

Project, Facilities and Transportation

Question 1: What sites are being considered for the proposed STEM High School on the UC Riverside campus?

Answer 1: Four sites have been presented by UCR for consideration by RUSD; these are the sites at Blaine, Iowa, Big Springs, and Watkins. The Iowa and Big Springs sites were determined not to be viable. Preliminary due diligence is currently in progress of the Blaine Site.

Question 2: Who will own the new high school building?

Answer 2: RUSD is the project developer and will own the building. UCR will own the land, leasing it to RUSD under a long-term, no cost lease.

Question 3: Who has approval over the project, and what are the steps after the due diligence is performed leading up to the school opening?

Answer 3:

There are several entities involved in the approvals necessary for this project to be built. After the due diligence phase now underway and the environmental review that would follow, these are approvals for the proposed project that must be gained from several organizations, including state and local agencies.

- Once the environmental review is complete, RUSD Board of Education and UC Board of Regents will consider significant impacts and mitigation measures identified in the environmental review to determine if the selected project location is feasible; both entities provide final approvals. UCR, as the property owner, approves the use of the land and the long-term ground lease. RUSD, as the project developer, approves funding and facility operations.
- After the proposed building location is approved, approvals are needed by:
 - California Department of Education (CDE)
 - Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
 - Division of the State Architect (DSA), which approves the plans and specifications, and conducts construction inspections
- After state and local agency approval, and securing State funding, the District would begin their competitive public bidding process to select qualified contractors for the construction phase to begin.
- The City of Riverside has oversight for offsite improvements, such as street/curb cuts and landscaping outside the property line.

Question 4: Has the project's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process begun?

Answer 4: As of August 2019, the environmental review required and governed by CEQA has not begun for the proposed school. The project is currently in the planning phase of initial due diligence. When the environmental review begins in compliance with CEQA, UCR will be the Lead Agency. It anticipates the environmental review process to begin soon after the due diligence phase is completed, likely early 2020.

Question 5: How will the new STEM High School affect student enrollment at Riverside STEM Academy (RSA) and what will be the traffic impacts at RSA?

Answer 5: This topic is under evaluation by RUSD to determine the best path forward to create equitable access for District students to the RSA and to meet the needs of the neighborhood regarding traffic.

Question 6: How does RUSD intend to deal with traffic impacts created by this project?

Answer 6: The environmental impact analysis of the proposed STEM High School will include a traffic impact study that will identify potential impacts and mitigation measures. As part of that process, RUSD anticipates developing a Transportation Management Plan, including parking policies and busing options.

Question 7: What is the plan for transportation and busing for the proposed STEM High School?

Answer 7: The current plan is for busses to pick up students from their home high schools to bring them to the proposed STEM High School. This will both lessen traffic impacts and make the school accessible to more students throughout the District. RUSD anticipates that a Transportation Management Plan will be developed during environmental impact analysis, detailing the specifics of parking, busing, and alternative transportation options.

Question 8: Where will proposed STEM High School students and staff park?

Answer 8: RUSD will provide the parking it needs on the STEM High School site provided by UCR; site plans will include parking for staff, teachers and a limited amount for students.

Question 9: How will traffic issues surrounding the campus be dealt with?

Answer 9: A traffic study, which is part of the mitigation requirements for CEQA, will be conducted as RUSD moves forward with the exploration of the Blaine Site, which began in August 2019. Part of RUSD efforts to minimize traffic at the STEM High School will be utilizing busses for students to and from their home schools to the school. Access to the highway, reasonable opportunities to park that do not interfere with UCR's student overflow parking, and the affect of current traffic patterns will all continue to be taken into account throughout the environmental review leading up to the final site selection. UCR continues to work to ensure safe and efficient access to the campus for all community members. These efforts will be enhanced in the near future by the construction of the Mobility Hub located on the campus at the terminus of University Avenue, which will ease traffic at crucial pinch points and encourage alternative modes of transportation.