

Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC)

January 3, 2018
Approved minutes

In Attendance:

Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair, APS School Board

APS Appointees

Janeth Valenzuela, Vice Chair (HS)
Rose Breyault (ES)
CC Clark (HS)
Margaret Chung (Principal)
Josh Folb (SPED)
John Mickevics (APS-Comm)

County Appointees

John Armstrong, Chair, PAC (ES/MS)
John Carten, TAC

Staff

John Chadwick, APS-F&O
Angel Garcia-Ablanque, APS-T
Kristin Haldeman, APS-MMTP
Dennis Leach, AC-DOT
Elizabeth Denton, AC-ACCS
Hui Wang, AC-TE&O
Christine Sherman, AC-TE&O

Public: Rob Vandermark, Discovery parent

Minutes from the November 1st meeting were approved with discussed edits.

No one signed up to speak during the Public Comment period.

1. Summer School Stop pilot

Mr. Garcia-Ablanque updated the ACTC on a summer school bus stop pilot that would have students collect at their home school to catch their bus to summer school. Committee members were generally supportive of the consolidated stop pilot concept, but asked Mr. Garcia-Ablanque to return to the next meeting when he had more details on routes and stops. There was interest in ensuring that stops were not placed so far apart that students may not be able to access them with ease or use the bus. The concern being that stops too far from home could drive down bus utilization and prevent use by those with no other transportation option. Mr. Garcia-Ablanque noted that APS had previously studied the creation of a circulator type service within County – using a 1 mile measure and estimated that about 70% of students fell within the bounds. But added that APS may add interim stops between schools if the distance for some students appears too great. The new information should be communicated to parents early, and provided at the annual summer activities fair.

ACTION – Return to next meeting with update on stops and routes.

2. Carlin Springs Study Update

Christine Sherman with the County's Traffic, Engineering and Operations group updated the Committee on progress to date on the Carlin Springs study. The project team collected and analyzed a wide range of data (e.g. vehicular volumes and speed; crashes/fatalities; pedestrian activity and sidewalk widths) about transportation conditions in the corridor section from route 50 (north of Kenmore) to 7th Rd South, just below Campbell Elementary. They have identified 3 major key safety concerns:

- High vehicle speeds in southern portion of corridor
- Narrow sidewalks in segments of corridor
- Intersections with limited markings

They have proposed short (within the year), medium (1-5 year) and long term (5 years+) recommendations to address these concerns. She highlighted intersection improvements at 3rd, 5th and 6th that are already programmed, and Dennis Leach added that he has asked for \$450,000 in the

next Transportation CIP to fund additional intervention strategies. Some improvements will require a longer-term planning process (e.g. may require right of way acquisition) and will be part of next steps. Committee members noted that there also must be some work done around changing unsafe behaviors – of both drivers and pedestrians/students.

In response to Committee questions about infrastructure safety standards and how growth will be accommodated/addressed with the improvements, Ms. Wang said that anything that is built today will be built to a much higher standard than what is there now. The spot improvements the County is making to the intersections will be upgraded to the best possible standards. By building to current standards, the idea is that the new construction will accommodate the growth. The study conclusion is that there is a significant issue and we must address it, though re-building the sidewalks will likely belong in the long-term bucket.

Mr. Folb noted that he would like to have the utility barriers identified as pedestrian safety issues in the report to incentivize utility companies to come in and move them.

Ms. Wang also added that she is uncomfortable with students being told by schools to stay on their neighborhood side of the street when walking as some will not be facing traffic, which is the safe practice. Schools are telling students to do this to limit crossings. Ms. Valenzuela asked if a pedestrian bridge over Carlin Springs is an option, which was followed by a discussion of challenges with ariel structures.

The presentation is available on the ACTC website.

3. TDM Updates

Elizabeth Denton with Arlington Transportation partners reported that 18 schools have now joined the Champions program – one more than last year. She noted a new development at Barrett, where 3 teachers are now carpooling to avoid I66 tolling, and get a prime parking space as well as a carpool benefit.

Also, in mid-February as part of 'Love the Bus Week' (Feb 12-16) ART buses will visit 5 schools and the Mobile Commuter Store (MCS) will be on hand to sell iRide cards at one location during the week. Additional information will be forthcoming. MCS will be at Kenmore next week. Elizabeth will stop by and speak to parents.

Lastly, she apprised the Committee of some new research on the health concerns around sedentary behavior and will share a presentation given to the Healthy Communities Action Team, a committee formed under the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families. Of note is that the research called out sitting in cars for long periods as a detrimental sedentary behavior and that promoting active transportation can help alleviate some of that sitting time.

4. JCTC Work Plan

Ms. Haldeman reviewed the 2018 JCTC work plan which builds off the original elements of the 2017 work plan and adds a few new activities and elements based on discussions and observations raised over the course of 2017 with JCTC and ACTC. New to the 2018 work program is: initiate a collaborative effort to re-envision the APS bus system to make it more efficient and work better for students and families; coordinate capital infrastructure & transportation safety planning around schools to have a list of projects ready for the 2019 Transportation CIP update and to collaborate on crossing guard placement and recruitment; and, form a working group around school parking requirements. Mr. Chadwick noted that APS is encountering some issues with crossing guard assignment and recruitment as the current assignment process through the police dept. does not allow a for a guard to choose their location near their home school. We have some places in the system where adding a guard could expand a walk

zone. Both Mr. Leach and Ms. Wang agreed that is an issue and would bring it up at their next coordination meeting with the police dept.

Ms. Denton mentioned that a Bike and walk safety video might be something to consider as part of the work program. Ms. Chung volunteered Career Center students to work on such a video.

5. Policies and PIPs

Lastly, Ms. Haldeman reviewed with the Committee the current transportation policies and PIPs up for revision this year, noting potential areas for revision/clarification and refinement. ACTC members will provide feedback to her by **February 5th**. The presentation is available on the ACTC website.

Next ACTC meeting = March 7; location Ed Center 101A/B