

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Replacement

Tacoma Public Schools

City of Fircrest Presentation

February 17, 2026



Project Team

Progressive Design-Build delivery

- Tacoma Public Schools:
 - [Morris Aldridge](#), Executive Director, Planning & Construction
 - [Josh Jorgensen](#), Strategic Operations
 - [Paul Popovich](#), Project Manager
- Design-Builder:
 - [Bryan Gormley](#), Construction Director of Operations
 - [Kris Stamon](#), Architectural Principal
 - [Kellie Bower](#), Permit Coordinator & Community Liaison



Agenda

- Project Overview & Update
- Collaborating on Issues
 - Comments from Feb 3 City Council / Planning Commission Meeting
 - Preparing for Construction Start June 2026

Looking Back

- April 1, 2025: Presentation to City Council. Exploring Feasibility of Occupied Campus Approach in Response to Community. Highlighting These Challenges:

Design Considerations

- Development Standards: Exceeding 30 ft Building Height Limit.
- Design Guidelines: Site Layout with Parking in the Front.
- Potential Impact to Mature Evergreen Trees.

Construction Considerations

- Increased Activity On-Site + Potential of Traffic Congestion.
- Construction Staging Needs Occupy Portion of Whittier Park.



SITE IMPROVEMENTS:
PARKING, ENTRY PLAZA, PLAY AREA, FIELD

NEW SCHOOL
2-STORIES

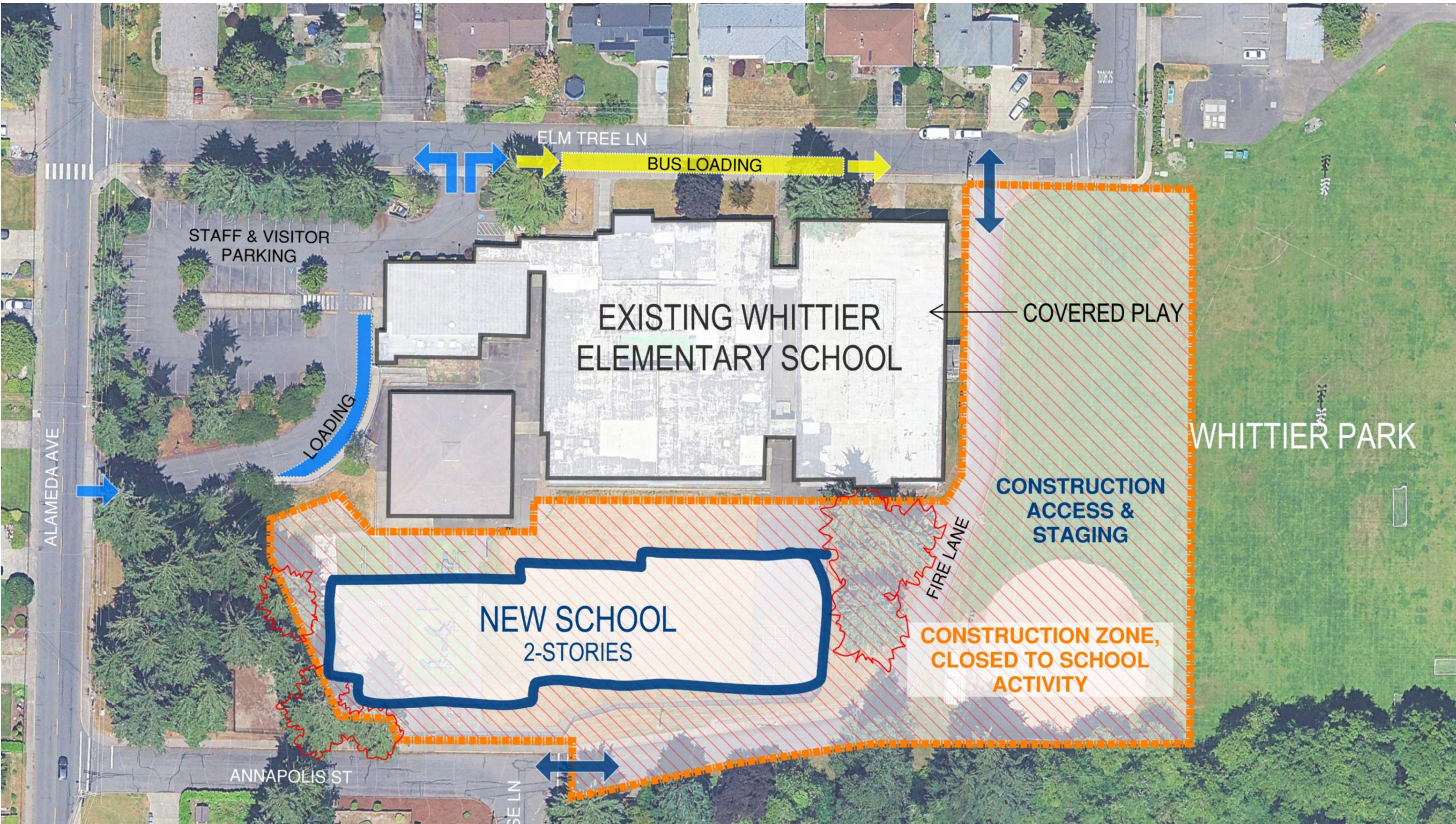
WHITTIER PARK

ALAMEDA AVE

ELM TREE LN

ANNAPOLIS ST

SE LN



ELM TREE LN

BUS LOADING

STAFF & VISITOR
PARKING

LOADING

EXISTING WHITTIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COVERED PLAY

WHITTIER PARK

ALAMEDA AVE

CONSTRUCTION
ACCESS &
STAGING

NEW SCHOOL
2-STORIES

FIRE LANE

CONSTRUCTION ZONE,
CLOSED TO SCHOOL
ACTIVITY

ANNAPOLIS ST

SE LN

Project Overview

- Construction on Occupied Site.
- New PreK-3 elementary school to replace existing school.
- Design capacity of approx. 375 students, approx. 45,000 sq.ft.
- Two-stories.
- Site improvements.
- Anticipated opening Fall 2027.

Engaging Process

- Architect Day in School
- Feedback Surveys
- Design Advisory Committee
- Community Open House
- Online Project Updates



Project GOALS

CONSTRUCTION

- Safety of Students & Families
- Minimize Impacts to Community
- Engage Students with Construction
- Anticipated opening Fall 2027

NEW SCHOOL

- Safety of Students & Families
- Enhance Site Accessibility
- Timeless Design to Reflect the Fircrest Community
- Larger Gym as Community Asset
- Play Area with Covered Play Structure and Turf Field.



Whittier
Park

Aerial View

Elm Tree Lane

Collaborating on Issues

JOINT CITY COUNCIL / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

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UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION START: JUNE 2026

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Collaborating on Issues

JOINT CITY COUNCIL / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- Traffic Queuing

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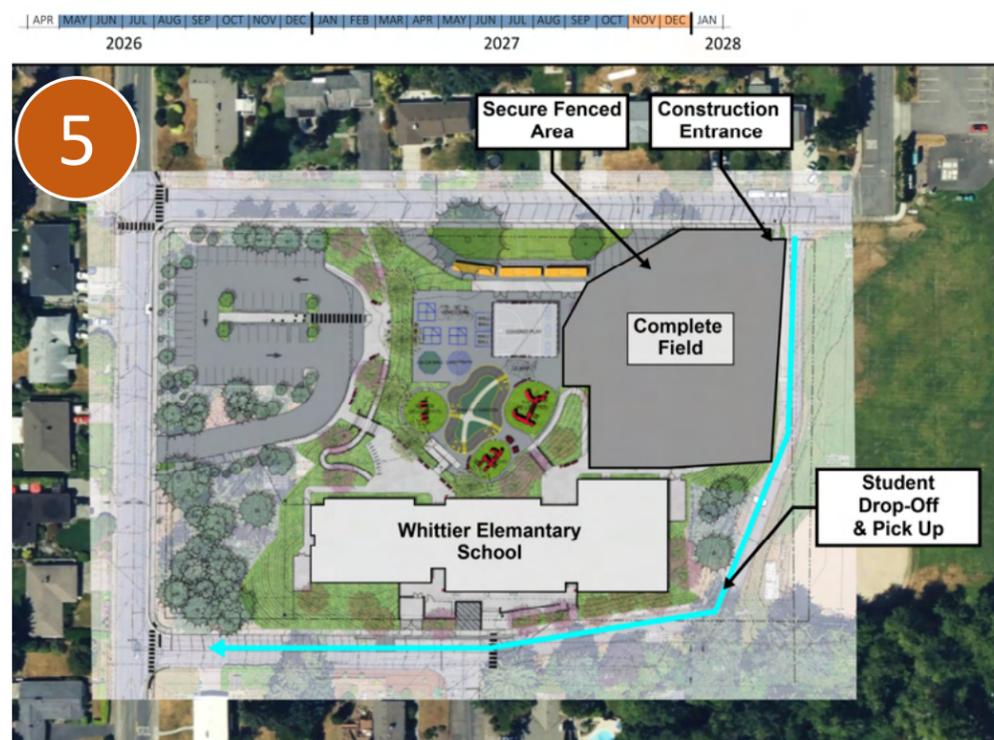
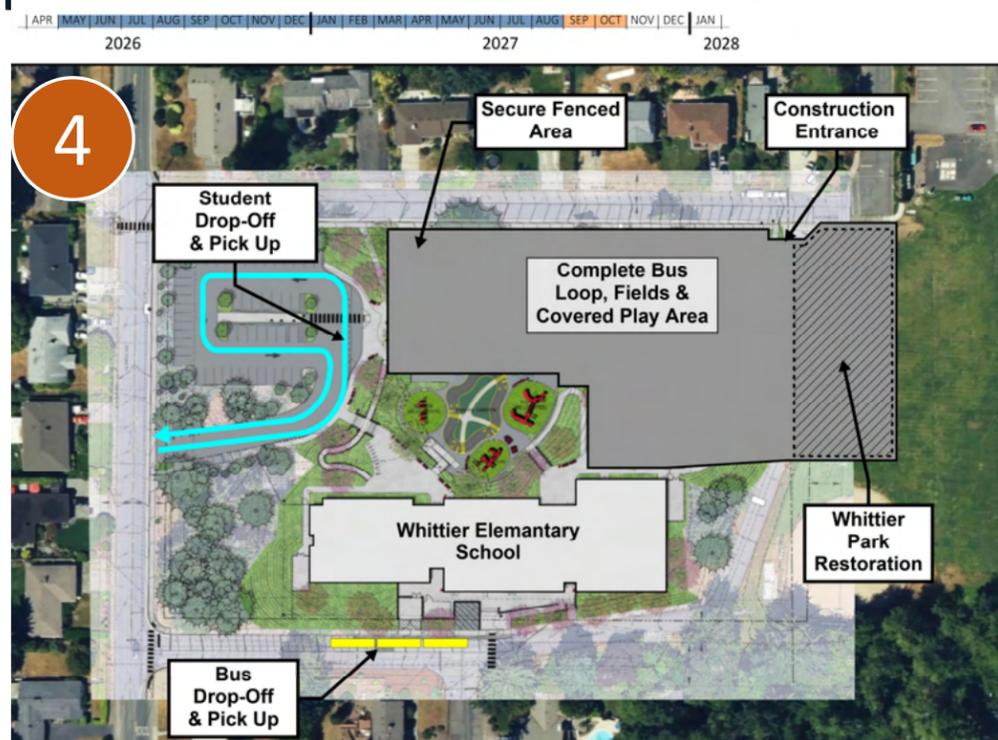
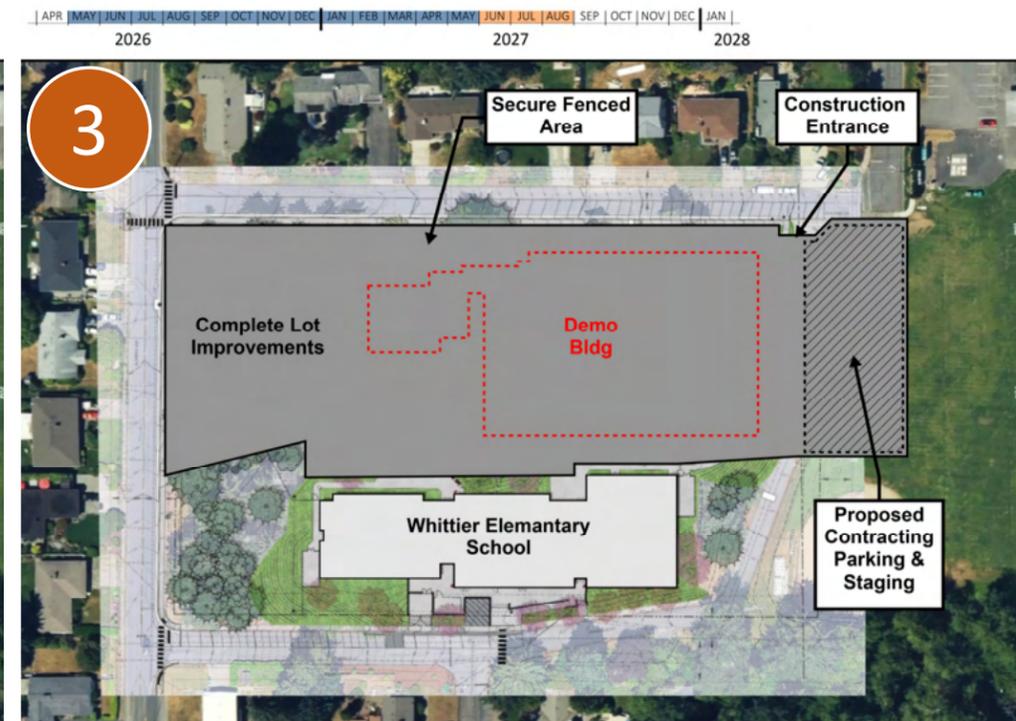
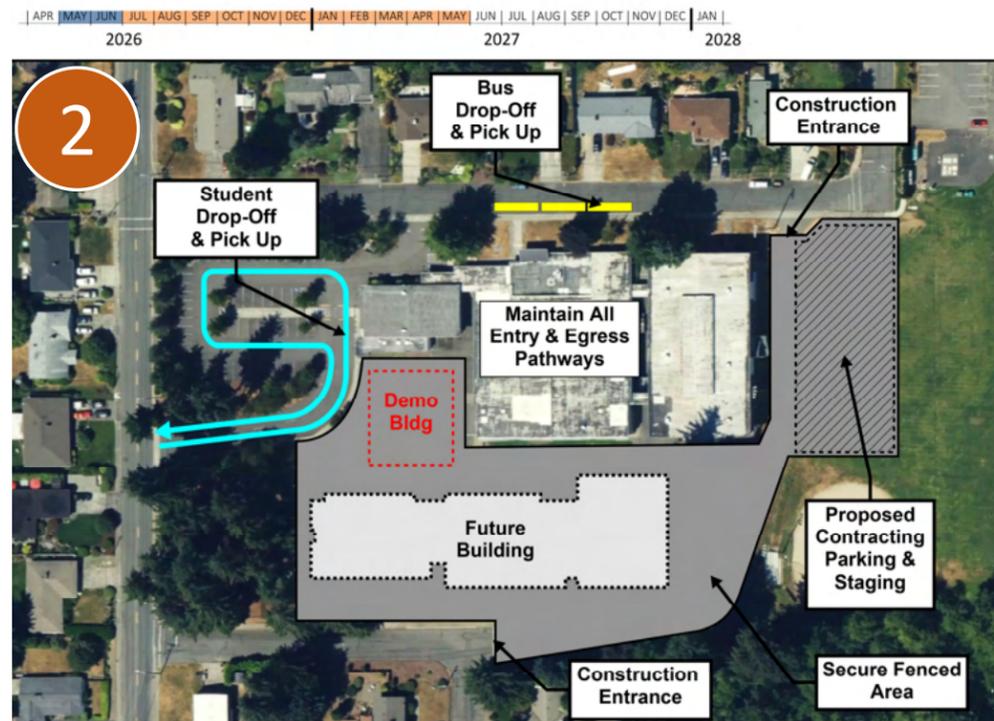
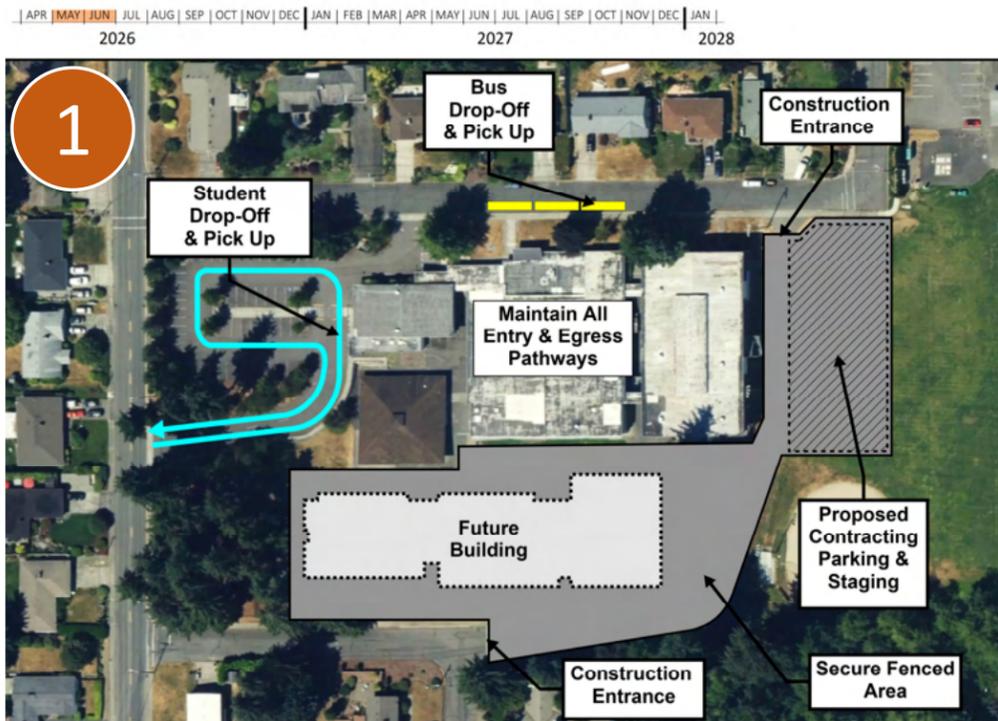
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION START: JUNE 2026

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Construction Phasing Plans





Safe Arrival & Dismissal

EXISTING CONDITIONS

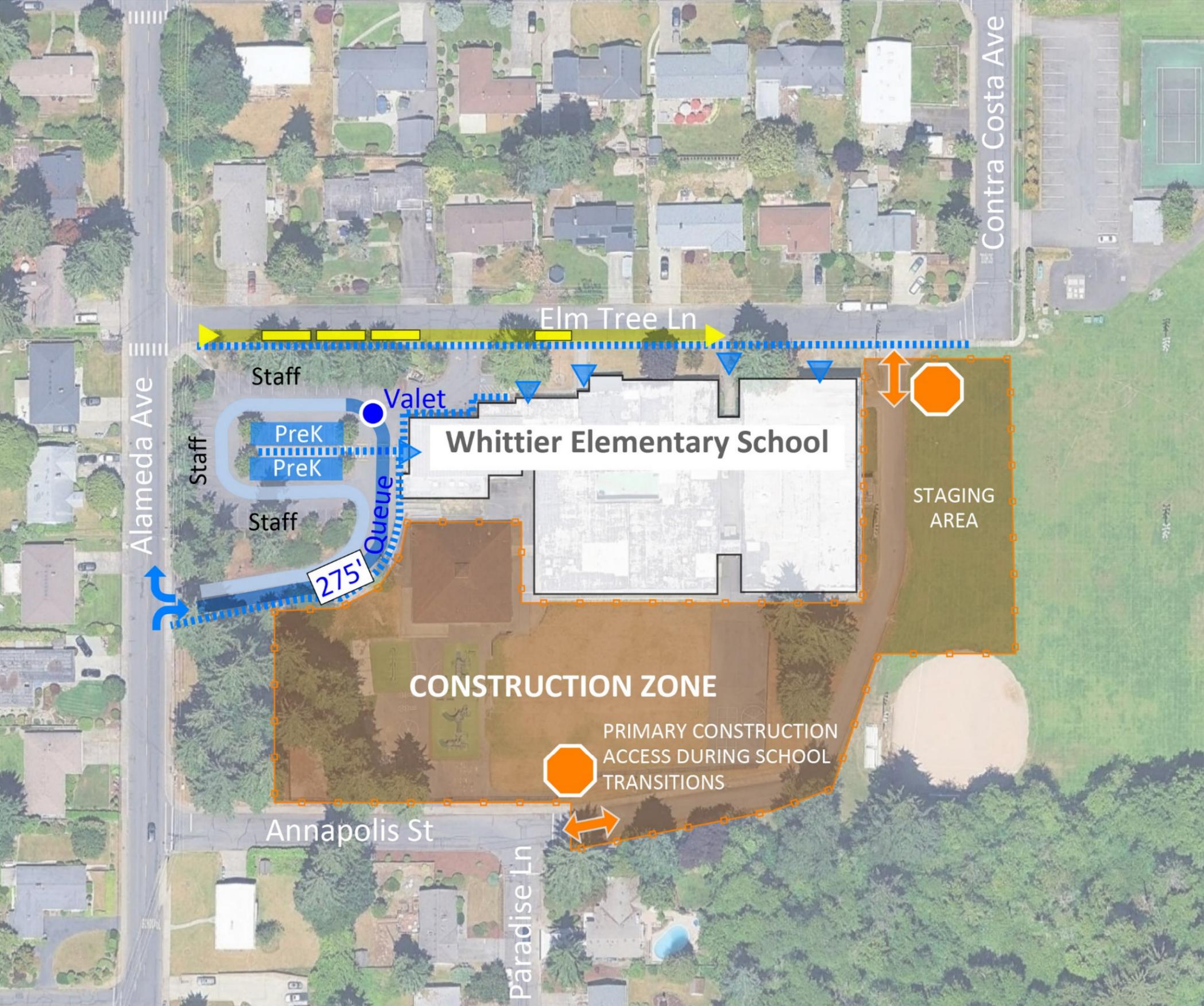
- Separation of Bus & Queue
- Valet System:
 - 10-15 Minute Duration
 - 490 If Queue Max
 - 345 If Queue Average
- Pre-K Parking

LEGEND	
	Primary Pedestrian Path Adjacent to School
	School Entry
	Parent Vehicle Path
	Student Valet Access
	Pre-K Family Parking
	Bus Path
	Controlled Construction Access Gate

Safe Arrival & Dismissal

OPTION A

- Separation of Bus & Queue
- Valet System: 275 If Queue
- Pre-K Parking overlap

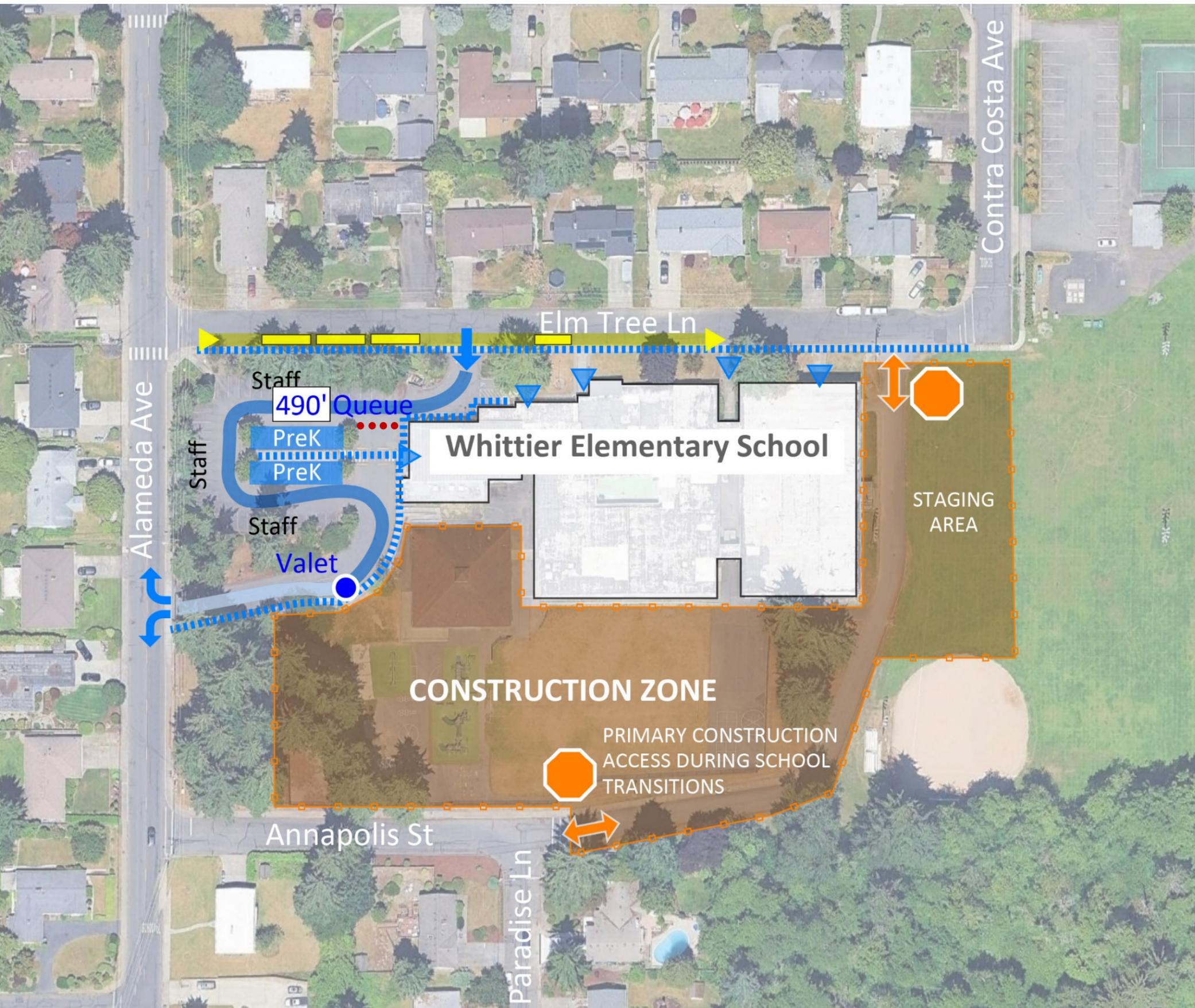


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	Primary Pedestrian Path Adjacent to School
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Safe Arrival & Dismissal

OPTION B

- Separation of Bus & Queue
- Valet System: 490 If Queue
- Pre-K Parking overlap

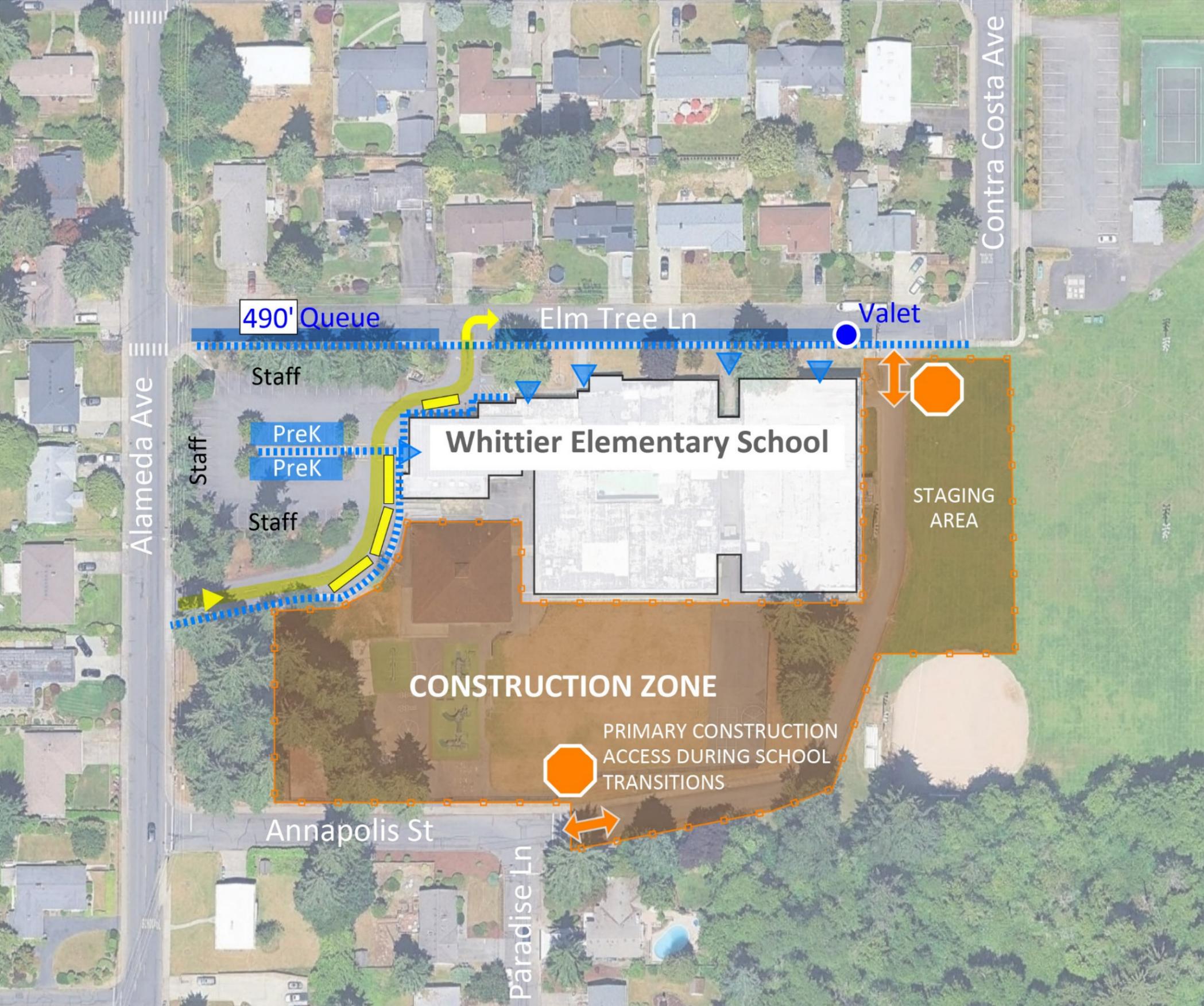


LEGEND	
	Primary Pedestrian Path Adjacent to School
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Safe Arrival & Dismissal

OPTION C

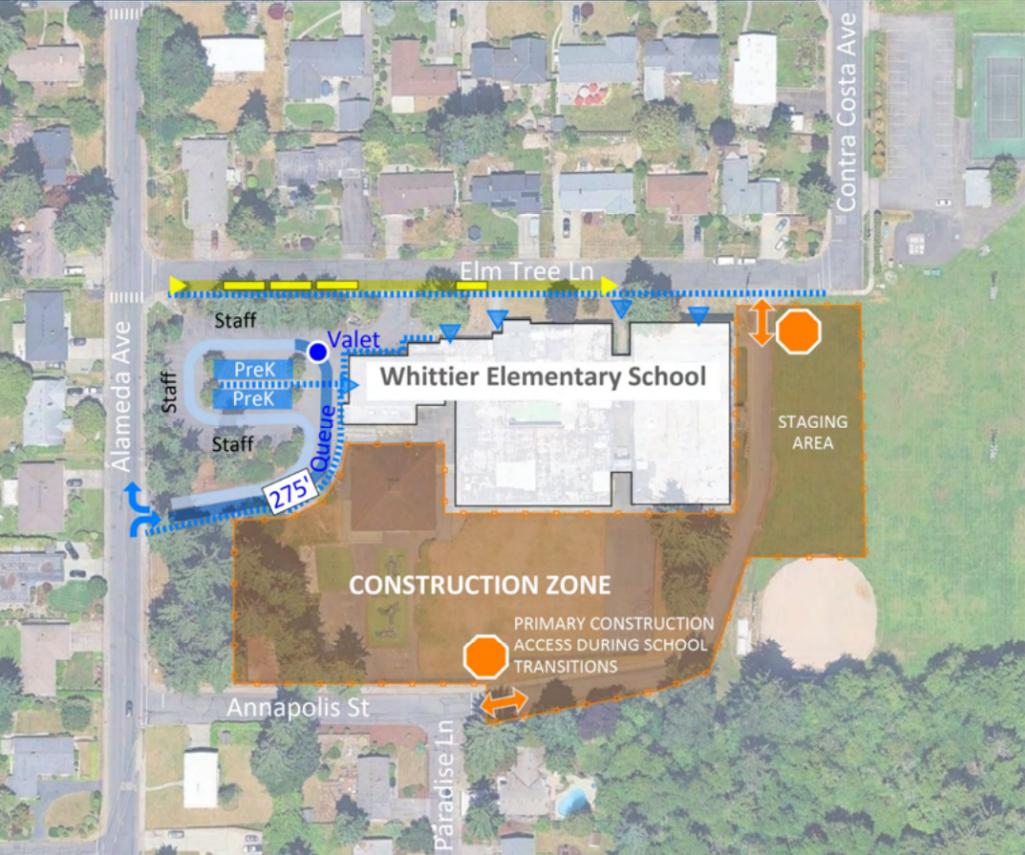
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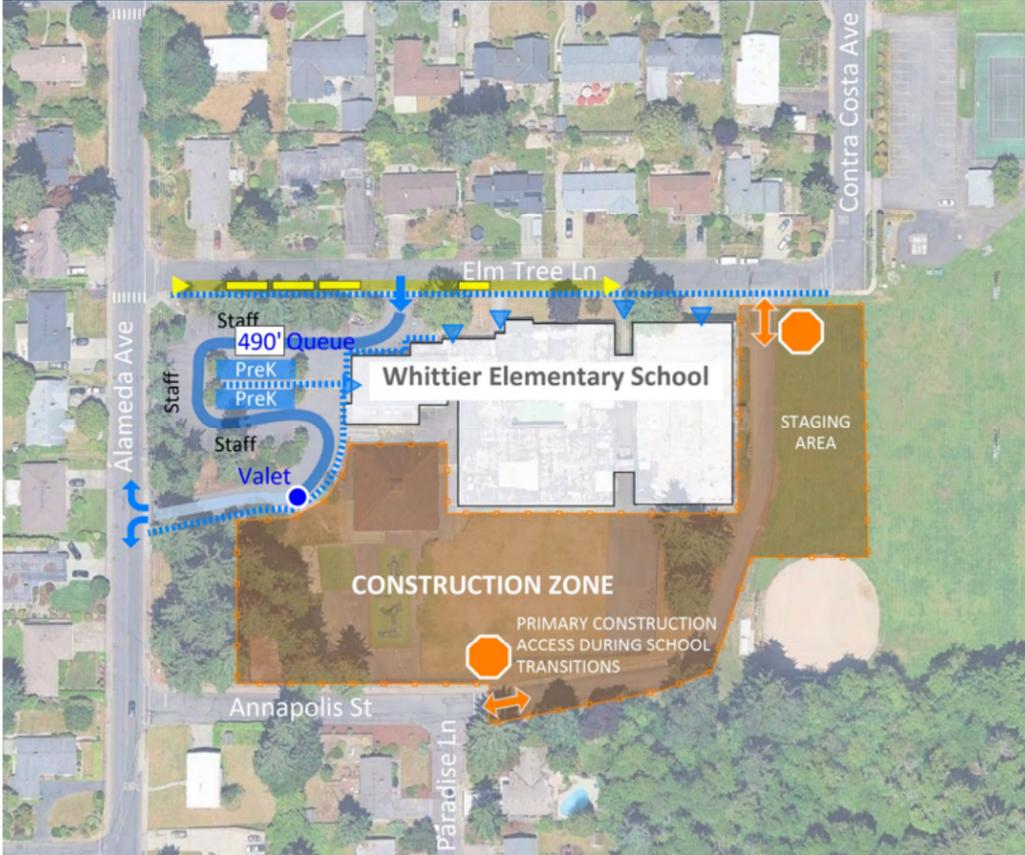
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Safe Arrival & Dismissal

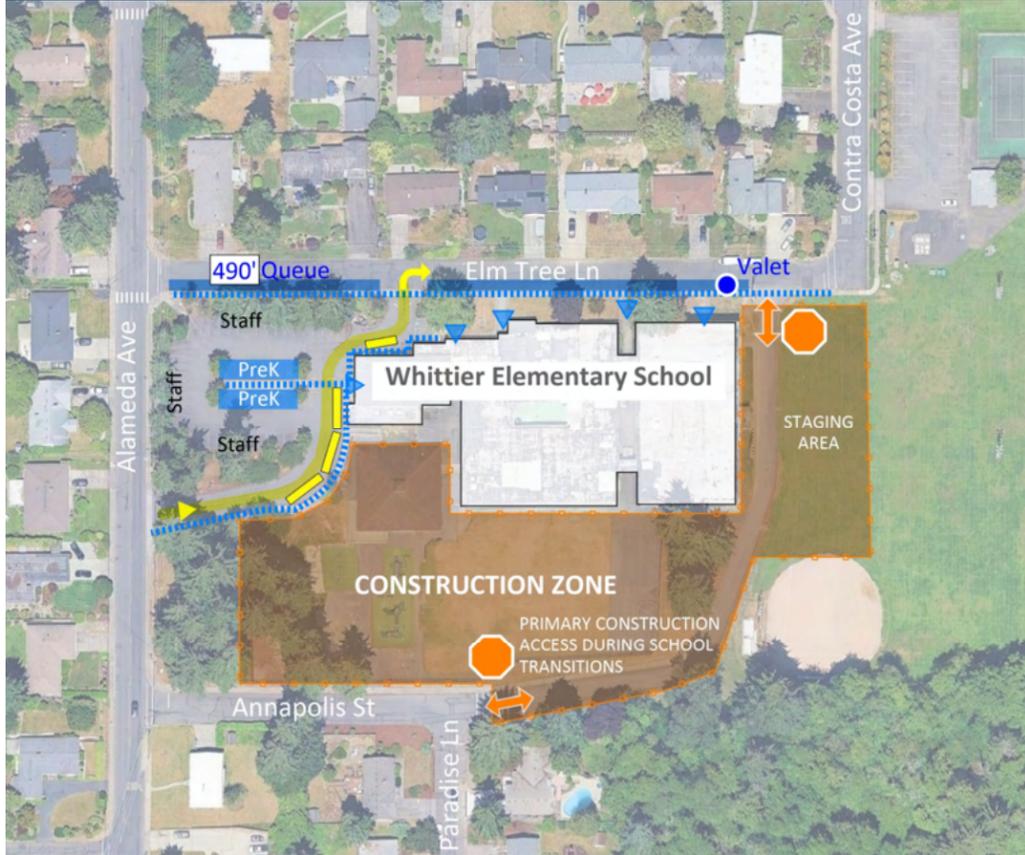
OPTION A



OPTION B



OPTION C



Recommended

Collaborating on Issues

JOINT CITY COUNCIL / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- Traffic Queuing
- Landscape & Irrigation

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION START: JUNE 2026

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Collaborating on Issues

JOINT CITY COUNCIL / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- Traffic Queuing
- Landscape & Irrigation

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION START: JUNE 2026

- CUP / Design Review Process, Including Variances
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Collaborating on Issues

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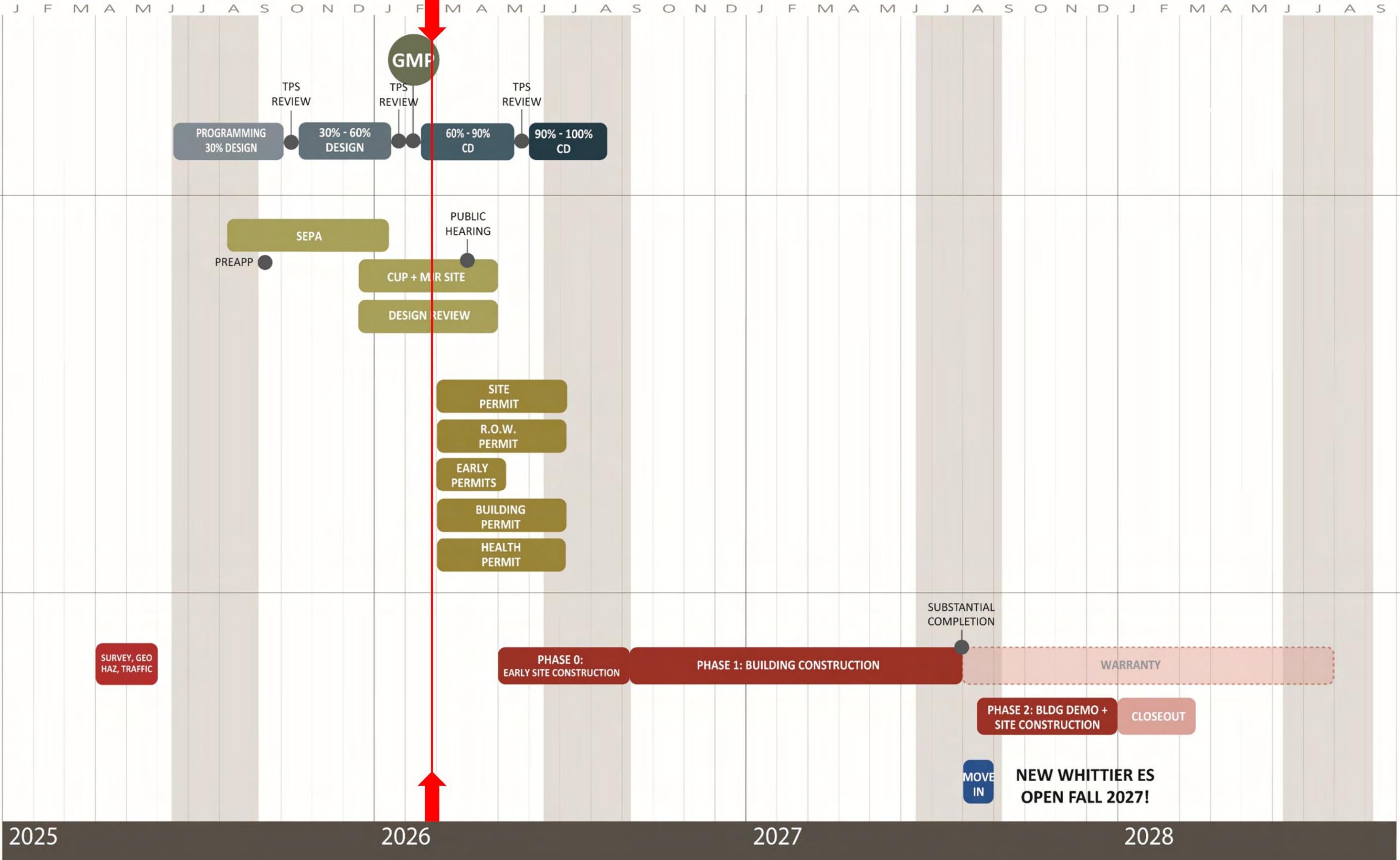
UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION START: JUNE 2026

- CUP / Design Review Process, Including Variances
- [Early Work Permits](#)
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DESIGN

AGENCY

CONSTRUCTION



2025 2026 2027 2028

Collaborating on Issues

JOINT CITY COUNCIL / PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- Traffic Queuing
- Landscape & Irrigation

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION START: JUNE 2026

- CUP / Design Review Process, Including Variances
- Early Work Permits
- Construction Use of Whittier Park

Thank You!