

AA County Safe Routes to Schools - Crofton Meadows ES (2023-10-12 19:01 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

Adam Greenstein, Diane Lambert, Diane Lambert's Presentation, Molly Porter, Sheilah Bradley, Tanya Asman

Transcript

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Adam Greenstein: Good evening everyone. And thank you for joining us this evening. My name is Adam Greenstein. I'm a project manager with the Animal County Department of Public Works this evening. As you can see on the screen here, we will be talking about our safe routes to schools in Dpw conducting accessibility studies. And for this meeting will be for Crofton Meadows. Elementary School. We're here this evening with members of our project team and I'll go over the groups who are represented tonight when we get to a Q&A later in the

Adam Greenstein: later in this call we can introduce them by name in case. We've got any specific questions that they can answer. But we want everyone here from the community to understand who's being represented, who can be here to help you. So, I represent the County Dpw Bureau of Engineering as the project manager, and we also have Representative Office of Transportation. The County Dpw's Engineering Consultant Tool design and then representation from the Maryland, State Highway Administration as a valuable partner in this project between grant funding for the project and for some schools impacts for transportation on state maintain roadways. We were hoping to have members from other bureaus within the Department of Public Works, but they were able to join this evening. Also we believe we ran into some issues or conflicts with staff, from Anne Arundel, County Public Schools. But the purpose of this public outreach process is that you have a line of communication to one, even if they're not here this

Adam Greenstein: So we will share contact information and if there's a question for public schools staff that they can answer better than we can, we will share that with them and make sure everyone gets the answers that they need to the greatest level of detail possible. Next slide, please Diane. Thanks so much wanted to go over some goals for this evening and some housekeeping items.

Adam Greenstein: From the goals perspective. Tonight, we're not going to be discussing much in terms of locations Specific issues. At the school will be showing some information on the screen but just more of a reference. So you can get your bearings on the studies. If questions or comments come up during the meeting that our location specific, we will commit to answering them in writing and provide a compiled repository of our responses on the Project Web page where you can see the URL on the screen. If it's something that's location, specific to the whole school area that walk zone, the entire attendance area, something like that. Depending on the nature of the question or the comment, we can discuss it briefly,

otherwise, it's probably best answered offline, but we will do our best to answer every question and comment that comes our way for every school in this project.

Adam Greenstein: You can send us comments using the contents information. Shown on the screen. That's me. It's my email address and my phone number reach out anytime. If you do send information by email, we strongly encourage you to write out the full school name in the subject line and in the body of the email just to make sure it's abundantly clear which school you're concerned about because we are looking at 17 elementary schools in this project for accessibility studies. It's extra valuable for us. If you have photos maps, graphics, anything like that. And as much detail and specificity as you can provide about the location and the issue of your concern and that will enable us to respond and provide the best valuable response to you. We will be leaving the public comment period for this project open until November 5th.

Adam Greenstein: If you have comments or questions that come to mind after that, period, we will certainly save everything in our records. The only difference is it's a matter of how we take into account that feedback for moving forward, with implementing some of the recommendations coming out of this effort. Just making sure that's more of the formal process will be dedicate that time. So everyone has a chance to provide some input and inform our decision making process versus just more general feedback. But there's always a line of communication open that we'd love to have between the communities and the county Department of Works public schools. Patient and the state as well.

Adam Greenstein: On the housekeeping side, this is a view only method of Google Meet or rather format of Google Meet my apologies. So, if you're not a member of our project team where you can see me and a couple of other folks here, you'll be muted with your cameras off this evening. But you can use our Q&A feature to provide feedback. If you click the Activity button, which is what you see on the bottom of right hand, part of the slide there, it's the three shades triangle square and circle and then click that click the Q&A.

Adam Greenstein: And then click Ask a Question. If you're joining us on a mobile phone using a browser or the Google Meet app, the only extra step is the first thing you do is select the three dots on your screen On Your view there and then follow the same steps. Accordingly, if you're dialing in this evening audio only, unfortunately we can't provide visuals. We can't allow you to use the Q&A feature but our project Web page which was sent out in the distribution to all families. For this series of meetings is available there and also includes my content information. in case you can't see that on the screen this evening. If you are dialing in, we're happy to take your comments offline. If you wish to ask a question anonymously, you're welcome to do. So once you get to the human pod and you click Ask a Question and the dialog box comes up, you can select the checkbox for post anonymously. We'd love to share who you are when you're asking questions to know more about where in the community you live but it's totally up to you.

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Adam Greenstein: This meeting is being recorded. So we will provide an audio video recording including these slides. Our lovely faces PDFs of All this information, a written record of the questions and a transcript, that'll all be posted to the project web page. Hopefully within the next couple of business days. Once we get a chance to review everything to make sure it's good for additional public consumption. We will also post responses to questions and comments, but that's probably going to be in a single repository for all schools after the public comment period closes. And we have a chance to review everything and discuss As far as cameras and audio for our team, we've been dealing with some Internet issues, across

the board and different locations today. So we will do our best to keep our cameras on. But if we run into any issues, we may turn them off. It is our typical practice to be able to show to you. You are while we're speaking, but if we run into issues we will let you know and make that abundantly clear.

Adam Greenstein: If you do need translation services, they are available by request. We are still determining the feasibility of how we can translate content after the meeting, but if you're here this evening and you do need translation assistance, you can use the closed caption. Function, which is the CC button on the bottom of your screen. Or if you are on a mobile device, you can use the three dots, and then hit the Captions button. Make sure that you selected the meetings being conducted in English, the language being spoken this evening. But then you can select the language of your choice for captions in whatever other language works best for you.

Adam Greenstein: Although you might have seen back to back meetings this evening, on the notice, which you would think would be an hour, each our plan is to, and tonight's meeting between 7:45 and 7:50 PM. Although this is the second of back to Mac meetings. The first one that we had also ended around that time to give our team, a chance to stretch Biobreak, refresh and be ready for you this evening. So we're in good shape to discuss all this content with you, but we want to make sure every school community gets the same treatment. It is given a fair opportunity to communicate with us and learn some of this information. So we'll be planning to end no later than 7. 35 or 750 this evening, depending on the extent of feedback in the Q&A pod, With that being said, I'm going to turn it over to Diane Lambert with tool design to continue on with the presentation.

Diane Lambert: Thank you, Adam. Hi everyone. And apologies. I am one of those who is having Internet issues. So in the hopes of preventing further technical difficulties, I'm going to go ahead and turn my camera off while I'm So, welcome to Crofton Meadows. Virtual meeting, we appreciate you all taking time, out of your busy evening, to join us tonight. Our goal is to give you an overview of the Safer to School Accessibility project and to orient you to Crofton Meadows report. As Adam just mentioned, we won't be reviewing specific information and recommendations. It's just too much to review but for reports are posted on the county's website.

Diane Lambert: We'll start with an overview of the project. Anne Arundel County and Anne, Arundel County Public Schools are partnering on safe, routes to schools accessibility studies at 17 schools across the county. The schools were previously identified in Move and Arundel, which is the county's transportation functional. Master plan studies are being overseen by a project management team. Consisting of county state, and school district representatives,

Diane Lambert: Between October 24th of last year and February 8th of this year. Consultants from my firm Tool Design group conducted a one-day site visit to observe school, arrival and dismissal and to assess existing walking and bicycling infrastructure. The studies focused on infrastructure within the school walk zone. But also assessed other opportunities within the Fuller School, attendance area, to expand active transportation to school, and the overall goal of the project is to improve safety and transportation choices for all residents.

Diane Lambert: Crofton Meadows is report has summarizes existing conditions and makes recommendations for added infrastructure education or encouragement programs to increase the number of children that could safely walk or ride bikes to school. It is based on a site visit that we conducted on November 15th of 2022 and parent surveys were also administered by the school district at the start of this calendar year to obtain Reported travel modes to school and reported barriers to walking

or bicycling. The report contains eight sections. Tonight's presentation will orient you to the general content contained in each. But again, to view the full report and provide input. Please visit the Anne Arundel County Web page shown on the screen.

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Diane Lambert: So the School Overview section actually does a few things, it defines the project study area and fieldwork was conducted on Roads, within a half mile of the school and desk level review was conducted on roads within a one-mile radius of the school that fall within the school attendance area. This section also provides a school attendance and enrollment information at the time of the study as provided by the school, district it describes, the school location and layout. And it provides an overview of how walkers bicyclists school buses and parents and staff vehicles access the school grounds.

Diane Lambert: The parent reported Student Travel Modes and Barrier section summarizes key findings from that parent survey that I mentioned including parent, reported distance from home to School bus eligibility and use most common travel mode to school ideal travel mode, to school, barriers to walking, or biking to school and streets, used to walking or biking to school. If in fact, those were travel modes that were identified by the parents, However, it is important to note that for most schools, the survey response rate represents a fraction of the student population. And we acknowledge that they may not be reflective of the experiences and perspectives of all families. So, this information was simply used to supplement information that we received during our observations and from the school directly and for Crofton Meadows, 41 Parent survey responses received

Diane Lambert: The Arrival and Dismissal Observation section provides an overview of arrival and dismissal operations as reported by the school. But it also provides a summary of general observations made by our consultant team and a summary of specific arrival and dismissal observations by each travel mode. So walkers bicyclists school bus and parents driving Our observations focused on behaviors conflicts and general accounts of all travel modes, which generally just help to inform how the various travel modes function and interact within the existing infrastructure.

Diane Lambert: The existing Infrastructure. Conditions section provides maps and a brief description of existing sidewalks mark Crosswalks ADA compliant curb ramps and existing planned or programmed, on-road bike facilities, regional trails park trails and paths. All of this is based on GIS data. That was provided by the county at the start of the project. And this information serves as a baseline of sorts for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Diane Lambert: The report also summarizes 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 bicyclists? The crash summary. Also includes the number of pedestrian and bicyclists crashes within the school walk zone.

Diane Lambert: All recommendations in the plans, aim to improve safety and accessibility for students to walk in bicycle to school, including measures to reduce vehicle speeds, address conflicts between pedestrians or bicyclists and drivers and provide fully accessible, sidewalks and Crossings The Infrastructure Recommendations section includes both a map to visualize the location and type of the recommendation and a table that provides additional detail on each. So on the map recommendations within the school, walk zone are identified by numbers and recommendations that fall outside of the school. Walk zone are identified by letters. The map distinguishes between spot recommendations, such

as specific intersection or crossing and segment recommendations such as sidewalks or corridors that need speed management.

Diane Lambert: It also color codes recommendations by the type of recommendation. As able all the plans acknowledge other projects within the study area. But ultimately, the county will confirm the approach to implementing recommendations to ensure that they align with other projects as necessary.

Diane Lambert: A quick orientation to the infrastructure, recommendations table, the 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 the possible significance of that location such as whether it's inside the school zone. Or if it's a key student walking or bicycling route. And those key roots were identified based on information receive from school administration from the parent surveys and also from Observations. facility type provides, the general category of the recommendations such as sidewalk crosswalk or curb ramp etc, The issue and recommendation columns, provide details on the identified issues and the specific recommendations

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Diane Lambert: Potential costs listed in the table, reflect planning level construction costs, details related to construction, really can't be determined until the method of implementation is for the proposed improvements is confirmed so these are planning level estimates only and the time frame reflects general project feasibility or complexity and that can help to inform implementation decisions. It's not an indication of the county's planned, time frame for implementation. And again, we've only provided a snapshot of the recommendations table On this slide to review the full report and provide input. Please, visit the county's website.

Diane Lambert: For some schools, the Accessibility study identified, significant barriers that while important would require additional study beyond the scope of this project to identify appropriate measures. And in those instances, an additional consideration slide was added to acknowledge the issue and to suggest further study for Crofton Meadows, Elementary Under What Underwood road is present, such a barrier and an additional consideration slide was included. Each score report also includes education encouragement enforcement and evaluation recommendations to help the schools, improve awareness and knowledge of safe practices to reinforce safe, behaviors to encourage travel mode changes, and to establish a culture of walking and bicycling to school.

Diane Lambert: 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 the subsequent recommendation.

Diane Lambert: Following this meeting, the county will finalize. The prioritized list of recommendations, prioritization will be based on an assessment of potential safety impact, potential demand, how many people are likely to benefit from an improvement and potential to benefit vulnerable populations as well as considering things like project feasibility, cost and opportunity. Implementation timeline and funding source will be based on the type of recommendation. So for example, shorter term implementation, may be more feasible for low cost or quick hit operations, or maintenance recommendations. Such as signs pavement markings trimming vegetation things that may have an existing dedicated funding stream. Longer term implementation is required for infrastructure. Projects such as Sidewalks that would require funding from the county's Program budget budget.

Diane Lambert: And schedule for any actions. After the studies are completed, has yet to be determined Again, full 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 have any general process questions we can aim to answer them now just please submit them using the A function provided through Google Meet and with that I'll turn it back over to Adam to direct questions.

Adam Greenstein: Thanks so much and just waiting for my camera to turn back on. Hopefully it doesn't mess with anyone's Internet connection here whether you're from the community or from the project team.

Adam Greenstein: I don't currently see anything in A pod from the community who are with us this evening. But we're certainly happy to stay with you for at least a few minutes. If something comes to mind, you can enter it in the Q&A pod. Although we mentioned that the goal is to discuss questions and comments on general, high level, or procedural related questions on the project to guide you through the process for your own review of the full report. If anything comes to mind, you can certainly place it here and we'll make sure we get it on record and answer those things offline. Just as well, if not of more value, is for those very specific questions. As we mentioned earlier to use my contact information shown on the screen, my email or phone number and to reach out to me directly with those questions regardless of what they are. Certainly happy to feel questions. If you have any using the Q&A pod, if you have issues using the Q&A pot, if you're having functionality issues,

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Adam Greenstein: And your best bet would be to send those comments and questions by email directly to me. But we're certainly happy to leave this here if you need. To chew on this information a little bit and provide some feedback. We'll stay here for a couple of minutes for you. And if nothing comes through the Q&A pod, in the next couple of minutes, will adjourn the meeting. So I do see a question now. I appreciate you, providing some thoughts. How about more bike racks or free bike locks to encourage more biking? I know this was a question that we've considered for all of the schools and we did inventory bike racks. We didn't discuss anything amongst the project team on bike locks. I think that would be a discussion with school administration and unfortunately, they're not here. We can certainly look into that for you.

Adam Greenstein: On the general perspective for bike racks, Diane. Was the extent of the analysis, across the schools or even just for this one. Just high level what the considerations for bike. Racks was

Diane Lambert: Yeah, we absolutely assess the existence and the location for any existing bike racks and made recommendations as to whether they need to be relocated to a different position or different location upgraded to a better quality bike rack or if they need to be included at all. I don't recall the specifics for Crofton Meadows. Unfortunately on the comment for the bike locks, I completely agree that distributing bike locks is a fantastic incentive for bicycling to school. And so there's a lot of safer school programs that will provide those particularly around walk and bike to school days.

Adam Greenstein: Thanks Diane.

Adam Greenstein: Yes, And a great follow-up here clarifying that a concerned about more bike racks is that it seems across the meadows. There's an issue of sufficient capacity and we certainly saw Usage or utilization a bike racks, varied across the board, amongst the 17 schools and some of them had much higher. Some of them were packed with bikes, some of them were fairly empty, some of that could be

based on where their place how much capacity there is the willingness of families to let students ride to school students interest in writing to school, INFRASTRUCT.

Adam Greenstein: Quality things like that. So it's something we do we will keep in mind for this school and all of them but it's a great point knowing that if they're already is a lot of interest in biking and the racks are full and we have recommendations which could be listed in those slides. So going back to the table as Diane mentioned. It's only just a snippet. It's possible and we can go back and check this for you or you can see it in your own review that there could be a recommendation on something related to bike racks and hopefully that might address some of your concerns if you review the report and you feel that it's on address and it's still a problem and we're not recommending more. When you see on a regular basis, if you miss something, please point that out and we can always try to add that. There and see what we can do to get that implemented. Certainly where I would say most likely not necessarily through the county's capital program, but through some other measures. But before I get too much further into that Tanya, go ahead from the Office of Transportation.

Tanya Asman: Hi, thank you. It's Tanya Asman Office of Transportation Senior Bike, PED planner and I have purchased several bike racks for the county schools. And I have worked with the county school, administrative staff, to identify schools, that needed bike racks. So if you feel like your school should have them, I would encourage you to reach out to the principal so that the principal can work with the staff at Aacps that's in charge of maintenance. Thank you.

Adam Greenstein: Thanks Tanya. Sounds like it's both a general issue and a couple of specific elementary schools including Crofton Elementary. So in general if you see your school Crofton Meadows, any other elementary school if you have friends and family across the county and you're seeing the same thing as Tanya mentioned, reach out and let us know. There's also possible ways to get these issues resolved outside of this project because as you know, The project only included 17 elementary schools for the Accessibility study and includes some safety training programs for a subset of those schools. They're a lot more schools in the county, as you probably already know. I think there's upwards of 80 elementary schools alone and we didn't even begin to cover the middle and high schools as well. So if you identify them anywhere reach out to school administration, reach out to us. If you have challenges with that or just need additional outlets to share information and we'll be happy to help as much as we can.

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Adam Greenstein: Thank you for asking that question. We really appreciate that. It's an important issue to Keep in mind. If anything else does come to mind joining us from the community. Again, we'll leave the Q&A pod open and the meeting open for a couple more minutes.

Adam Greenstein: And in those next few minutes, if we don't see any more questions or comments that we can discuss here this evening, we'll go ahead and close the meeting.

Adam Greenstein: Because he does a question here on location specific issue for a crosswalk at Rydell Road and Maryland, Route, 424. We'll discuss that offline since its location specific and there might be more detail that we need to look into and that also involves a couple of other folks from the state, in addition to those who are joining us this evening and they can certainly assist. We'll look into that. And that'll go on the record of all of our comments and questions and provide a response, even if it's a matter of looking into it a little bit more, There is limited data that we use to develop some of these preliminary recommendations. So generally speaking, a lot of these items that we're considering may need a quick, follow-up evaluation with a little bit more info and data, follow-up field review other coordination. Before

they are implemented fairly high level or planning level here but we appreciate the question and we'll discuss that offline.

Adam Greenstein: Leave the Q&A pod in the meeting open, until about 7:30 pm. And if no other questions are added, will it turn for the evening? So anything else comes to mind, feel free to share it.

Adam Greenstein: One more thing that I'll do while we're waiting just another minute or so that I forgot to do earlier is although the link is there on the screen which is a shortened URL. If you want quicker access, you can save this link which will take you directly to the project Web page where you can list. All of the reports meeting recordings for the other schools thus far over the last couple of weeks since we started this series of public meetings and additional information.

Adam Greenstein: But if you need the URL shortener, if you're typing it in manually it certainly Much more valuable to many, folks. If they don't have it right in front of them.

Adam Greenstein: Just another minute or so. For the Q&A.

Adam Greenstein: Okay, since I don't see anything else in the Q&A pod, I did want to thank everyone from the community and from our greater project team with the county, and the state and public schools for helping us this evening. And being here, we appreciate everyone's input again. All of this recorded information will go on to the project Web page. So please keep an eye out for that in the coming business days. And again, if you didn't think of something to ask today or if there's something that we didn't specifically discuss that we will certainly look into that and respond in writing with a compiled list of responses for questions and comments as soon as possible. After all of the public meetings in this series, are completed. Thanks again, take care and have a great evening.

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Tanya Asman: Thank you.

Meeting ended after 00:30:28 🙌👥