

Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC)

May 2, 2018
Simple Notes

In Attendance:

APS Appointees

Rose Breyault (ES Parent)
Josh Folb (SPED Parent)

County Appointees

Gillian Burgess (BAC)

Staff

John Chadwick, APS – F&O
Kristin Haldeman, APS-MMTP
Sarah Johnson, APS-P&E
Elizabeth Denton, AC-ACCS
Dennis Leach, AC-DOT
Christine Sherman, AC-DOT/TE&O

Due to low attendance of voting members, minutes from the March 7 will be approved at the next meeting on June 27. Draft minutes are posted on the ACTC website.

Public comment – There were no public comments

1. Updates

- a. **Carlin Springs Study** – Christine Sherman provided a progress update on elements of the implementation plan. Several of the short-term recommendations are already completed or underway. See [slides](#) on ACTC website for status on these elements of the plan.
- b. **Summer School Stop pilot** – Staff prepared a map of stop locations for MS & HS summer school students (See ACTC website for map). In addition to elementary schools, staff added a few other collector locations due to distance or safe route concerns. Attendees reviewed the map and offered suggestions. Stop locations may be revised once enrollment numbers are closer to final.
- c. **County MTP Bicycle Element Update** - The County is now entering the Spring Initiative to update the Master Transportation Plan's Bicycle Element. It includes an extensive public engagement effort to gather input in several specific areas. Staff is looking to hear from a broad range of Arlington residents and visitors regarding their thoughts on several cycling questions. The intent is to gather public input for the development of a revised network of bikeway facilities. The input should help to identify where specific street and bikeway improvements are desired and should assist in prioritizing projects for implementation.

See [slides](#) on ACTC website for questions, public engagement approach and schedule of events.

ACTC members are invited to attend events and asked to spread the word through their channels about the online survey (likely to be launched in the next couple weeks) and outreach events. Participants may drop-in at any time during the pop-up and public workshop sessions. The public workshops will include brief presentations by staff, data displays and opportunities for participants to illustrate concerns and interact with County staff. English and Spanish language versions of the on-line survey will go live in early May and will remain open through mid-June. Meetings to gain additional input from traditionally under-represented groups such as: youths and limited-English speakers are currently being

scheduled. Staff anticipates meetings at Phoenix Bikes, REEP, SEEC and possibly others. APS will promote the events and survey through typical APS communication channels.

See <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/projects/mastertransportation-plan-bicycle-element-working-group> for on-going updates.

d. Safe Routes to School:

Bike/Walk to School Day (May 9!)

- All schools are registered and will participate in some way on May 9
- All schools have received BW2SD stickers to hand out and yard signs to promote participation – each school will receive two bike bells to give out to students as they see fit (drawing, random, reward, etc.)
- Support materials have been shared with all principals, Health/PE teachers, PR Liaisons, families, CCPTA and other interested parties
- Communications have gone out to APS staff, APS families, students, Arlington County, Arlington County Police, NextDoor, and Twitter
- School Board members, Superintendent and APS leadership, County Board, and County Transportation staff have been invited
- ACTC members are invited to join the fun at their school, welcome students, hand out stickers, and take/share photos!
- Twitter: #APSBike2SchoolDay

SRTS Grant Application

- This is the 6th year that APS has applied for SRTS funds; 14 other Virginia school divisions received funding in 2017-18
- APS Grant has been managed by Health/PE since year 1 and includes funding for one 10-month (school year) SRTS Coordinator position.
- If funding is renewed, grant management & coordinator will move to Facilities & Operations, with transportation planning function.
- Activities span the 5 E's – education, encouragement, engineering, evaluation and enforcement
- Coordinator works with APS elementary and middle schools + Teaching & Learning, Facilities, School and Community Relations + Arlington County + ACPD + community-based organizations/partners + APS families + community
- For info on 2018-19 activities, see distributed Activities and Programs Plan
- Update to ACTC on SRTS grant status in mid-May, after notification from state

** Note: Work on 2017-18 grant ends Wednesday, June 20=last day of 2017-18 funding for SRTS Coordinator*

e. Bus Stop Working group – The BSTWG continues to clarify stop siting guidelines for posting on the APS Transportation website. The working group also is ensuring consistency with walk zone working group guidance for the designation of 'no-cross roads' for elementary students. The group will next tackle stop distance guidelines, which will likely vary for neighborhood school vs. option school stops.

f. TDM Updates:

ATP activities

- The mobile commuter store made its last scheduled school visit to Williamsburg MS on 5/2/18.
- ATP will be conducting transit travel training at Swanson's STEM night. Students will work with paper maps to learn how to read bus routes and schedules.
- ATP and ACCS will revisit simply having an ART bus available at schools for students to explore during lunch breaks. Next year, this will be only be available with travel training in the classroom.

- Champions video highlighting Yorktown bike club, Barrett carpoolers and Patrick Henry staff who walk and bike will be released in August just in time for back to school.
- To date, 96 APS staff have registered for bike/walk to school day – more than last year's 71.
- Working on a transportation fair for Syphax employees. Est. date = May 23.
- Champions schools will be honored at the **May 31** School Board meeting. ACTC members are invited and encouraged to attend to show support.

APS TDM Benefit program – The benefit program was not cut from the budget, but it was capped at its current level (\$222,640). Both good and bad news is that the budget was exceeded this year by \$70,000+ - showing that staff are using it. However, it also means APS will need to think about how to deliver the program with non-financial incentives.

Ms. Haldeman will be working with HR and Ms. Denton to craft a program that still incentivizes non-SOV travel, but meets the cap.

- g. County CIP Budget concerns** – Dennis Leach gave a brief update on the status of the County's transportation CIP. Recent VA legislative action on dedicated funding for Metro is shifting funds that had been identified for other state transportation projects to Metro. County staff is now in the process of revising their CIP to reflect the changing funding landscape. This is still in flux, though Mr. Leach believes that it will impact the County's ability to deliver larger scale capital projects, and we will likely see more short-term projects that make operational changes to roadways (e.g., striping, signage, signal timing). He will return in June when more is known about the impacts.

2. Career Center Working Group Update

Sarah Johnson, APS' Project Manager for the Career Center Working Group (CCWG), provided [an overview](#) of the CCWG charge and activities to date. Its charge is to provide high level guidance about how APS can deliver 800 high school seats on the current Career Center site by 2022. The CCWG has thus far come to consensus on how massing on the site should occur; that more parking is needed, and where the library is located. In March, both APS and the County provided information on transportation topics pertaining to the site. Several decisions about the site's functionality will impact transportation decisions, i.e., whether the site is an option or neighborhood school will influence the number of walkers, vs bus riders; the number of students impacts parking requirements and buses; location of field space impacts how parking will be provided (structured – above or below ground; surface; off-site...).

CCWG has posed a number of questions to staff about transportation (parking, transit access, walk routes, busing, etc.). Those Q&As are posted on the CCWG website. In June, there will be another CCWG focused on transportation topics. The CCWG will continue its work over the summer and wrap up in August. The next advisory group to be convened for the site will be the building level planning committee, which will focus more closely on site design. Anyone is welcome to attend the remaining meetings.

Follow progress here: <https://www.apsva.us/career-center/ccwg-follow-journey/>

3. ES Boundary Initiative Walk Zone Update

Ms. Haldeman updated the group on status of the walk zone review conducted for the first phase of the [ES boundary initiative](#). Each school formed a walk zone task group, made of community and school reps., that went out and evaluated the walking conditions around schools. Task groups and other members of the community were invited to fill in an online survey noting areas where they thought it would be safe to expand the walk zone. The survey also provided space for respondents to include intersections and other locations where safety improvements should be made to make the

route safer to walk. Staff received more than 2,200 surveys and email responses along with more than 2,300 recommendations for safety improvements. All schools made some recommendations for expansions. Staff reviewed the suggestions for both safety and proximity and met a second time with Task groups to review the findings and settle on potential areas for expansion.

APS does not control crossing guards or other safety interventions so could only recommend immediate expansions that did not require these interventions. In all, seven walk zones were expanded, and a new walk zone was developed for the Reed site and Fleet ES. Through the process, though, staff also identified two other 'buckets' for planning units: those where part of the unit could possibly be split due to proximity; and another group that made sense due to a proximity standpoint but not a safety standpoint and required further study and work with the County. Next steps include organizing the infrastructure recommendations and creating a framework to prioritize them.

ACTC members were asked to weigh in on possible criteria to be used in that framework. Some initial thoughts are: # of students impacted, safety analysis, feasibility, cost. Mr. Folb suggested determining whether the safety intervention could allow APS to eliminate a bus due to the number of students that could now walk. Ms. Burgess suggested that APS determine if it would serve other community purposes/services (e.g. making the Bluemont trail crossing near ATS safer also would benefit cyclists on the trail), as well as equity implications. Ms. Breyault recommended coordination with Civic Association neighborhood conservation programs. Ms. Haldeman will pose this question to the larger ACTC group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40p

Next ACTC meeting = June 27, 2018 @ Syphax Room 452