AA County Safe Routes to Schools - Edgewater ES (2023-10-17 18:02 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

Ayden Cohen, Ayden Cohen's Presentation, Dave Moncrief, James Vanhorn, Pixies Favorite, Tanya Asman

Transcript

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Dave Moncrief: All Welcome Thanks everyone for your patience. And for being here this evening. We're going to go ahead and get on our way. I want to thank everyone for joining us this evening for the Anne Arundel County Department of Virtual open public meeting or safe routes to school at Sensibility Studies. A night focusing on Edgewater Elementary School. We have seen a fair bit of interest in this project particularly for this school. We had a higher response rate on the parent surveys so we are excited to discuss this project. before we get too far, I don't want to introduce those on the county's project team who are here this evening. My name is David Moncrief. I am standing in for Adam Greenstein, who's the dpw project manager for the Safe Routes of school project?

Dave Moncrief: We are given this presentation to 17 different schools this month and I have agreed to fill in for Adam for about half of this presentation's to give them a few things with his family. So what I'm going to do is introduce the groups that represented here this evening and then when we get in the Q&A, those individuals can introduce themselves. If they are the most appropriate party to answer the questions, But I do want to get the presentation under way, so joining us tonight. From other divisions within our county. A public works, is a representation from you also transportation. And also joining us tonight is a member of our DPW consultant team from tool design. hopefully joining us soon. Will be somebody from the most important partner which is Anne around county public schools.

Dave Moncrief: We'll give them a few minutes and hopefully they'll be on.

Dave Moncrief: So in addition to our introductions, we want to go over some of the goals for the meeting. They're not showing on the slide but there are a couple of things. We're not planning this evening to discuss much in the way of location specific issues. Really, The goal tonight is to cover high level issues, procedure and process, and guidance for your review, the full accessibility study, the report, where you can find it and how to provide feedback etc.

Dave Moncrief: So most importantly following this meeting you can send comments to Adam. His contact information is shown on the screen. You can also call him or reach out I'm sorry. you can call him or send them an email. When you are sending comments via email, Please include the most specific information that you can including the full school name, either in the subject line, or in the body to email include things, such as photos maps, graphics, etc, within the email to make us more aware of the situation and specifically, call out what you think. Could be improved upon. We have, as I said, 17 of these schools. So, if you just put the school name without a street name, etc, it may be difficult for us to track

down what you are specifically referring to. So as much information as possible when you do reach out to Adam is helpful.

Dave Moncrief: We are officially accepting public comments. For this study until November 5th, which is approximately a week and a half, after this series of meetings ends for all the schools, that doesn't mean that we're closing the lines of communication at that time. But it does mean that we do have to put a stop to the extent of comments that are provided within the study since we will be posting responses to all the questions on our website.

Dave Moncrief: So, just a few housekeeping items. This meeting is set up as a webinar. So if you're not a member of the project team and you're coming from the community, you're in view-only mode, which means you will remain muted with your cameras off through duration of the meeting. But you can use the Q&A future which is the primary function, we use during the meeting for you, to provide feedback. If you're logging in to Google me on a Web browser, on a computer, you can use the Activities button which is In the middle of the page there by the triangle square and circle. That's at the bottom right hand side of your screen so you would click on that and then click on Q&A. And then click on Ask a Question. If you're using Google Meet on a mobile phone, you would first have to select three dots on your screen and then the Activities buttons and then those three shut shapes and then Q&A.

Dave Moncrief: So, it's important that as you think of things during the presentation questions, etc, as they come up to submit those during the presentation. So if we get to the end and there's several of them, we can get to them and potentially route them to the appropriate person. To give the most appropriate response.

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Dave Moncrief: If you are joining us via call tonight, unfortunately, you will not have the option to submit a question, via the Q&A feature. And obviously, you don't have the Visa visual presentation in front of you. We apologize for that, but you can't contact Adam Greenstein via the information that was provided with the public notification and we will be happy to provide a copy of this. It'll also be available on the website. So as I mentioned earlier, this meeting is being recorded. So we want to make sure that folks, who can't join tonight can still participate in the process of Getting this information and get the same guidance. In case your schedules didn't work for them.

Dave Moncrief: The audio video recording in addition to the transcription and a summary of the Q&A for questions received at the meeting. And after the meeting will be posted to the project web page that is available via the link. Shown on the page, the tinyurl slash srts, AA County, URL certain on the page, that'll direct you to the county web page. So, all that information will be there in a single repository for all 17 schools that were covering as part of this. If you do need translation services, they are available by request. We're still determining how to do that, most effectively, but if you have a specific request, please, feel free to reach out to us. And if you need assistance, we'll be happy to help by translating any specific item that you're asking for.

Dave Moncrief: With all that being said, I'm going to turn it over to Ayden Lambert. Who's a project manager with our consultant tool design to go through the remainder of the presentation this evening.

Ayden Cohen: Thanks Welcome to the Edgewater Elementary School virtual meeting. We really appreciate you all taking Out of your busy, evenings to join The goal tonight is to give you an overview of the safe routes to School accessibility project and orient you to Edgewater's report. As Dave already

mentioned, We won't be reviewing specific information and recommendations, it's just way too much detail to review in one call but full reports are posted on the county's website. We'll start with an overview of the project. Anne Arundel County and Anne, Arundel, County Public Schools or partnering on safe routes, to school accessibility studies at 17 schools across the county. The schools were previously identified and move in Arundel. The county's transportation functional master, plan and studies are being overseen by a project management team. Consisting of county state, and school district representatives, Between October 24th 2022 in February 8th of this year. Consultants staff from my firm pool design.

Ayden Cohen: Conducted a one-day site, visit to each school, to observe school, arrival, and dismissal, and to assess the existing walking and bicycling infrastructure. The studies focus on infrastructure within the school walk zone, but also assessed other opportunities within the attendance area to expand, active transportation to school. The overall goal of the project is to improve safety and transportation choices for all residents.

Ayden Cohen: Edgewater's report summarizes existing conditions and makes recommendations for added infrastructure education or encouragement programs to increase the number of children that can safely walk or ride bikes to school. It's based off the site, visit conducted on February 2nd of this year. Parent surveys were also administered by the school district at the start of this year to obtain Reported travel modes to school and reported barriers to walking or bicycling.

Ayden Cohen: The report contains eight sections. Tonight's presentation will orient you to the general content contained in each but to view the full report and provide input. Please visit the Anne Arundel County Web page shown on the screen. The School Overview section defines the project study area fieldwork was conducted on roads, within a half. Mile of the school. A desk level review was conducted on roads within a one-mile radius of the school that fall within the school attendance area. The section of the report provides school attendance and enrollment information at the time of study as provided by the school, district it describes, the school layout and location. And then it finally provides an overview of how walkers bicyclists school, buses, parent, and staff vehicles. That's the school grounds. The parent reported student travel modes and barriers sections summarizes key findings from the parent survey, including parent, reported distance from home to school school, bus eligibility and use

Ayden Cohen: Most common ideal travel motor school, barriers to walking or biking to school and streets. Used to walk or bike to school. However, it's important to note that for most schools, the survey response rates represent a fraction of the student population. We acknowledge that they may not reflect the experiences and perspectives of all families. This information was simply used to supplement information received during observations and from the school directly for edgewater, we received 40 total survey responses.

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Ayden Cohen: The Arrival and Dismissal Observation section provides an overview of arrival. And dismissal operations is reported by A summary of the general observations made by our team and a summary of specific arrival and dismissal observations by each travel mode, which includes walkers and bicyclists school bus and parents driving our observations focused on behaviors conflicts, in general accounts of all travel modes and inform how the various travel modes function and interact within the existing infrastructure.

Ayden Cohen: The Existing Infrastructure. Conditions section provides maps in a brief description of existing Mark crosswalks 88 compliant curb rams and existing plan or program honored by facilities

regional park trails and paths based on GIS data provided by the county at the start of the project. This information serves as a baseline of source for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Ayden Cohen: The reports also summarize, five years of crash data to assess the total number of crashes, within a one-mile radius of the school. And how many of those involved pedestrians or viceless? The crash summary also includes the number of pedestrian and bicycle crashes within the school walk zone.

Ayden Cohen: The Infrastructure Recommendation section includes both a map to visualize the location and type of recommendation and a table that provides additional detail On the map recommendations within the school. Walks on are identified by numbers and recommendations that fall outside of the school. Walk zone are identified by letters. The map distinguishes between spot recommendation such as it is specific intersection or crossing and then segment recommendations such as sidewalks or corridors needing speed management. It also color codes recommendations by type of recommendation All recommendations in the plans, aim to improve safety and accessibility for students to walk and bike to school, including measures to reduce vehicle speeds, address conflicts between pedestrians or bicyclists and drivers and provide fully accessible, sidewalks and Crossings As able the plans acknowledge other projects within the study area. But the county will confirm the approach to implementing recommendations to ensure they align with other projects as necessary.

Ayden Cohen: A quick orientation to the table. Map ID corresponds to the numbers or letters on the recommendations map. In addition to defining the specific location of the recommendation, the location column also describes possible significance, such as whether it's inside the schools zone or along a key student walking or bicycling room keywords for identified based on information received from school administration parent, surveys in school observations. Facility type provides. The general category of the recommendation such as sidewalk crosswalk, curb ramp, etc. the issue and recommendation columns, provide details on identified issues in specific treatment recommendations Potential costs listed in the table, reflect a planning level cost estimate. As details related to construction, can't be determined until the method of implementation for proposed improvements is confirmed.

Ayden Cohen: Time frame reflects general project, feasibility or complexity that can help to inform implementation decisions. This is not an indication of the county's Time frame for implementation. Again, we've only provided a snapshot of the recommendations table to view the full report and provide input. Please, visit the county's website.

Ayden Cohen: Each school report also includes education encouragement and enforcement, and evaluation recommendations to help the schools, improve awareness and knowledge of safe practices, reinforce safe, behaviors and courage, travel mode changes and establish a culture of walking and bicycling to school. Finally. Each report closes with an appendix containing photos that correspond with each recommendation, map id, these photos document the existing conditions which can help to explain the issue and recommendation.

Ayden Cohen: Following this meeting, the county The prioritize list of recommendations prioritization will be based on an assessment of potential safety impact, potential demand, which is how many people are likely to benefit and potential to benefit vulnerable populations as well as feasibility cost and Implementation timeline and funding source will be based on the type of recommendation, for example, shorter term recommendations. Maybe more feasible for low cost or quick hit operations or maintenance recommendations, such as signs pavement, markings or vegetation trimming that have an existing

dedicated funding stream. Longer term implementation is required for Projects such as new sidewalks that require funding from the county's capital improvement program Schedule for any actions. After studies are completed has yet to be determined.

Ayden Cohen: Again reports are posted on the county's, website information on how to provide input is included there. And also provided on the screen But if you've any general process questions, we can aim to answer them. Now please submit them using the Q&A function, provided on your screen.

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Dave Moncrief: Thank you, den. So, before we get into the Q&A, I just want to recommend that if you have a location specific comments that you reach out to Adam directly, it is a little bit difficult, given the nature of the Q&A.

Dave Moncrief: That were you utilizing for these webinars to be able to provide explicit detail on different locations and it is very helpful for us to be able to document the people that they're coming from and make sure that we're including those questions and comments as part of the study and it's final form. So I'm gonna Open up the Q&A now and go ahead and take a look. Okay, so we have a

Dave Moncrief: Item here submitted by Pixies which has a picture of a cat stuff. I Don't know who you are, but Pixies favorite it says. Did anyone consult with the people who live in the area behind Edgewater Elementary School? Where usually at the mercy of the school and would like to be part of any discussions, impacting the neighborhood So this project in particular so far has not included a public mailing as part of the services that we're providing under this study, it did include the parent, surveys as well as the notifications. That went out via the public school systems, as we targeted the parents and students for feedback specific to the areas that they have concerns about why they commute to school or have the potential to community school on. I will say that based off of the recommendations

Dave Moncrief: there are some of the items which would be implemented hopefully within the next year that are very simple items such as striping and signage, which would not necessarily include a large public outreach for, but if there is a Opportunity for a large improvement such as a sidewalk etc. Which would impact the residents then that would be formed through our Capital Improvement Project program and that would necessitate both mailings to people within 300 feet and two public meetings at you just various design stages of the capital improvement project. Tanya did you want to add something?

Tanya Asman: Yeah, hi. This is Tanya Asman, with the General County Office of Transportation. I'm a senior planner in charge of bicycle and pedestrian planning. And I wanted to point out that this actual public outreach right now is your chance to give us feedback. We have been at other schools and we've heard from the residents there that didn't necessarily have school age children in the elementary schools and we value that input. and understand that what happens at the school affects more than just the school children. So I would encourage you if you have any issues to Dave has said reach out to Adam at the input website, that's provided on the screen now. And you have until November 5th.

Dave Moncrief: Alright, so thank you, Tanya, I appreciate that. I posted the link for the specific study in the chat, which you should have available to you. Also, you can utilize the URL. That's shown on the final slide. Here, the tinyurl that com slash Srts, AA County If you go down and you look at the Edgewater Elementary Schools study, it has summarized a specific list of recommendations. That would be hopefully implemented over.

Dave Moncrief: Various methods and timelines and maybe not all of them. So that's important that we receive your feedback because you might say, Hey you really don't need sidewalk there. The kids really need to cut through this location. This particular school actually has a lot of real estate that Parallels open road and has the potential for various locations. That could be better serving the elementary schools. So we do recommend that you reach out specifically with any specific concerns regarding the study and email those to Adam. So I'm going to leave the Q&A open for another couple minutes. We haven't received any more comments at this time, but if you do have additional comments or want to initiate something new, please do so now. Thank you.

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Dave Moncrief: All Thank you everyone for joining us this evening. I apologize. last second Q&A came in. From James Vanhorn. So we will dress that are certain areas in the current non-walking plan reasonably going to be added to the walking plan. I asked because of The M Recommendation. This is great need for sidewalk for the school. To at least Edgewater Park. At the time of the assessments. So we'll address the first one from James Vanhorn. So this study focused primarily on improving the current walking areas but also potentially expanding upon the walking areas with potential recommendations, they're always exist the opportunity in the future for the walking area to be

Dave Moncrief: Improved upon or implemented to a greater extent. And as you've seen over the past couple years, with the busing situation in Enroll County, there is definitely an incentive to try to get more people to walk and bike to school. So, please take a look at the report if there's a specific request About a particular section of sidewalk again. Please contact there's the potential that it gets expanded in the future. Unfortunately, we don't have anybody from schools on tonight to discuss that Tony further degree. But that was part of the study to look at any potential areas that we could approve on. So,

Tanya Asman: And to add This is Tanya again. Yes, I've very much value that input because that is definitely one thing we want to hear from the public on where, you guys live there. You see the walking patterns for the kids. So if you have any input on expanding the walk zone, please provide that thank you.

Dave Moncrief: Okay, Pixies. Favorite says, at the time of the assessment on site, did anyone take notice of the dangerous situation created by Parent, cars lining up and blocking the road. I'm gonna be completely honest here. I wasn't part of the assessment on state, and I did not have a chance to look at the study. So, Tanya, do you know specifically this look? something that was addressed.

Tanya Asman: I see Ayden may want to answer this.

Dave Moncrief: Hey.

Ayden Cohen: He always gonna say I was at the Edgewater site visit so I can just say, that's One of the things that we took into account is, when it does impact the safety of the kids walking and biking to school, we are looking at those locations. Especially I think it's on the south end of the school or whatever the pathway is, but if you want to provide further detail on that if there's anything that you didn't see in the report, you can also reach out to Adam.

Dave Moncrief: And I will say that it's not something that's unique to this school that is a common theme that we've seen throughout all these projects. So it's something that we will go back and take a look at more closely in terms of providing Better potential locations for drop-off pickup etc, in order to alleviate traffic concerns, which ultimately also increases the safety and walkability of these areas.

Dave Moncrief: Okay.

Dave Moncrief: apologize here, get back to the Q and I Changed. Vanhorn says, there's currently new sidewalk directly in front of the school.

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Dave Moncrief: Thank you, James, for your observation and your comment. That is one of the recommendations for implementation as part of the study timeline for that. Again, is to be determined, but that is definitely one of the areas that could be focused on for improvement.

Dave Moncrief: I did pull up the study. That is definitely one of the recommendations that is Within the study is implement, sidewalk. Along the entire front of the school, including improvements to the schools, and signs, and pavement markings. On Washington Road and Maryland Way.

Dave Moncrief: I'll be the Q&A for a few more minutes if you guys have any more. comments, you want to provide I will leave it open for a few more minutes. Thank you.

Dave Moncrief: So, just really a couple of things comments to be included within the public A response period for this. Project are to be submitted by November 5th. And when you do that, they will be included both in the public repository provided on the website and in the final report that's provided to the county for everyone limitation of the various recommendations, as far as the improvements around the school. Some of them are probably going to be scheduled very soon such as striking, restriping There are deficient from just general maintenance such as

Dave Moncrief: Vegetation trimming etc the create more line of sight for cars but the recommendations that would require decaded capital improvement funding are longer term. We are seeking grant funding as well as accounting dedicated funding for future implementation of those types of improvements and they would be obviously put through the capital improvement projects process which includes public notification and multiple meetings when we get to that point. So we do have one more Q&A. From Pixies. Favorite it says How about a sidewalk down to the ball field entrance?

Dave Moncrief: I think that what you're referring to is a sidewalk on Maryland way down to the ball field potentially off of the back entrance.

Dave Moncrief: This is kind of one of the downfalls of the Q&A processes that we don't have the ability to interact with you. But I will say that the recommendations that are provided in the report do seem to have a network that provides opportunity to get to both of those locations. Great. Thank you Pixies favorite. Yes. So that if you pull the report which I actually dropped in the chat, Two times and I can do it again here. Now, you can take a look at the recommendations that are provided in that report and briefly if you want to.

Dave Moncrief: Take a look at it and then providing additional input to abergreen stein, be email, that would probably be the most helpful even if you want to take a plan, mark it up. Hey, I think there should be Reiterate, something that's in the study and put an emphasis on it because of a specific need. Hey, the kid walk here after school. there should be a sidewalk, for instance. I don't know. The group of kids go there. That would be very helpful, so Thank you.

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Dave Moncrief: All right, I appreciate everybody being with us tonight and for your input. As we discussed earlier, please reach out to Adam with any additional comments. Thank you for your time tonight. I'm going to end the recording and the meeting. Now.

Tanya Asman: Thank you.

Meeting ended after 00:31:09 👋 ✊