

**APS Multimodal Transportation & Student Safety Committee**  
**January 8, 2014**  
**Gunston Library**  
**FINAL**

**Attendees:** Kristin Haldeman, Gillian Burgess, Jane Kim-Guthrie, Tim Rosato, Erik Maskelony, Ronna Weber, Aja Sae-Kung, Nancy Van Doren, Lauren Hassel, Jack Owens; **APS:** John Chadwick, Bob Laws, Meg Tucillo, Kyle Lukacs; **Arlington County DOT:** Dennis Leach

Agenda and minutes from 12/18/13, as edited, were approved.

**Public Comment:** Jane Kim summarized feedback from the Nottingham PTA meeting she attended that week. Student safety during pick-up and drop-off is their main concern. Parents wish more kids could and would ride the bus. Attendees also noted there is quite a bit of speeding on adjacent roads. Feeling is that there are too many cars coming to school. APS staff noted that they are working with the school to address some of the issues.

**SRTS Activities and Program Plan Update:** In order to apply for non-infrastructure safe routes to school funding, Arlington Public Schools must have an Activities and Program Plan. Kyle Lukacs presented the Committee the highlights of the short- medium- and long-term SRTS Program recommendations for education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation. The full document is posted on the APS SRTS website and must be submitted to the State (VDOT) by Jan 24, 2014. Any comments should be back to Kyle by the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Education – Kyle is attending a NHTSA Pedestrian Safety Train the Trainer event and devising ‘show and tell’ events for parents. Committee members recommended he introduce his curriculum based ideas/plans to the School Board’s Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI).
- Encouragement – APS received a VDOT ‘quick start’ mini-grant for \$1,000. He is planning to purchase bike seat covers. Kyle also would like to mimic DC’s ‘golden bicycle’ award to promote competition on Bike to School day. The plan also calls for developing a toolkit to institutionalize school-level SRTS teams.
- Enforcement – Improve school zone safety by identifying problem areas. Increase police presence during drop-off and pick up.
- Evaluation – Plan to improve tally count data collection ; make it more interactive. Pilot this spring. For monitoring school travel behavior, Kyle is using a VDOT form, which is good for collecting consistent data. He’s also interested in piloting ‘Boltage’ – an RFID tracking app for monitoring student travel by mode; has potential for long-term integration with school ID program.

Dennis Leach noted that the program should take credit for doing a systemwide student and staff travel survey. Other recommendations included: ‘short-term’ success section should be included; short-term recs should be more specific; mention staff training in addition to crossing guard training.

**Policy Discussion:** Nancy Van Doren brought to the Committee’s attention a situation with a Jefferson Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade student who lives about 1.2 miles from the school and must cross Columbia Pike and S. George Mason Dr. to get to school. Her family had requested courtesy busing, but was denied because her bus was too crowded. John Chadwick provided background on the situation, noting that

the bus was well over capacity and carrying about 20 more students than it should be. He told the Committee that Transportation staff and the school principal would be taking the names of the students on the bus and notifying those who were ineligible for the bus by letter.

Committee members reacted to this plan with great concern. Several noted that this was unacceptable - asking why other alternatives were not being considered, especially given the extremely cold weather. An intense discussion ensued for the remainder of the meeting about issues associated with courtesy busing, such as equity and the administrative burden of adding a 4<sup>th</sup> layer of busing to an already complicated bus system, as well as APS' response to this particular situation. Dennis Leach offered County assistance with this matter.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.