



March 9, 2015

Mr. Michael Behrendt
Director of Planning and Community Development
Town of Durham
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Re: UNH West Stadium Project

Dear Michael:

Design for the expansion of the stadium (we refer to this as the West Stadium project because it is adding seats to the western side of the football field) is well along in design with full construction expected to begin in May and continuing through July 2016. I am submitting the attached material in compliance with New Hampshire RSA 674:54 to explain the elements and construction of this project. This project, which has been included in the Campus Master Plan since 2004, is now moving forward with a combination of donations and University funds.

The existing stadium has been the home to the football team since 1937, and today supports intercollegiate athletics, as well as being a venue for other local and state events. However, the existing stadium is grossly deficient in the number and quality of seats, press and coaching box capacity, restrooms, and concessions. The existing stands provide marginal conditions for fans with mobility challenges. UNH football games are televised both regionally and nationally and accommodating the needs of television production is a persistent and difficult challenge. The success of our athletic programs puts us in the national spotlight and offers opportunities to host NCAA post-season games, and we want to provide facilities that accurately and positively portray the overall excellence of UNH and its community.

This project adds 5,200 new seats, which along with the existing east side seating will total just over 10,000 seats. There will be an extensive concessions area, ample restrooms, ADA compliant seating and services, a club level, and a press box level. The main concourse of this facility will be accessed by a pedestrian walkway and bridge that will enclose the north side of the field and be entered through a new gateway for people who park in all of the existing University event parking areas accessed from Main Street.

The project includes the construction of the road bed of a significant portion of the future connection to South Drive. Until that connection is made, this road bed will serve as a service and emergency access way to the West Stadium from the roundabout at Main Street. Parking directly adjacent to the West Stadium will be limited to approximately 20 ADA space, loading/service spaces, and television broadcast trucks. All others attending events at the stadium will park in existing event parking areas, as they do today. Recent Homecoming weekends have seen as many as 16,000 people participate in football game day festivities, and while we will have more stadium seats,

we do not anticipate these peak event attendances, and the resulting parking needs, to increase.

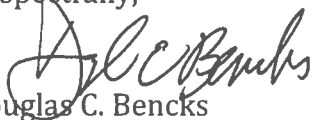
The facility will tie into the existing water and sewer distribution system. We are completing our analysis of the anticipated water and sewer load, and to ensure that this does not create any additional load on the existing systems, we are including the replacement of the majority of toilet and shower fixtures in the Field House with low flow fixtures to offset the additional low flow fixtures in the new West Stadium. The engineering calculations and analysis for these changes will be submitted to the Town DPW as part of the standard water and sewer connection permit process that we undertake on all University projects.

An important component of the stadium is the sound system that not only provides standard game announcements but provides music before games and during certain intervals. With the noise concerns expressed by some in the community during a night playoff game this past season, we have hired a nationally recognized sound system consultant, <http://www.wjhw.com/services.htm>, to analyze the existing system and determine how we can better control the stadium sound system and the noise that travels off campus into the neighborhoods. This analysis has resulted in three options that illustrate the ways that we can configure the speakers to influence how sound travels beyond the stadium. It is important to note that there are also natural factors that strongly effect the way that sound travels on a given day or time of day. Attached is the report and options provided by that consultant.

The building materials are a combination of brick and a aluminum panel system. The four story gabled roof form and the composition and massing of the building are intended to fit within the campus architectural context, while acknowledging that this is a large scale building in an open landscape. We completed the necessary wetlands permit for this project as part of the design for the South Drive road connection a year ago.

Attached are the most current drawings available at this time for review. I am prepared to meet with the Planning Board at their convenience, to hear comments and answer any questions they may have about this project.

Respectfully,



Douglas C. Bencks

University Architect and Director of Campus Planning

Copy: Paul Chamberlin, Chris Clement, Mica Stark

Attachments:

Location map

80% design development documents

January 2015 3D images

Sound system options and summary email from WHJW Inc.