

# AA County Safe Routes to Schools - Piney Orchard ES (2023-10-25 19:02 GMT-4) - Transcript

## Attendees

Adam Greenstein, Ayden Cohen, Ayden Cohen's Presentation, Brian Ulrich, Julie Hummer, Tavon Hawkins

## Transcript

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**Adam Greenstein:** Good evening everybody. My name is Adam Greenstein. I am with the internal County Department of Public Works. I am serving as a project manager for the county safe routes to Schools project including tonight's accessibility study review of existing conditions and recommendations and more of the overview of the report for Piney Orchard elementary school before we get into any of tonight's content including some goals for the meeting and some housekeeping items that I did want to give an introduction of the groups represented from our project team. I won't be highlighting any individuals. But if there are questions during our afternoon tonight's presentation that they can answer we'll give them the opportunity to introduce themselves by name their role in the project the agency in the office that they represent so you can get an idea of who they are, but it's going to give you an idea for the coverage of our team.

**Adam Greenstein:** Again, I represent the DPW Bureau of engineering with the county and we have members of our team from the dpw's engineering consultant tool design. We also have members of our staff from the county office of Transportation the Maryland State Highway Administration as well. We were hoping to have others from DPW and folks from internal County Public Schools, but unfortunately, they weren't able to join that be rest assured that if there are questions that come up that we can't answer tonight. We'll be sure to forward them along to the appropriate folks we can get you a good answer everything will be on the written record and will provide direct response to every question and received throughout this process

**Adam Greenstein:** going wanted to go over some meeting goals and housekeeping for this evening. As far as the content we're discussing and the intent of why we're doing this is really to talk about the process of the project the procedure overarching themes for the school really not talking this evening about location specific issues unless they're really deemed with while or if we get a lot of questions from folks who are here tonight. We only have so much time and there's a lot of information in these reports a lot of information that we covered in our observations and our recommendations the Lend the less is pretty long so we can certainly answer those questions offline, but please don't hesitate to ask those questions. So they are on the record and we can make sure we answer them directly.

**Adam Greenstein:** if you choose to send comments offline, we'll go into how to participate this evening directly. But if you wanted to send them outside of this meeting you can use my email address and phone number that are shown on your screen. You can reach out to me directly at any time with comments questions concerns or other thoughts on issues of Honey or in and around the Piney Orchard campus. If

you send me an email, we strongly encourage you to use Maps Graphics drawings diagrams and as much detail and specificities possible so we know exactly what you're talking about and we can provide the best answer possible that's of the most valuable to you in the community, please also make sure to write out the full school name instead of the initials which is easier for us to decipher the location and make sure we know exactly who we're addressing and how

**Adam Greenstein:** the public comment period will close on November 5th. So, please feel free to send us comments and questions until then but again, that's not the end of the line for communication. You're welcome to reach out to the county and the state and public schools at any time. We're here to help. It's just a matter of if you were to provide some feedback after November 5th. We have to approach it differently for how we use that information for our decision making process to formalize our recommendations how we establish priorities for implementing evaluate their success things like that. The line of communication is always open. We can't stress that enough. Some housekeeping items for this evening, if you're a member of our community and not a member of our project team for those who I introduced earlier. This is a webinar format. So you'll be muted with your cameras off.

**Adam Greenstein:** But there's still plenty of opportunities to provide input and everything will go on a record so we can make sure that we know exactly what was asked and we can provide direct responses. You can use the Q&A feature in Google meet. If you're using a web browser, please make sure to click the activities button, which is what shown on the slide here. It's on the hand corner of your screen those three shapes. Click that then click Q&A and click ask a question. If you're on a mobile phone using the Google Meet app or a web browser or something similar select the three vertical dots on your screen, then select those three shapes for the activities button and follow the rest of the process as beforehand.

**Adam Greenstein:** If you're dialing in audio only unfortunately, there's no Q&A feature you can use and we can't share anything visually that's on the screen but this information will be available online to supplement the full report. So we recommend that you refer back to the information that was shared by public schools Communications team and distributing information about these meetings, which includes a link to the project web page and you can find information about our evaluation and what sorry Piney Orchard Elementary School at that point You're welcome to ask the question anonymously. If desired we'd love to know who's asking them so we can better identify you and better address those directly, but you're welcome to if you want to totally up to you.

00:05:00

**Adam Greenstein:** If you do have issues with the Q&A feature, we've heard some folks. In other meetings having technical issues. We certainly understand that sometimes happens that nothing runs perfectly. Please send us comments and questions by email using the contact information on the screen or referring back to the project web page or the notice in public schools. If you can't see what's on the screen This meeting is being recorded So at the King after the conclusion of the meeting within a couple of business days, we will post a lot of information on the project by page. So please be on the lookout for that. It'll include an video recording of tonight's meeting including our faces the audio PDF copy of the slides record of the written question will come at a later date, but we will have a transcript. So if you need a transcript to verify if there's any issues with the audio, you can check back with that and cross check that information.

**Adam Greenstein:** At a later date when all the meetings are completed and the public comment period closer closure has passed we'll post all the questions and comments including direct responses to each.

If you need translation services available, they are available by requests. We're still working on the feasibility of how we can provide translation services for the content of this meeting directly. Whether it's a voiceover of the recording or a translation of the slides the transcripts the questions anything like that. We'll try to refine that but we're not sure exactly what achievable but we'll keep the communities posted. If you're with us this evening and need translation services. There is a feature in Google meet that you can use and you can use the closed captions feature.

**Adam Greenstein:** If you're in the Google meet on a web browser, click the CC button at the bottom center part of your screen hover over the area below the presentation in the camera views and you'll see a button that either says English or a gear with a settings button and click on that to open the settings. Make sure that you select the spoken language of the meeting as English and then select the translated captions option for your desired language and they'll show up on your screen in any language that you choose within the options that Google If you're on a mobile device using a web browser or the Google Meet app select the three dots it show captions and then And then under those caption settings hit the live captions option to make sure that's active ensure the language spoken in the calls English and then choose your desired translation language for your captions.

**Adam Greenstein:** Our goal is to end this meeting later than around 7:45 PM 750 PM if we do get a lot of questions and need a few extra minutes, but although this is the back of two meetings this evening for two different communities. We're giving the same duration to every meeting since when we have the first of the back-back meetings. We want members of our project team to have a chance to stretch and we want to make sure that every school gets the same treatment. Everything is fair across all 17 communities here, so we'll plan to end between 7:45 and 7:50 pm this evening. With that being said, I'll stop rambling and I'm going to turn it over to Ayden Cohen with tool design who will cover the remainder of tonight's presentation, then we'll get into some Q&A at the end.

**Ayden Cohen:** Thanks, Welcome again, everyone to the virtual meeting tonight. We're super happy to have y'all here. We really appreciate you taking time out of your busy evenings to join us. The goal for tonight is to give you an overview of the safe routes to schools accessibility project in Orient to the report I've already mentioned. We won't be reviewing specific information and recommendations. It's way too much detail to review it in one meeting, but the 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 schools accessibility studies at 17 schools across the county. The schools were previously identified and move in Arundel, which is 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.

**Ayden Cohen:** Between October 24th, 2022 and February 8th of this year Consultants staff from my firm pool design conducted a one-day site visit to each school 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 assess other opportunities within the School attendance area to expand active transportation to school. The overall goal of this project is to improve safety and transportation choices for all residents. Piney Orchards report 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's based off a site visit conducted on October 26th 2022. Parent surveys were also administered by the school district at the start of this calendar year to obtain parent reported travel most the school and reported barriers to walking your bicycling.

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**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 provide input, please visit the Anne Arundel County web page shown on the screen.

**Ayden Cohen:** We'll review section defines the project study area fieldwork was conducted on roads within a half mile of the school and a desk level review was conducted on roads within one mile radius of the school that also fall within the School attendance area the section of the report provides a school attendance and enrollment information at the time of study which was provided by the school district. It describes the school location and layout and provides an overview of how Walkers bicycle school buses parent and staff Vehicles access the school grounds.

**Ayden Cohen:** 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 most common travel mode to ideal travel mode to school barriers to walking or biking to school and streets used to walk or bike to school. However, it is important to note that for most schools the survey response rates represent just a fraction of the student population. We acknowledge that they might not reflect the experiences and perspectives of all families. So this information was simply used to supplement information received during observations and from the school directly for Piney Orchard. We received 107 survey responses.

**Ayden Cohen:** The arrival and dismissal observation section provides an overview of arrival and dismissal operations as reported by the school a summary of General observations made by our team and a summary of specific arrival in dismissal observations by each travel mode. This includes Walkers and bicyclists school buses and parents driving. Our observations focused on behaviors conflicts in general couns of all travel modes it form 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 sidewalks Mark crosswalks 88 compliant curb ramps existing plan or program on-road bike facilities and Regional Park trails and paths based off GIS data provided by the county at the start of this project the information serves as a baseline of sorts for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. 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 bicyclists the crash summary also includes the number of pedestrian and bicycle crashes within the school walk Zone. 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 walk zone are identified by numbers and recommendations that fall outside of the school walk zone are identified by letters.

**Ayden Cohen:** The map distinguishes between spot recommendations such as ones that are specific intersection or crossing and segment recommendations such as sidewalks or corridors needing speed management. It also color codes 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 vehicle conflicts between pedestrians and bracelets and provide fully accessible sidewalks and Street Crossings. As able the plans acknowledge other projects within the study area, but the county will

confirm the approach to implementing recommendations to ensure that 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 ations In addition to defining the specific location on the recommendation the location column also describes the possible significance such as whether it's inside the school zone or along a key student walking or bicycling route keywords were identified based on information received from school administration parent surveys and school observations. Facility type provides the general category of the recommendation such as sidewalk crosswalk curb ramp. The issue and recommendation columns provide details on identified issues and specific treatment recommendations. Potential costs listed in the table reflect planning level construction costs 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 plan time frame for implementation. Again, we've only provided just a snapshot the recommendations table to view the full report provide input. Please visit the County's website.

**Ayden Cohen:** Each school report also includes education encouragement enforcement and evaluation recommendations to help the school improve awareness and knowledge of safe practices reinforce safe behaviors, encourage 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. Following this meeting the county will finalize the prioritize list of recommendations prioritization will be based on an assessment of impact potential demand, which is how many people are likely to benefit from the project and potential to benefit vulnerable populations as well as project feasibility costs and opportunity.

00:15:00

**Ayden Cohen:** Implementation timeline and funding source will be based on the type of recommendation. For example shorter term implementation may be 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 infrastructure projects such as new sidewalks that require Funding from the County's Capital Improvement program budget. Schedule for any actions after studies are completed has yet to be determined.

**Ayden Cohen:** Again, the 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. Please submit them using the Q&A function provided on your screen.

**Adam Greenstein:** Thanks so much Ayden. I don't see anything yet in the Q&A pod. You can certainly give folks a little bit of time to chew on all this think it over cross-check between tonight's presentation and a full report on the project page which is available here or through The chat is not usable for responses. Please use the Q&A probably you should be able to access the link there. But if you type in the URL that's on the page. It'll get you there all the same. It's just fewer characters to have the type manually. we have a couple folks in the community, but no feedback yet again. Happy to leave. the Q&A pod in the meeting room open at least for a few minutes if folks want to provide some feedback I see we have Some elected

officials in our midst this evening. appreciate you joining us. So if there's anything that you'd like to add in a Q&A pod, please feel free to do so.

**Adam Greenstein:** Believe the pot in the meeting would open at least for the next couple of minutes and then if we still don't have anything there. And after that point in time and say two three minutes or so, then we will go ahead and drink tonight's meeting.

**Adam Greenstein:** Just another minute or two. For the Q&A pod in case there's any questions.

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**Adam Greenstein:** Just another minute or so still no responses. But please feel free to provide feedback if something comes to mind. In the next minute or so. There's nothing in the Pod. We will and drink tonight's meeting but do appreciate your time and patience.

**Adam Greenstein:** Alright, it's 7:23. We've left the pot open for a couple minutes at this point. I think we're going to adjourn to nice meeting, but do appreciate everyone's time and those from the community and our elected officials joining us. Thanks and members of the project team from cool design County Office transportation and Maryland sha for being here this evening to support and assist in this process. If anything else comes to mind offline if you log off and you said I forgot something use that email address use that phone number or for back to your Communications and the project web page review it and send me a message and we'll be happy to help. Thanks again. Take care and have a great evening.

Meeting ended after 00:21:38 🙌🏻 🤝