

Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC)

March 6, 2019
Approved minutes

In Attendance:

Nancy Van Doren, School Board

APS Appointees

John Armstrong, Chair
Janeth Valenzuela, Vice Chair
Rose Breyault, Parent
CC Clark, Parent
Angelique Early, Parent
Josh Folb- SPED Parent
Catherine Frum, Teacher
Paine Gronemeyer, Student
Elizabeth Kiker, ES Parent
David McBride, MS Principal
John Mickevics, APS
Commuter

County Appointees

Gillian Burgess (BAC)
John Carten (TAC)
Eric Goodman (PAC)
Harrison Wadsworth (TC)

Staff

John Chadwick, APS – F&O
Kristin Haldeman, APS-MMTP
Lauren Hassel, APS - SRTS
Elizabeth Denton, ACCS -ATP
Jim Larsen, DOT-ACCS
Dennis Leach, DOT- Director
Lynn Rivers, DOT-Transit Bureau
Christine Sherman, DOT-TE&O
Ritch Viola, DOT-Planning
Hui Wang, DOT – TE&O

Public: Randi Cole & James Mills, VA Tech Planning Students

Chair Armstrong welcomed new ACTC member, Harrison Wadsworth, representing the County Transportation Commission.

January minutes were approved.

There were no public comments.

1. Updates:

- a. Carlin Springs improvements** – Christine Sherman (AC-TE&O) provided a progress update on elements of the implementation plan. Several of the short-term recommendations are already completed or are slated to be started in the coming months, including 5th Road curb extensions and widening of the Campbell ES sidewalk (summer). In addition, LED lights are coming but will not be a drastic change in “wattage”/brightness. There are several driveway ramps along Carlin Springs Road that are no longer in use. These gaps will be filled in over the summer; all are within existing right of way so no easements are required. In response to concerns about overgrowth along Carlin Springs Road that were raised the January meeting, Ms. Sherman obtained specific locations and growth has since been trimmed. Dave McBride thanked County staff for addressing this concern.
- b. TDM** – Elizabeth Denton provided an update on Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) activities, including work with students on the Eco-Action team at Discovery Elementary to create posters about active transportation for display in April/Earth Day; their “Multimodal Madness Challenge” promotion for APS staff; and her bicycle-friendly business/BFB schools presentation at the National Bike Summit. She also noted that ATP is supporting National Walking Day activities on Wednesday, April 3.
- c. Safe Routes to School 2019-20 Grant Submission** – Lauren Hassel told the committee that APS will submit its application for a 7th year of SRTS funding from the Virginia Department of

Transportation (VDOT). Per VDOT, priorities for 2019-20 are school buy-in; opportunities to engage students; and community cultivation. APS is proposing the following tasks for SY 2019-20: develop a transportation tool box and safety education resources for all schools; continue system-wide support for annual encouragement events like Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day and Crossing Guard Appreciation Week; coordinate with ACPD, crossing guards and school staff on enforcement activities; administer and evaluate student and parent/family school travel surveys; continue collaboration with County partners around transportation infrastructure and planning; and invest in activities that support sustainability, such as seeking out funding opportunities and participating in the 2019 National Safe Routes to School Conference. The application deadline is March 22, and notifications are expected in mid to late May.

2. Vision Zero for Youth Presentation

Nancy Pullen-Seufert with the Safe Routes to School National Partnership presented to the group on national experience related to [Vision Zero for Youth](#). She opened by noting that nearby jurisdictions including Washington, D.C., Alexandria, VA; Richmond, VA; and Montgomery County, MD have adopted Vision Zero, but Arlington County has not.

Ms. Pullen-Seufert noted that their key findings show that separating modes, speed management, and street crossing protection are the most effective interventions near schools and on campuses to support student safety. In addition, some schools have banned all private vehicle traffic on school campuses. Since we know what works, the challenge is identifying and overcoming what's getting in the way of implementation. She shared a matrix of pedestrian and cyclist countermeasures that could be used as treatments near school and discussed why the need to reduce speed is so urgent.

To do that, Vision Zero for Youth calls for communities to define places where children walk and bike as priorities for safety and tap into the community's shared value for the well-being of children; this is the mission of Vision Zero for Youth. She noted that adopting Vision Zero requires culture change in communities and organizations and Political will/City staff buy-in along with public support.

Ms. Pullen-Seufert shared a series of adaptable resources (i.e., adaptable Mayor's statement) and examples of youth-oriented approaches being undertaken in Vision Zero communities from Los Angeles (where SRTS is core component) to New York City where student engagement and a Vision Zero Youth Council helped focus implementation. The take-away message: Youth engagement is key. She encouraged attendees to check out www.visionzeroforyouth.org and tweet @walkbike2school to connect with more information.

Dennis Leach described "how we got here" and efforts being made in response to growth in the County and in APS student population. He noted that Arlington has one of the lowest pedestrian fatality rates in the region, considering the density of the County and the number of vehicles travelling to and through Arlington daily. He added that some of the communities that have adopted Vision Zero have seen their pedestrian crash and fatality rates increase.

Mr. Armstrong asked about annual number of pedestrian fatalities in U.S. and percentage of youth. Pullen-Seufert said an estimated 6,227 pedestrians were killed in 2018, an increase of 250 from 2017, and about 1 in 5 (20%) of those were youth.

Mr. Armstrong asked whether there are any schools that have banned private vehicles. Ms. Pullen-Seufert indicated that there are no examples in the U.S. but there have been modifications, such as turning a two-way into a one-way street.

Members discussed multiple APS campuses that utilize one-way traffic to limit/control student drop-off and pick-up, including ATS and Washington-Lee, as well as measures being explored at the Career Center and temporary restrictions put in place during construction at Jefferson Middle School.

Other suggestions included establishing remote parking instead of drop-off and pick-up on campus. Parents need an alternative that allows them to choose not to wait in queue. Mr. Armstrong compared parents queuing up in drop-off and pick-up lines at schools to luggage retrieval near conveyor belt at airports.

School buses also comprise drop-off and pick-up activity. Kimberly Wilks reported that there was one accident between a parent car and a school bus last year.

Rose Breyault asked about requesting more police enforcement at arrival and dismissal time. Angelique Early asked how APS determines best routes with lowest speeds and whether it would be possible to add signage along these routes. Kristin Haldeman mentioned that an app to help families decide the route that's best for them would be very helpful.

Nancy Van Doren commented that students should not need signs to figure out their route.

Mr. Leach echoed ACPD Special Operations' assessment that parent drop-offs are "the worst." He also noted that 25 mph is the speed limit on our secondary (neighborhood) street network.

3. Bus Transportation Review Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Ms. Haldeman outlined the plan for stakeholder engagement around the APS Bus Transportation Review project.

External stakeholder opportunities will include:

- Four community-wide workshops (at High School locations (evenings) + centrally located Patrick Henry ES (Saturday AM))
- On-line Questionnaire
- PTA and other school-based meetings
- Pop-ups
- Video
- Advisory Committees (CCPTA, SEPTA, SAB)

Internally, she will speak with bus drivers, principals and athletics/activities coordinators

At the workshops, Ms. Haldeman will first give an APS Transportation 101 presentation followed by Q&A. Participants will then be asked to share at their tables their challenges with the system, as well as any ideas for improving it. Subject matter experts from APS Facilities & Operations (Transportation) and Planning & Evaluation as well as Spanish-speakers/translators will attend the workshops as staff support.

The questionnaire will be offered in English and Spanish, with a possibility of a more open-ended, interview style version for APS' other top language groups. Parents with children in more than one school will be asked to complete a separate questionnaire for each school. We will keep it as short as possible with mostly drop-down menus. The plan is to launch on May 18 and keep open for three weeks, with enough time to add another week depending on response rates.

Topics in the questionnaire include:

- Current use of bus service
- Rank most important elements of bus service
- Feedback on areas in need of improvement
- Feedback on hub stop location criteria
- Support for ART pilot
- Rate operational goals
- PIP feedback

- Demographics

One suggestion for the ART section was to ask 'what would you need to make ART (transit) work for you?' with a drop-down menu of options.

Ms. Haldeman asked for ACTC input about how to request feedback on APS' Pupil Transportation PIP - which is 6 pages long and covers several different topic areas - as part of the questionnaire.

Planned mechanisms for outreach about bus review stakeholder engagement opportunities include:

- Engage website: <https://www.apsva.us/transportation-review/>
- APS Talk
- Ambassadors emails
- APS Tweets
- Possible FB live event

Members said to be sure to include Peachjar flyers and asked if there would also be a student questionnaire. This could be delivered via Canvas through a particular department (e.g. English).

Ms. Haldeman indicated that she may be asking members to test the questionnaires when ready. Finally, she asked members if they could attend one or more of the meetings to serve as subject matter experts for table-top discussions or serve as a Spanish-speaking assistant and promised to send a Sign-Up Genius email for members to indicate their availability.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next meeting:

May 1, 2019

Syphax 354/356, 7-9 pm