

APS Multimodal Transportation & Student Safety Special Committee
March 19, 2014
Education Center Building
Final

Attendees: Kristin Haldeman, Eric Goodman, Jane Kim-Guthrie, Gillian Burgess, Erik Maskelony, Jack Owens, Nancy Van Doren, Jana Lynott, Lauren Hassel; **APS:** Kevin Reardon, Bob Laws, Kyle Lukas; **County DOT:** Dennis Leach; **Toole Design Group:** Alia Anderson, Jim Elliot

The agenda was accepted and the 3/5 minutes were approved.

Public Comment: No in-person comment; Committee members reported out on PTA and other meetings.

Oakridge (Haldeman, 3/11) – Main concerns are 1) speeding on 23rd and Arlington Ridge – would like to know how far the school zone speed limit extends; 2) traffic problems during drop-off/pick-up – would like to know if certain streets near the school could be designated one-way during these hours to deal with this issue; 3) safety of path between Gunston and Oakridge – parents at bottom would like to use it so kids don't walk on Arlington Ridge, but it is not lit and police notified one parent that it is becoming a hang-out for pot-smokers.

Nottingham/Williamsburg Civic Assoc. (J. Kim/K. Reardon, 3/13) – *Kevin Reardon, APS' Security Officer, introduced himself and provided background on his career as part of this discussion.* Meeting convened by Williamsburg Civic Assoc. to discuss traffic issues/concerns in area in response to the parent fatality at Nottingham, which is still an active investigation. Attendees included staff from several County depts., including County Manager, DES/DOT and Police. More than 100 citizen attendees. Community members raised a number of concerns about traffic safety in the community, particularly with respect to kids walking to school or being dropped-off. Nottingham has very few buses, so many walk. Concerns included construction at Williamsburg and kids' safety during construction. Dennis Leach reported that the intersection of Williamsburg and Kensington will be redesigned and made safer before new ES is built. He also reported that the County has a standing safety meeting with ACPD and will forward the schedule and agendas to K. Reardon. *(Jane and Kevin forwarded more extensive notes to the Committee).*

Swanson (E. Goodman) – Concerns: school staff directing traffic during drop-off in the dark; early start times a safety concern; speeding; supported MMTSSSC recommendations for increasing bus eligibility zones; interested in iRide cards; staff would like secure bike parking facilities.

Special Education Parent meeting (B. Laws, 3/13) – special ed. students continue to experience service delivery problems; parents are very concerned about summer school transportation; parents would like 'late bus calls' in the afternoon as well; parents are not aware of call center.

APS Updates: Kristin updated the committee on the work that will be happening going forward. There is a work session meeting with the school board scheduled on April 22 to discuss MMTSSSC recommendations on bus eligibility distances.

Mr. Reardon reported on his activities as Security Officer. He is also working in facilities with the Safety Officer and Transportation. He covers a variety of issues related to safety and security. He has been looking at Randolph currently. He covers: general security issues; confrontations between individuals, including adults; handling volunteer background checks; radio remediation – police and fire radios do not work in the facilities; evaluation of cameras on the buses; consideration of cameras outside the buses, cameras in the schools, inspections of schools with safety officer, visitor management systems. Mr. Reardon's safety counterpart deals with safety in the schools and sometimes outside the school. Bulk of job of safety counterpart is not on transportation. Risk Officer deals with the liability issues. Meetings between County staff and police occur.

Dennis Leach has to work with 31 principals and tag teams with police. That has been difficult for the County Transportation Department. Will be helpful now to include Mr. Reardon. Monthly transportation safety meeting covers many and varied issues and sometimes includes schools. The safety officer, Dave Roberts, does not come. The risk officer does not come. The security officer does not come.

Dennis noted that there is no dedicated transportation safety person. No one is tasked with this. It falls under the Dept. of Transportation.

Erik M. noted that there is probably a recommendation in that there should be a multimodal transportation safety officer, to include: the maps, assessment of safe routes, and impediments. Gillian mentioned that she hopes the safety or security officer will attend the meetings.

TDM Work Session: Update on existing conditions report, including site and school profiles, and greenhouse emissions, etc., will be posted on APS site soon. Next stage of project is to create goals, objectives, and performance measures for the APS Go! plan. They will form the framework for the entire planning process. They will be used to rate and evaluate strategies of the future stages of the project focused on improving TDM outcomes.

The scope of work includes using Decision Lens software to rank and evaluate objectives and strategies. Will be used as part of this process. There will be a brainstorming process tonight.

Break out into two work groups. 20 minutes on goals and objectives. Twenty minutes on performance measures. Prioritization, as well. Ten minutes of report out from each group. Then next steps.

There was a handout that defined goals, objectives, performance measures, performance targets, and strategies. Goals and objectives will be division wide. It is not part of this plan to create school specific performance plans. The plans will be division-wide.

Toole will use our Transportation Philosophy statement as part of an overall Transportation vision for APS. All the goals, objectives, strategies fall under the overall goal of Transportation Demand

Management. There are two draft themes. Fundamental prerequisites may be goals around safety and equity but they consider them as fundamental principles. There will be performance measures that can be used that are overall performance measures that all the objectives fall under.

TDM project / TDM plan exercise. Toole will provide notes from this session. *(attached)*

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Nancy Van Doren



APS Multimodal Transportation and Student Safety Special Committee

Work Session: APS GO! Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

March 19, 2014

Purpose/Goal of Work Session: Gather MMTSSSC input and ideas for the APS GO! Plan Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

Toole Design Group (TDG) will work with the MMTSSSC members to brainstorm and workshop the Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures for the APS GO! Transportation Demand Management Plan. The Goals and Objectives will serve as the guiding framework for APS GO! and will strongly influence the strategies that are ultimately recommended in the Plan. The Performance Measures will be used to track the school division's progress toward the goals over time, and are thus a critical element of the project.

Process:

1. Intro and Overview - 8 minutes

2. Breakout Work Groups

The Committee will divide in two groups and work for 20 minutes on each of the following topics. Toole Design Group will facilitate and take notes for each group. TDG will provide some draft content for the groups to respond to and will also encourage open brainstorming.

a) Goals and Objectives - 20 minutes

b) Performance Measures - 20 minutes

3. Report Out - 10 minutes

Committee members from each group will share key takeaways and themes.

4. Next Steps - 2 minutes

Note: The following terms can be defined in many ways and may mean different things to different people. For the purposes of this project and to facilitate clear communication between staff, consultants and stakeholders, APS is using the following definitions.

Goals: Broad statements of what APS hopes to achieve as part of this process. Goals are meant to be qualitative and high-level.

Example: APS will maximize the use of transportation options while minimizing driving.

Objectives: Measurable statements that break down goals into focused areas.

Example: Increase the number of students using options other than personal vehicles for school travel.

Performance Measures: Quantifiable statement, used to track progress toward goals, division-wide

Example: Percent of eligible students utilizing bus service.

Performance Targets: Specific quantity for each the performance measure

Example: X% of eligible students regularly riding the bus.

Strategies: Specific actions APS will take (determined in next phase of project)

Example: Distribute walk maps to all students at the beginning of each school year.

Break-Out Group Brainstorming Session - Notes

(In two break-out groups, MMTSSSC members provided feedback on a set of preliminary, “straw man” goals, objectives and performance measures supplied by APS and Toole Design Group, and also brainstormed openly about other themes that should be part of the plan. All ideas were welcome and all comments are included in the notes below. Some issues discussed do not directly relate to transportation demand management and ultimately, the APS GO! Plan will focus on TDM strategies: those that aim to increase transportation choices, improve the efficiency of the transportation system and decrease driving.)

Group A

Eric Goodman

Gillian Burgess

Erik Maskelony

Lauren Hassel

Jane S. Kim

Kyle Lucas

Jim Elliott, TDG (facilitator)

Goals/Objectives

- Safety
- Maintain SRTS
- Improve infrastructure to support safe transportation
- Identify and track infrastructure deficiencies
- Traffic calming near schools
- Community buy-in
- PTA buy-in
- Complaints go down
- Recognition of transportation as a life skill/learning opportunity
- Articulate benefits of TDM, including health benefits and benefits to school system (e.g., academic benefits)
- Integrate TDM into all aspects of operations
- Address all school users, including visitors and others (APS facilities used from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.)
- Align with Arlington County

Performance Measures

- Performance measures should be established by APS facility type (e.g., elementary school, middle school, high school)
- % of students using iRide transit pass rather than #
- % of staff using TDM travel incentive programs rather than #
- % of students taking bus
- % of high school graduates who know how to ride a bike
- % of visitors using modes other than personal vehicle
- % of identified infrastructure issues resolved

- % reduction in safety incidents
- % of PTA's that implement suggested TDM/travel safety measures
- Number of school travel plans developed
- Need metric to measure APS responsiveness to concerns

Strategies

- GPS bus tracking
- Distribute toolkit to PTAs

Group A Report Out: Highlights

- Safety
- Community buy-in
- Plan should address all school users not just students and staff
- Transportation as a life skill and learning opportunity
- Align with Arlington County

Group B

Kristin Haldeman

Nancy Van Doren

Dennis Leach

Jack Owens

Donna Owens

Jana Lynott

Alia Anderson, TDG (facilitator)

Goals/Objectives

- Increasing Transportation Choices/Reducing Demand
 - Reduce congestion around schools
 - Make sustainable transportation choices competitive with regard to time
 - Build a Culture of Sustainable Transportation – broad participation
 - Teach life skills – train students on how to use different transportation modes safely
- Sustaining TDM efforts
 - Institute good planning practices with regard to transportation (use data)
 - Improve bus system, optimize system
 - Develop a long-term plan/business plan for busing
 - Reevaluate routes and bus approach regularly
 - Align Goals and Policy of APS and Arlington County / Collaborate
 - Recognize different schools' potential for sustainable transportation
 - Don't be constrained by how things work now

- In considering increasing partnerships with ART or integrating school and public transit buses, age matters – a 6th grader and 8th grader may have very different abilities for taking a city bus alone. Also there are federal regulations that must be considered.

Performance Measures

- % of students walking and biking
- % of staff walking, biking and ridesharing (carpooling, transit and bike share)
- actual bus ridership vs capacity of buses (buses should run full)
- average trip time to school – students
- reliable (% on time) bus arrivals, with an agreed upon definition of on time
- % eligible students taking the bus
- Have enough drivers and backup drivers (take action to fill all positions)
- Assess SPED and Regular busing integration (potential to save money)
- % students aware of transportation options
- Student views of transportation options (favorable or not)
- % bus drivers trained
- Quality of busing that is offered (measure of complaints)
- Safety

Group B Report Out: Highlights

- Safety
- Align and Collaborate with Arlington County
- Big opportunities with ridesharing amongst staff
- Focus on teaching life skills
- Don't be constrained by how things work now