

Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC)

November 7, 2018
Approved minutes

In Attendance:

Nancy Van Doren, School Board

APS Appointees

Folb, Josh - Acting Chair,
SPED Parent
Rose Breyault, Parent
CC Clark, Parent
Angelique Earley, Parent
Catherin Frum, Teacher
Paine Gronemeyer, Student
Erik Healy, AP Career Center
Elizabeth Kiker, ES Parent
David McBride, MS Principal
John Mickevice, APS
Commuter

County Appointees

Gillian Burgess (BAC)
John Carten (TC)
Eric Goodman (PAC)

Staff

John Chadwick, APS – F&O
Angel Garcia-Ablanque, APS-Transp.
Kristin Haldeman, APS-MMTP
Lauren Hassel, APS - SRTS
Elizabeth Denton, ACCS -ATP
Alex Held, ACCS
Jim Larsen, ACCS
Christine Sherman, TE&O
Hui Wang, TE&O

Acting Chair, Josh Folb, welcomed three new ACTC members, Elizabeth Kiker, Angelique Earley and Paine Gronemeyer. Members introduced themselves.

Minutes from June were re-approved as speaker comments were received after the Sept. meeting. Sept. minutes were approved.

There were no public comments.

School Board member Nancy Van Doren thanked Committee members for their participation, noted that there are now two student members, and urged the Committee to “keep advising away” because “everyone’s listening.”

I. Updates

- a. **Carlin Springs Pedestrian Safety Study** - Christine Sherman provided a progress update on elements of the implementation plan. Several of the short-term recommendations are already completed or underway. Responding to community concerns about the temporary bollards, Ms. Wang noted that sometimes people are less receptive to temporary measures, but once the concrete is poured they understand. Mr. Garcia-Ablanque said that he has received no comments/complaints about the bollards from bus drivers. See [link to updates here](#).
- b. **TDM** - Elizabeth Denton provided background on Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP), which works with 4700+ APS employees to keep traffic from getting worse. She reported that fourteen schools have enrolled in ATP’s Champions program, 176 iRide cards have been sold to students, and several new carpool spaces have been marked. She noted that APS staff at the Benefits Fair asked about changes to the TDM Benefit and e-scooters. She is planning to try the Commuter Challenge again with staff in the Spring.
- c. **ES Boundary Process** - Kristin Haldeman reviewed the remaining timeline for the process: staff will present the Superintendent’s proposal on November 8; the School Board will hold a

public hearing November 27; and the School Board will vote on the new boundaries at its December 6 meeting. Community input will continue through the public hearing date.

Ms. Van Doren noted that eight schools are affected by the boundary changes. She said she walked around quite a bit during this process and identified some areas where there may be opportunities to improve walkability with "low-hanging fruit" fixes.

Mr. Folb commented that the Columbia Heights neighborhood is excited about the new 12th St connection through the Wellington and access road through the Country Club, both of which improve access to Hoffman-Boston through the neighborhood. The Country Club road also potentially adds a connection to Gunston.

Ms. Breyault raised concerns about the lack of a crosswalk on the western side of Gunston and asked for advice on how to request one. Ms. Wang explained that they must first determine if they can afford to have a safe crosswalk at the requested location and then through what program it would be funded. She offered to check on the location.

Gillian Burgess asked how projects are prioritized and whether proximity to a school is a factor. Ms. Wang said not explicitly, but noted that students would be included in the pedestrian counts taken for a project, which would indicate usage. Ms. Breyault said that this is a factor in the Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) program. (***Ms. Breyault later shared information from both the NCS and Neighborhood Conservation program indicating how schools are included in the prioritization process.*)

II. Shared Mobility Device Pilot (E-Scooters)

Jim Larsen, ACCS, delivered a presentation on Shared Mobility Devices and the specifics of Arlington County's 9-month pilot project. ([See slides here](#)) He detailed the terms of agreement with approved operators and outlined top concerns to date. Ms. Burgess reminded members that e-scooters are a positive contribution to the transportation landscape if they eliminate single occupant vehicles.

The group discussed use of scooters by students despite operator rules requiring users to be 18 and licensed drivers (BIRD only), as well as incidents of hacking into system. Other safety concerns include speed, lack of knowledge of "rules of the road," and few if any riders wearing helmets.

Ms. Haldeman noted that rules prohibiting e-scooter use on sidewalks could lead to confusion with rules related to non-motorized (Razor) scooters, which are permitted on sidewalks. She also pointed out that operators' age restrictions apply to SMDs but not to privately-owned e-scooters, which are legal for ages 14 and up, according to Virginia law.

Members recommended increased public education; clear and consistent messaging from County, schools and police; and outreach targeting students and parents/families because safety is the priority. Payne Gronemeyer also suggested including e-scooters and e-bikes as an option in the APS GO! student travel tally surveys as a way to collect data on their use by students.

Comments on the program can be submitted to: mobility@arlingtonva.us

III. Vision Zero in Arlington - Gillian Burgess, BAC Chair/ACTC Member (30 minutes)

Ms. Burgess led a discussion of Vision Zero, as follow-up to a letter sent to the County Manager by the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in May 2018. She

outlined the principles of Vision Zero, which include education, encouragement, evaluation, engineering, and enforcement, and reported that Alexandria, Richmond and Washington, DC have already adopted Vision Zero.

She noted that Arlington already does many “Vision Zero-like” things, such as collecting data, filing collision reports, and supporting safe routes to school activities but since it has not adopted Vision Zero we may be missing the national conversation. There is a recognition that DOT ‘gets it;’ however, there is concern that other departments (e.g. permitting) do not and these principles have not permeated throughout the County.

Ms. Sherman said that two representatives of Arlington County were on a Vision Zero panel at a recent transportation engineering conference. Ms. Wang added that it’s not so much about the Vision Zero brand but about operating every day with zero pedestrian fatalities as the goal, which is what the County does. She added that County staff are being deliberate and pushing “from the inside.” As for attending conferences, Ms. Wang noted that budget constraints limit conference attendance but that much information from the conferences can be accessed online and by talking to attendees.

Members discussed some benefits of Vision Zero and actions that can be taken regardless of adoption, including:

- Branding helps build awareness regionally
- Adoption can guide resource allocation
- Engineering changes should be considered to improve safe access to school and school bus stops
- DES Safety Day tactics could adapted to raise awareness among key audiences
- ACTC could sign on to BAC/PAC Letter to County Manager

John Carten noted that Lyon Village is taking matters into their own hands by using tactics such as “Community Shaming” to point out non-ped-friendly behavior (taking/posting photos of car parked on driveway blocking sidewalk, contractors blocking walkways, etc.). These and other local actions can help raise awareness of everyday pedestrian safety issues.

Committee members discussed whether they should sign on to the BAC/PAC letter.

IV. School Bus Safety Messaging - Discussion (25 minutes)

Given recent school bus-related crashes in various locations around the U.S., Ms. Haldeman encouraged the group to discuss strategies to prevent such incidents in Arlington, including:

Public Education:

- Variable Messaging Signs
- Messaging on utility bills
- Messaging on gas station pumps
- Messaging at DMV
- Incorporation into StreetSmart regional safety campaign

Bus Routing:

- Shorter routes
- Consolidated stops
- More defined school bus stops (more transit-like)

Ms. Haldeman emphasized that bus safety messaging needs to get to those who live and drive in Arlington as well as those who drive through Arlington.

V. Administrative/Announcements - (5 minutes)

- a. 2018/2019 School Year Meeting Dates - Mark your calendars
 - i. January 9, Syphax 354/56, 7-9 pm (2nd Weds.)
 - ii. March 6, Syphax 354/56, 7-9 pm
 - iii. May 1, Syphax 354/56, 7-9 pm
 - iv. June 19, Syphax 354/56, 7-9 pm (3rd Weds.)
- b. Recruiting - One middle school vacancy.
 - Have a recommendation? Please reach out to Kristin Haldeman and John Armstrong.
- c. Winter School Board Works session on Policies and PIPs

Meeting adjourned shortly before 9pm.