

Founders City Council Presentation

(April 19, 2023 Agenda # 22-001 Item # 48)

Thank you Madam Mayor,

I am Lex Anderson, NARA's Historian. A lot of work has gone into this, beginning back in September, 2021. This agenda is really "Plan B". The original plan was to build the high school annex on a 5 acre parcel about 6 blocks away. We were very involved with supporting it for all the right reasons. But that fell through with the interest rate hike.

I think it's fair to say than NARA has made some significant concessions in support of this on site project from the school's original 2016 agenda conditions.

Between April 27 - 30 we did a 4 day traffic study that basically confirmed what both Principal Fick and we already knew. We are looking forward to the two bell queue system this Fall to see how it will mitigate present traffic & parking issues. and facilitate the additional 400 students.

Alexander is inherently problematic. It does not conform to an MUTCD urban profile for traditional traffic interventions. The dangerous Alexander & Bradley intersection two blocks to the east and half way to Parson Elementary school and Patriot Park has had one motor vehicle death, a 3 car crash, and multiple reported and unreported fender benders.

Submitted at City Council

Date ~~4/19/23~~ 4/19/23 Item 48 a - 48 d

By: Lex Anderson

Principal Fick is aware of the pending two major Alexander road projects, and the Rancho Drive Corridor project that will directly impact school access and there will be some creative interventions when the time comes.

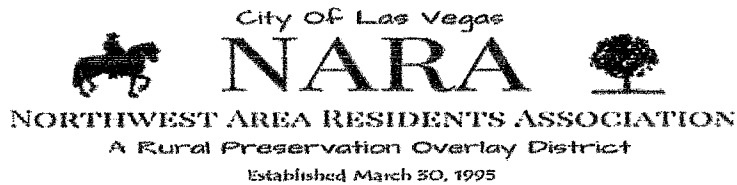
We support the 2 bell queue system, and the condition of a school census maximum of 1,313 students.

Also we have asked Planning to include three conditions, (1) for the Founders crash gate to remain a crash gate only, (2) for Rural Preservation to be included in the "Special Areas And Overlay Districts" section of the Staff Report as justified by history, and (3) for NARA to be involved with future Founders Traffic Studies.

We are a big fan of Hillsdale College, and the Barney Charter School Initiative. Some of us watch Hillsdale You Tube presentations and get their IMPRIMIS publication. Founders has some 1,200 kids on their waiting list, so they must be doing something right.

With that, I have some content with specifics that I would like to submit FOR THE RECORD please.


Thank you Madam Mayor



April 10, 2023

To: Steve Swanton, AICP/Senior Planner
City of Las Vegas Planning Department
From: Lex Anderson/NARA Historian
Ref: Founders Classical Academy Agenda #22-0701

Mr. Swanton,

Please pass this on to the appropriate case worker who is involved with the Founders Classical Academy 27,200 sq. ft. high school annex proposal to be built on the school existing athletic field.

In regards to the pending April 19th City Council meeting for the Founders Academy agenda, NARA and Founders Academy have reached an accord with their pending high school addition proposal:

- The school census will be limited to 1313 students.
- A two bell commuter student drop off/pick up queue system will begin in with the Fall 2023 school year to address ongoing residential traffic, and offsite parking and student pick up issues/concerns, and in preparation for the completion of the new addition and additional students.

Additionally, there are three items NARA is requesting to include as conditions from Planning and Traffic Engineering for consideration:

- Request that "Rural Preservation Overlay District" be included within the "Conditions and Staff Report" section of "Special Areas And Overlay Districts", as justified by history.

At the October 5, 2016 City Council meeting, Founders Academy had added an additional 10' to their required 20' Leon Avenue amenity area using the NARA Rancho/Gowan Business Park example on Bradley for an

enhanced 30' buffer area and a more compatible RNP profile. Also the physical school building was moved from its proposed original location on the east part of the property to the west side, with the athletic field on the east side now providing an additional residential impact buffer to the Leon Avenue RNP neighborhood.

The original NARA Founders Classical Academy agenda issue was all about complimenting and accommodating RNP community compatibility.

- Request that Traffic Engineering include NARA in the physical process of all future Founders Academy related traffic studies as a partner for a constructive evaluation on Founders commuter traffic and impact on the immediate Rural Preservation community.

Please review the NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY done March 27-30 as a baseline and reference for future Founders commuter traffic residential impact. With this, there are three major street projects that will directly impact Founders access, beginning about the time the new addition is completed. (1) North Las Vegas has a pending major project with a large drainage pipeline to be installed on Alexander Road from Rancho to Decatur. This will have a "considerable impact" for Founders commuter access during the length of construction. (2) The City of Las Vegas has made a commitment for a total RNP complete streets compatible revision of Alexander from Rancho to Decatur after the North Las Vegas major drain pipeline construction is finished. (ref: 1/25/2019) This will also have a "considerable impact" for Founders commuter access during the length of construction. (3) About this time, the very extensive and lengthy Rancho Drive Corridor Expansion complete streets revision from Alta to Ann Road will be in progress. This will have an impact on Rancho travel to Alexander Road, and with access off Rancho to Alexander during the construction.

Alexander is inherently problematic including the dangerous intersection at Bradley with the history of one motor vehicle death, a three car crash,

and reported and unreported fender benders. Almost all of Founders Academy pending 1313 students will be driven to school. All three of these large projects will impact routine Founders Academy commuter Alexander Road access to the school for routine student drop off and pick up. And with this, Founders commuters will be considering alternative routes to the Alexander access school two bell queue line, via Hickam Avenue, Leon Avenue and other RNP residential streets. Founders is aware of this and will be considering contingency options as necessary. And future traffic studies with intervention may be required to accommodate both NARA and Founders integrity.

- The crash gate on Leon will remain a crash gate only. It will not be used for commuter drop off and pick up queue access.

Recall, this agenda is a "Plan B" from the original "Plan A" to have a high school addition and 350-400 students at the Gowan/Jay 5 acres. This would have had no impact on Alexander. And with a two bell system applied to the existing school census there could be some resolution to ongoing Founders commuter residential traffic, and offsite parking and pick up issues. This could allow the school interior queue system to meet the criteria and standard it was originally intended to do. It also needs to be said that having the high school addition on the existing site is a huge cost savings to the project.

NARA is a big supporter of the Hillsdale College/Barney Charter School Initiative "knowledge based education" education system. And with that a community supporter of Founder Classical Academy. With some 1,200 kids on the school waiting list, it should be clear that a second Founders school in the valley would be well received. The success of Founders Academy in the NARA community could help with this direction.



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Atch: NARA/Founders Traffic Study, March 27, 28, 29, 30, 2023

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 27, 2023 - Monday Afternoon

Observations from the SE corner of Alexander & Leon.

1:45 - 2:00: (Some cars already in the queue.)

Leon traffic from Jones	5
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	5

2:00 - 2:15:

Leon traffic from Jones	5
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	6

2:15 - 2:30: (Queue is full by 2:25, starting to spill out to Alexander. Two cars did the creative "J turn" - east on Alexander, left on Leon, quick U turn on Leon and back on Alexander for the Leon queue access...nice!)

Leon traffic from Jones	5
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	6

2:30 - 2:45: (Busy queue from 2:15-2:45)

Leon traffic from Jones	9
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	14

2:45 - 3:00:

Leon traffic from Jones	17
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	14

3:00 - 3:15

Leon traffic from Jones	1
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1

18 walkers/bikers

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 28, 2023 - Tuesday Morning

Observations from the southeast corner of Alexander & Leon.

0630-0645: (Some cars already in the queue)

Leon traffic from Jones	3
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	3

0645-0700: (Starting to get busy around 6:50)

Leon traffic from Jones	11
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	14

0700-0715: (Cars tended to come in groups, with gaps between them. Probably coming from groups held up at a stop light.)

Leon traffic from Jones	46
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	50

0715-0730:

Leon traffic from Jones	3
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	4

Notes:

Two cars dropped off 2 kids each on Leon, avoiding the queue.

6 walkers/bikers going to school.

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 28, 2023 - Tuesday Afternoon

Observations from the SE corner of Alexander & Leon.

1:45 - 2:00: (Again, some cars already in the queue...more than in the morning)

Leon traffic from Jones	1
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1

2:00 - 2:15:

Leon traffic from Jones	3
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	5

2:15 - 2:30: (By 220 the queue is full. Starting to back out into Alexander)

Leon traffic from Jones	9
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	10

2:30 - 2:45: (Busy queue from 2:15-2:45. Starting to move at 2:30ish with the cars on Alexander backed up to Leon.)

Leon traffic from Jones	7
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	9

2:45 - 3:00:

Leon traffic from Jones	4
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	4

29 student walkers/bikers. - Made a best guess which were parents and which were older students. This number could be off a little.

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 29, 2023 - Wednesday Morning

Observations from the southeast corner of Alexander & Leon.

0630-0645: (A few cars already in the queue)

Leon traffic from Jones	5
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	9

0645-0700: (Again, starting to get busy around 6:50. Backing up into Alexander towards Leon)

Leon traffic from Jones	13
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	15

0700-0715: (Again, cars tended to come in groups, with gaps between them. Backing up on Alexander towards Leon for about 10 minutes.)

Leon traffic from Jones	46
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	40

0715-0730:

Leon traffic from Jones	3
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	3

Notes:

Only 7 walkers/bikers going to school.

Assistant Principal Gil Donatelli was out at Alexander & Leon handing out a flier to Founders commuters making a right turn from Leon on to Alexander for the Founders access turn from 7:00 - 7:30, asking them to "**Help us get approval for our new school and be a good neighbor to NARA, our local H.O.A.! Slow down on Leon! Go 15 mph in school zone. Don't drop-off in the streets.**" Error - NARA is an RNP (Rural Neighborhood Preservation) community ...not an HOA (Home Owners Association). Big difference.

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 29, 2023 - Wednesday Afternoon

Observations from the SE corner of Alexander & Leon.

1:45 - 2:00: (Some cars already in the queue...about the same as in the morning)

Leon traffic from Jones	6
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	8

2:00 - 2:15:

Leon traffic from Jones	7
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	9

2:15 - 2:30: (Again, by 2:20 the queue is full. Starting to back out into Alexander.)

Leon traffic from Jones	10
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	10

2:30 - 2:45: (Busy queue from 2:15-2:45. Starting to move at 2:30ish with the cars on Alexander backed up to the Leon intersection for about 10 minutes.)

Leon traffic from Jones	7
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	9

2:45 - 3:00:

Leon traffic from Jones	13
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	15

Notes: Stiff wind, Founders flag at half mast flying straight out. Overcast. Occasional very light sprinkles.

Walkers/bikers = 27. Saw one "**J turn**" off Alexander on to Leon like one noted Monday morning the 27th. Saw one vehicle approach the end of the queue line on Alexander, and then make a left turn into the Business parking lot. Can not verify if it was in fact a Founders pick up. It parked backed in, with its headlights on. Suspect!

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 30, 2023 - Thursday Morning

Observations from the southeast corner of Alexander & Leon.

0630-0645: (Maybe a dozen cars in the queue)

Leon traffic from Jones	3
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	4

0645-0700: (Again, starting to get busy around 6:50. Backing up into Alexander towards Leon, but, it's moving)

Leon traffic from Jones	15
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	17

0700-0715: (Again, cars tended to come in groups, with gaps between them. The Alexander street back up is slowly moving, and not standing still.)

Leon traffic from Jones	49
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	51

0715-0730:

Leon traffic from Jones	7
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	7

Notes:

Only 7 walkers/bikers going to school.

About 7:17 a big F-250 stopped at the Leon stop sign, the driver got out, walked up to the Founders fence and made a queue assessment, got back in his vehicle and joined the queue. Funny.

At 7:21 a vehicle stopped just before the Leon stop sign and dropped off 2.

NARA/FOUNDERS LEON TRAFFIC STUDY

March 30, 2023 - Thursday Afternoon

Observations from the SE corner of Alexander & Leon.

2:00 - 2:15: (Cars in the queue backed up to the turn at Leon)

Leon traffic from Jones	5
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	7

2:15 - 2:30: (Again, by 2:20 the queue is full. Backed out on Alexander, into the west Leon lane, and extending east half way to Helen by 2:30. Cars using Leon for the school access had to turn left and get in the queue lane down by Helen. (photo)

Leon traffic from Jones	15
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	17

2:30 - 2:45: The internal queue begins to move at 2:30ish. The Founders traffic director is trying to accommodate both the cars backed up to Rancho, and the cars backed up half way to Helen. By 2:45 all the cars are off Alexander and into the queue.

Leon traffic from Jones	5
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	6

2:45 - 3:00:

Leon traffic from Jones	6
Leon traffic from Bradley	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	6

Notes: Cold(ish). Stiff wind again with the Founders flag at half mast flying straight out. Heavy overcast. Dark clouds on the low mountains. Walkers/bikers = 31. Saw two student walker/pickups in my rear view mirror south on Leon. Metro motorcycle officer Leyne parked in the commercial drive way and picked off one speeder. We talked for a while. He lives in the area. Without a visual verification, when you count the number of walkers in the morning, and the number in the afternoon, it "suggests" a notable number are being picked up off site.