

August 11, 2015

City Plan Commission
City of La Crosse
400 La Crosse St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

RE: Western Technical College – Integrated Tech Site Improvements – Lot B, RDG #2013.460.00

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Western Technical College, I am writing to seek approval for locating a Photovoltaic Array canopy on Western's property which would overhang the building setback line.

I am a landscape architect working with Western Technical College to design site improvements for the Integrated Technology Center. Through the design process, we have met with City Officials and presented to the Board of Public Works, where our design concept was approved on July 6th, 2015. One specific item that the Board of Public Works directed us to the City Plan Commission to get approval for is the location of a Photovoltaic (PV) Array canopy, which we are proposing be installed on the southern edge of the site. The structural support for the canopy; the footings and columns, would be located outside of the building setback, however, the canopy would overhang the setback by 4'-0". This overhang would be a minimum of 9'-0" above finish grade. This information is illustrated in Exhibit A, which is attached to this document and includes a plan of the overall site work as well as a section (number A4) of this specific scenario on page two.

Locating the PV Array in this location provides a number of benefits to this project. The footings and columns in this scenario are at the back of curb in the parking lot, which is also the setback line. This allows for safer vehicular access to parking stalls as well as more efficient snow removal when compared to moving the PV Array further into the parking lot. Providing the PV Array in this location also provides a canopy to protect vehicles from inclement weather and reduces the heat-island effect created by the paved surfaces below by keeping them shaded. Last, but not least, this location shows visitors to Western Technical College's campus as well as passersby that the College and the City are committed to providing sustainable energy.

We ask that you approve the proposed location for the Photovoltaic Array by accepting the 4'-0" overhang shown in Exhibit A.

Sincerely,



Bruce Niedermyer
Landscape Architect