

Arlington Public Schools Multimodal Transportation Committee
October 2, 2013
Final Minutes

Attendees: Eric Goodman, Jane Kim-Guthrie, Kristin Haldeman, Jack Owens, Nancy Van Doren, Erik Maskelony, Lauren Hassel, Dennis Leach, Gillian Burgess, Ronna Weber.

APS Staff: Scott Prisco, Robert Laws, Kyle Lukacs, Cintia Johnson

Guests: Ms. Limo (observer), Doug Greenhaus (BAC liaison), and Donna Owens.

Absent: Aja Sae-Kung, Jana Lynott, Ellen Smith, Tim Rosato, Robert Hindman, Eli Spiliotopolis

Call to Order, Accept Agenda, Approve 6/13, 6/25, 9/2 Minutes

The agenda was approved.

Minutes were also approved for 6/13, 6/25, and 9/2.

No public comment.

APS Update

The new Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, Kyle Lukacs, introduced himself. His goal is to increase the number of kids who bike and walk to school and to encourage safety. He is also looking at ways to increase the number of walking school buses. He will also look at bike and walk safety training to help the Physical Education teachers with their curriculum and classes. He will build the network of Arlington Public Schools people who are interested in safe routes to school. He is doing entry and release observations. He did one observation at Glebe.

Review Parent Surveys

Toole Design (TDG) was not present to review the surveys. Scott Prisco and Kristin Haldeman lead the discussion. The committee members provided feedback about the survey. Scott Prisco explained how he is working with APS Planning & Evaluation to design the TDM survey of the entire school system, including students, parents, staff, and visitors.

However, the committee questioned/suggested:

- 1) The sampling at 11-12 grade will only be of students not parents. It was suggested that parents be surveyed.
- 2) There needs to be clarity about whether or not the transportation provided by APS is delineated in an IEP or a 504, which is not captured by simply asking if the child is special needs (some special needs kids do not have specialized transportation).

- 3) In the current draft, parents who have more than one child in APS only answer the survey for one child. Committee members suggested that families be given the option to fill out the survey for all their children in the APS system.
- 4) The survey does not distinguish between courtesy and regular busers when asking if a child is eligible for bus service.
- 5) Need to clarify distance options in the question regarding how far a child walks to school. Suggestion was to use national survey model question.
- 6) Consider using more of the national survey model questions rather than the re-designed questions created for this survey.
- 7) On the question of demographics, use the standard language used in APS surveys.
- 8) Need to be clear about what languages the survey will be in. May need to state that the demographic info is voluntary.
- 9) The current plan anticipates that the survey will only be given on-line. Committee members expressed concern that some populations may not be reached that way.

Kristin asked that if Committee members had additional comments on the parent survey, or others, to please have them to her this weekend. She will compile and send to APS/TDG on Monday.

Philosophy Development Exercise

Committee members were asked to suggest words regarding the philosophy and go through a ranking exercise. Members were asked to check the top 3. Kristin will ask absent members to weigh in as well, and bring back a draft for consideration using the words of greatest interest. Erik M. and Gillian will assist.

Safety (7)
Options not mandates (1)
Choice (6)
Sustainable
Aligned with county priorities
Active (1)
Health (2)
Smart (1)
Smart and Sustainable (1)
Convenient (1)
Part of the School Day (1)
Easy (1)
Accessible (1)
Partnership
Meet community needs
Holistic
Equitable (3)
Multimodal

Responsive to community needs (1)
Maximizing resources
Efficient (3)
Transparent
Clear
Outreach
Evolving
Congestion mitigation
Affordable
Comprehensive solution

Review Outreach Plan

Gillian is working out who has what school as a liaison assignment.

Discussion was then held regarding where we would hold our second meeting of each month. The idea is to hold the meetings at various locations around the county. Countywide location, one metro accessible, and others were discussed. Additionally, Kristin mentioned the three APS Information nights (Kindergarten, MS, HS) as opportunities for Committee members to obtain feedback from the APS community.

Eric Goodman commented that he felt that Safety First was missing from the talking points. He suggested that the talks with PTAs should align with the power point report. However, given limited time likely available, and the desire to obtain feedback, rather than Committee members 'lecture,' Committee members agreed that creating a one-pager with background information that could be handed out or sent would be most helpful.

Discussion then ensued about the visits with PTAs, how long a Transportation item might take, and how long a conversation would take.

Adjourn