

Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC)

June 16, 2021
Approved Minutes

In Attendance: Libby Garvey, Arlington County Board liaison

APS Appointees

Josh Folb- Sp.Ed. Parent,
Chair

Elizabeth Kiker, ES Parent,
Vice Chair

Dave McBride, APS Principal

John Mickevics, APS Staff

County Appointees

Gillian Burgess (BAC)

John Carten (TAC))

Staff

Marcus Gregory. APS -F&O

Kristin Haldeman, APS-MMTP

Lauren Hassel, APS-SRTS

Dennis Leach, DOT, Dir.

Hui Wang, DOT, TE&O

Christine Baker, DOT, TE&O

Jim Larsen, DOT, ACCS

Other attendees:

1. Administrative Items:

- The June 2021 ACTC meeting was held via MS Teams due to the COVID-19 emergency. The meeting was recorded.
- Chair Folb opened the meeting at 7:09 pm with some housekeeping items related to meeting virtually. Chair Folb noted that he hoped the law would continue to allow advisory committees to meet virtually as there is more participation.
- Committee members introduced themselves to Mr. Marcus Gregory, new Asst. Supe. For Facilities & Operations
- The Committee approved minutes from the May meeting.
- SY21-22 meeting dates discussion – esp. Sept.

2. School transportation update

- a. Summer – summer school bus info in ParentVue on 6/30 for school start on 7/6. Several ES programs will be clustered.
- b. Fall –
 - New Directions moving to the same location as Langston HS program next year.
 - New boundaries in place; walk zones being updated to reflect new boundary geographies.
 - Temporary COVID walk zone expansions reverting back to original geographies. Four walk zones were expanded that did not require crossing support: Abingdon, Barrett, Ashlawn, McKinley. Ms. Haldeman evaluating those expansions for permanence. Sent families in those zones a survey about how they travelled during hybrid school vs. 2019-20.
 - Full implementation of hub stops will begin this Fall. We announced them and used some of them during hybrid, but not all due to other routing needs. Ms. Haldeman

reviewed findings on hubs from 2019 study. Noting that parent desire to have stop within 10 mins, means we lose on other measures such as on time performance and length of ride.

- Hubs are in line with what other jurisdictions do for their choice schools; none use neighborhood style stop configurations. Locally, Alexandria and Fairfax both use their elementary schools as hub locations for their choice programs. Families must get their students to that location. We have tried to create a hybrid hub model that offers more stops with multiple ways to access them. Ms. Burgess noted that some families are less concerned with distance and more so with some of the crossings.
- At present APS does not post bus stop maps in public domain for security reasons. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of posting hub stop information. Ms. Burgess said she believes it will help option families make their decision to attend an option school. Mr. Folb and Ms. Kiker also gave their support. Ms. Burgess thanked Ms. Haldeman for the work on hubs and voiced support.

3. Program Updates

a. SRTS

- APS received limited SRTS grant funding.
- WalkArlington received a grant for a 'story walk,' which was installed at Campbell.
- Ms. Hassel handing off all bike unit information to the Health/PE office.
- Working with schools that are moving/opening to help them and their communities get used to their new locations.
- Continuing to work with ACPD to deploy limited crossing guard resources. APS has been doing all it can to help ACPD recruit, but it remains a tough position to fill. Mr. Folb suggested discussing at another ACTC meeting. Mr. Carten noted that his community sent some names over to ACPD. Ms. Garvey suggested contacting the Civic Federation to give a presentation and/or Committee of 100 to help get the word out. She also suggested interviewing some of the crossing guards informally to get their take on the job.

b. Vision Zero

- Christine Baker with TE&O updated the Committee on latest Vision Zero activities that relate to APS. Data-driven automated enforcement (ie speed cameras) in school zones is one key area. Recently awarded grant funding through MWCOG to develop guidelines for placing cameras. In parallel, County staff will work to incorporate this into County code and procure vendors who can do this work. Timeline likely early to mid-2022.
- DES & APS also working together on lowering speeds in school zones – ie a static 20 mph 'slow zone' on roads near schools. This means the lower speeds would be in effect at all times, not just when beacons are flashing. Will pilot in the Fall at some locations. Speed cameras would tie into slow zones.
- Lorcom Lane temp sidewalk currently collecting community feedback. Carlin Springs Rd pilot data collection wrapping up. The point of these pilots is to understand whether or not an application can work. Ms. Haldeman also mentioned the round-about pilot project at Nelly Custis & Military Rd. The June 10 public meeting was very encouraging.

c. TDM Update

- Use Permit TDM condition revisions – Ms. Haldeman is working with County staff on master Transportation Management Plans for schools with Use Permits as well as site specific documents.
- ACCS waiting for state announcements on program spending.
- Ms. Burgess noted that the CIP includes a significant line item to construct a parking garage at The Heights site, which is located in the transit rich Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. TDM can help offset costs like that. Ms. Haldeman added that this project also includes some accessibility needs for the Shriver program.

4. Legislative Update Input

The County Board Chair has asked for advisory committee feedback on three legislative priority areas. Committee discussion:

- More funding for SRTS
- Dedicated funding for transit
- More authority for policy levers that can address traffic violence – e.g., how personal property (e.g., car) tax is implemented to favor safer vehicles
- Micro transit to reach into low density areas
- Transit funding for students – e.g., free transit
 - Mr. Leach reported that there is a new study area looking at free transit.

5. Improving Major Crossings to increase Walk/Bike Access to School

a. 18th St N & N Ohio Drive –

The Committee reviewed this intersection located in the Cardinal ES walk zone. Mr. Leach noted that 18th St N has limited sidewalks on either side, adding that it would make a good NC project. He asked how APS will direct students – will they come along Ohio to Washington Blvd. Ms. Hassel said we'd not yet completed our navigation map but would focus on comfortable walks. Ms. Burgess noted that this road is part of the 18th St bike boulevard and some in the community had raised concerns about this crossing. She thinks families will walk up 18th St., rather than all the way up Ohio to Washington Blvd. Could there be a similar pilot to the one on Lorcom where DOT added the temp sidewalk? Or could there be an application like that on Hayes St near the park and put parking on the outside of a bollard protected lane. Or could parking be restricted to just one side of the street. Ms. Wang said that DOT prefers not to put bollards on neighborhood streets for maintenance reason but can investigate.

Mr. Leach noted that the absence of sidewalks in this area should be reviewed as County policy says that neighborhood streets should have a sidewalk on one side. Staff should start the review with a field investigation and check with other County programs (Complete Streets; NC) to see if there is work planned for this area or what other investigations may be out there. Mr. Leach recognized there are several issues in this area and it will not likely be a quick or inexpensive fix. Ms. Haldeman said APS will be going out to check out the area before school begins to develop the navigation maps.

Mr. Folb thanked the Committee for their participation over the last school year.

* NEXT MEETING: early Sept.