



DiFONTE CONSULTING, INC.

ENGINEERS in CIVIL, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION and LAND DEVELOPMENT



Congress Middle School Modernization

Owner: School District of Palm Beach County

Client: Zyscovich, Inc.

Services: Site Planning
Engineering
Permitting
Construction Observations

Project Description:

Our firm, together with the Project Team, planned, designed, permitted, and administered the construction of this new public middle school campus in Boynton Beach, Florida. The new campus was set back from Congress Avenue to maximize onsite queuing and avoid impacting the existing school facility adjacent to the thoroughfare road. Complications to the site planning were fully maintaining the existing campus during construction; noise concerns from the neighborhood to the west; creating an appealing frontage along Congress Avenue; integrating the site with the SDPBC ITV facility located east of the campus; and providing for future expansion of ball fields by the city. The site plan created an attractive entrance drive connecting to an existing traffic signal, a new bus/service drive that afforded access to the ITV facility, and a lush landscape buffer for the neighborhoods/roadway frontage.

The project is located in a mixed use area bordered by commercial shopping centers and an established suburban neighborhood. The design was further challenged by the ITV communication towers with the site. The solution located the school buildings on the southwest portion of the site - outside of the likely fall zone of the towers. During construction a hurricane felled the towers – neither struck the building. The towers were subsequently replaced with self-supporting towers.

Extensive coordination with PBC was required to address concerns about access to the campus. PBC ultimately agreed that we had provided sufficient onsite stacking. Contract documents were prepared to serve the school campus including access drives, parking areas, play fields, water system, sanitary sewer lift station, force mains and drainage system. We also prepared design plans for a new driveway connection with turn lanes to serve the campus at the main entrance and bus/service/ITV entrance.

Permitting was secured from regulatory agencies including: the US Army Corps of Engineers, SFWMD, LWDD, PBC Engineering, PBC Traffic, City of Boynton Beach Fire Rescue, City of Boynton Beach Utilities and PBC Health Department.