

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Campus Facilities Planning Committee
Agenda Item Description Form

1. **Item:** New Stadium Site Approval
2. **Requesting Department:** Athletics
3. **Contact Names & Phone Numbers:** Emily Messa, 2-8184 and Spencer Moore 3-2287
4. **Presenter:** Emily Messa and Spencer Moore
5. **Recommendation/Action Requested:** Approval

6. **Summary:**

Background:

The existing 32,000-seat Robertson Stadium complex was constructed in 1941 as a joint project of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The facility operated as a HISD high school sports stadium continuously until 1970, although the University of Houston hosted games at the complex from 1946-1950 and the Houston Oilers played there from 1960-1964.

Former UH Board of Regents member Corbin J. Robertson funded a renovation of the facility in 1970 and the University acquired the facility and renamed it after Robertson shortly afterwards.

The stadium has undergone several renovations and enhancements since its acquisition: these include field improvements; additional bleacher and premium seating, and lighting, scoreboard, and video screen enhancements. Numerous deferred maintenance and code issues remain, however.

The University, recognizing the increasing deterioration of the aging facility and the growing need for modernization, in 2010 commissioned a feasibility study to evaluate options for renovation and/or new construction on the current site and two additional sites. Upon analyzing such factors as site size, parking capacity, utility availability, traffic flow, light rail proximity, accessibility from student housing, and visibility to the community, the existing site was determined to be the most feasible of the three options.

Site:

The 2010 feasibility study stadium program scope will be brought to the CFPC at a later date. In overview, however, the program takes into account NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision expectations, UH recruitment needs, and amenities to improve the fan experience.

The approximately 450,000 GSF replacement stadium and associated facilities will be capable of seating 40,000 spectators with an opportunity for phased expansion to a total of 60,000 seats.

The stadium project includes the complete demolition and removal of the existing football complex (pavilions, locker rooms, concession buildings, field, seating, etc.), and is scheduled to begin immediately following the completion of the 2012/13 football season.

Game day visitors will park in the new 2300 car parking structure adjacent to the site (completion in summer 2012). Areas of the existing surface parking will be preserved; and existing tailgate areas will be relocated near the adjoining retail space along Cougar Walk and green space on the South side of the garage.

7. **Proposed Start Date:** Upon Board Approval in February 2012.
8. **Supporting Documentation Description:** Site Plan

Site Extents

