policy guiding these zones.
5. Consider increasing realistic impact fees for schools, but in relationship to the other options the Development Industry may wish to pursue:
 - a. Setting aside a school site within their plan
 - b. Providing for infrastructure for the site
 - c. Paying proportionate fair share of the costs with the County/City and School District
 - d. Agreements, Ordinances or other legal vehicles by which to define impact mitigation possibilities

The key to the success of school concurrency is the School District/Development Industry/County/Cities properly coordinating their efforts. It makes economic sense for all and promotes responsible growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Coalition 4 Responsible Growth, Inc.