AA County Safe Routes to School - Broadneck ES (2023-10-12 18:02 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

Adam Greenstein, Diane Lambert, Diane Lambert's Presentation, Eric Tabacek, Grandy Anderson, Molly Porter, Tanya Asman

Transcript

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Adam Greenstein: Adam, Greenstein, I am the project manager for the Internal County Department of Public Works for our safe routes to School project for these accessibility studies across 17, elementary schools. And tonight, as you can see on the screen We will be discussing. our evaluation and the process at broadneck elementary school, Just wanted to do a couple of introductions of the folks that we have on the call, not necessarily by name just so you understand the folks who are being wrote, the groups were being represented here. It looks like we were intending to have a couple folks from Anne Arundel, County Public schools. They're either going to be joining late this evening or may not be able to. There might have been some type of conflict or issue but we will certainly forward any feedback or questions to them as appropriate but we have the rest of the team here available between the Department of Public Works between myself and folks from our Traffic Engineering Division representatives from the DPW consultant team from the pool design,

Adam Greenstein: Members of the Maryland State Highway Administration and then also the County Office of Transportation If folks from public schools are able to join tonight. They may be from the public schools division of transportation, not to be confused with the county Office of Similar overall goals, and transportation safety. And accessibility meeting school needs when it comes to getting to and from school. But A different entities but we do work in partnership.

Adam Greenstein: So you wouldn't mind advancing to the next slide. Thanks Diane. So, I wanted to go over some meeting goals and housekeeping for this ing. The most important thing in terms of goals for tonight is that we're not planning to discuss specific issues concerns or questions, unless they become so prevalent or they're really broad scope in terms of issues for the entire attendance area or the entire walk zone for this school and we can try to briefly discuss those otherwise we'll answer them offline will review your questions, which we'll get into that in a minute on how you can do that and we'll respond in writings, you can see responses on anything more specific.

Adam Greenstein: You can send us comments at any time using the contact information shown on the screen My email address and phone number are right there, feel free to reach out at any time. With any feedback. If you do provide information in writing, we strongly encourage you to use as much detail and specificity as Out the full name of the school as many schools have similar initials if you use a letter a couple of letters in ES depending on the school Sometimes they overlap, Out the name of the school include photos maps, graphics, anything else that you can describe as much detail as you can which is

super helpful for us. We will be accepting comments on these studies through November 5th. So you can certainly reach out to us after that time. It's just a matter of how we incorporate those comments into our findings inclusions recommendations and how the county moves forward with. Hopefully implementing some of these improvements.

Adam Greenstein: On a housekeeping side of things, this is set up as a webinar style. So if you're not a member of the project, teaming you joined us this evening, your review only mode, which means you will end up remaining muted with your cameras off. However, your input tonight can be provided through the Q&A feature. So if you click the Activities button, which you can see on the slide here, which is the three shapes, the triangle square and circle, select Q&A, and click Ask a Question. If you're joining us on a mobile phone, using the Google Meet app, or some type of mobile browser, select the three dots and then follow the same process. If you are dialing in audio only, which we provided an option for a call, a number this evening. Unfortunately, we can't share any visuals with you and you can't use the Q&A feature, but we strongly encourage you to use the contact information that's on the project Web page, which is sent out in the Notice to All Public School families, For these schools, you can reach out at any time.

Adam Greenstein: If you do choose to ask a question and you don't want to be known, you're welcome to ask it anonymously but we'd love to know who you are. Get more information about what part of the community you live into better understand some of the concerns or questions you have but you are welcome to post anonymously. You can click when you get to the Q&A section. Just click the checkbox for Post anonymously and then you can write out your question and submit it. As mentioned before this meeting is being recorded. We will provide an audio video recording of this presentation, along with our lovely faces, a PDF of the slides. Any written questions from the Q&A pod, and a transcript. We'll post that all online on the project Web page, hopefully within a couple of business days, hopefully about it. maybe no more than a week or so after this meeting. And then eventually, what we'll do is we'll take all the questions from all of these meetings, for the 17 schools, development responses. And then post that as a single repository in the project Web page. So folks can see what the county team.

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Adam Greenstein: Is considering for each of those concerns. Translation is available by requests. We're generally figuring out how to determine the feasibility of what to do with recordings certain content or elements of these meetings, there is a way to provide close captions. If you're using a Web browser, click the CC button at the bottom of your screen. If you're on a mobile phone, you can click the three dots and there's a captions feature that you can use and you can select your language. So make sure that you identify that the meeting is being done in English, which is the spoken language we're using and you can select the language you like to use for translated Capt

Adam Greenstein: You might have seen in the notice that we have back-to-back meetings tonight, 6 pm and 7 pm, and you would think that's normally about an hour. But since we would need a little bit of transition time to prepare for the second meeting, have a bio break stretch, make sure we're fresh from ready to go for the next community. We're planning to end this meeting around 10 to 15 minutes before the top of the hour, so between 6:45 and 650. So we can do so, we understand that raises any concerns, but we'll try to get to as many questions as possible. This evening in that time. Again, the line of communication is open if we can't get to what you asked about this evening, So with that being said, I'm going to turn it over to Diane Lambert. Who's the project manager with tool design? We are dealing with a little bit of Internet issues across the board today. So we did want to show you Diane's face to start. And

we may turn off some cameras to make sure things go as smoothly as possible. So please bear with us but we appreciate your flexibility and Diane the floor is yours.

Diane Lambert: Thank you And thanks I was going to say hello and then asked to turn off my camera because I have been having Internet issues today and the interest of wanting to avoid any further problems. So I turned off my camera, but when I say Welcome everyone to broadneck Elementary's virtual meeting, we appreciate you all taking time, out of your busy evenings tonight to join us. And our goal tonight is to give you an overview of the safe routes to school accessibility project and orient you to Broadnecks report.

Diane Lambert: As already mentioned by Adam, we won't be reviewing specific information and recommendations. It's just too much detailed review. But full reports are posted on the website and I believe, Adam just posted those into the chat function as well, so You could pull them up there while we're going through the presentation tonight. So, we'll start with an overview of the project. Anne Arundel County and Anne, Arundel County Public Schools are partnering on safe, routes, to school 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 and studies are being seen by a project management team. Consisting of county state, and school district representatives,

Diane Lambert: Between October 24th of 2022 and February 8th of this year, consultants staff From Fuel 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 assessed other opportunities within the whole 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: Broadnecks 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 on a site visit that we conducted on. December 19th of last year. 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.

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

Diane Lambert: So the School Overview section does a couple of things. It defines the project study area fieldwork was conducted on roads within a half, a mile of the school and then desk level review was conducted on roads within a one-mile radius of the school that fell within the school attendance area. This section also provides 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 provides an overview of how walkers bicyclists school, buses and parent and staff vehicles access the school grounds.

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Diane Lambert: The parent reported Student Travel Modes and Behavior section 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 school ideal travel mode. To school, barriers to walking, or biking to school and streets, used to walk or bike to school. If they did. In fact, indicate that walking and

biking were actual modes that were used by their students, However, it is important to note that for most schools, the survey response rates Just a fraction of the student population. We acknowledge that they may not reflect 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 broadneck actually had one of the higher survey response rates with 80 survey responses received

Diane Lambert: the Arrival and Dismissal Observation section provides an overview of arrival dismissal operations, as reported by the school. It also includes a summary of general observations made by our team and a summary of specific arrival and dismissal observations by each travel mode. So walkers bicyclists school, buses and parents driving Our observations focused on behaviors conflicts and general counts of all travel modes and generally it informs how the various travel modes function and interact within the existing infrastructure.

Diane Lambert: The Existing Infrastructure. Conditions section provides maps and brief description of existing sidewalks marked, crosswalks ADA compliant, curb ramps, and existing planned or programmed on road bike facilities and regional rails park trails and pads. It was all based on GIS data, that was provided by the county at the start of the project. And this information just serves as a baseline of sorts for existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities. 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 involve pedestrians or bicyclists? The crash summary also includes the number of pedestrian and bicyclists. Crashes, that occurred within the school walk zone,

Diane Lambert: The Infrastructure Recommendation section includes both a map to visualize the location and type of 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. Also distinguishes between spot recommendations such as those at a specific intersection or crossing and segment recommendations such as sidewalks or corridors related to speed management. It also color codes recommendations by type of recommendation.

Diane Lambert: And all recommendations in the plans, aim to improve safety and accessibility for students to walk and bicycle to school, including measures to reduce vehicle speeds, address conflicts between pedestrians or bicyclists, and drivers 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 all recommendations to ensure that they align with other projects as necessary.

Diane Lambert: A quick orientation to the table, the map 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 of the location such as whether it's inside the school, walk zone or along a key student walking or bicycling route. And those key roots were identified based on information received from school administration from parent, surveys. And from our school observations, facility type provides, the general category of the recommendations such as sidewalk crosswalk, curb ramp etc, The issue and recommendation columns, provide details on identified issues and specific treatment recommendations

Diane Lambert: And the potential costs listed in the table. construction costs details related to construction. Really can't be determined until the method of implementation 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 is not an indication of the county's planned, time frame for implementation. And again, we've only provided a snapshot of the recommendations table, to view the full report and provide input. Please visit the county website,

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Diane Lambert: Each school report also includes education couragement 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. And 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 resulting recommendation.

Diane Lambert: And 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 project feasibility cost and opportunity. Implementation timeline and funding source will be based on the type of recommendation. So for example, short-term influence shorter term implementation, may be more feasible for low cost or kind of quick hit operations or maintenance recommendations. Such as signs pavement. Markings vegetation trimming things that may have an existing dedicated funding Rain longer term implementation is required for infrastructure. Projects such as new sidewalks that require funding from the county's capital improvement program budget.

Diane Lambert: And schedule for any actions. After the studies are completed, has yet to be determined And again all fours, all full reports are posted on the county's website and information on how to provide input is included there. And also provided on the screen. If you have any general process questions, we can aim to answer them. please submit them using the Q&A function provided on your screen, and I'll turn it back over to Adam to facilitate any questions.

Adam Greenstein: Thanks, If you run into any issues, I am with your connection. As I turn my camera back on, let me know and I can turn the back off, but I do appreciate everyone's flexibility this evening from the community who joined us to make sure that the audio and the video and screen sharing everything comes through as smoothly as possible.

Adam Greenstein: So again, as Diane said, Please feel free to use the activities button. Those three shapes in the bottom. Right of your screen. We saw a couple of folks in the community join us late, and you might have missed some of the housekeeping and goals for the meeting. But you're welcome to review the recording when this is posted on the project Web page. If those who did join us, late are joining from a mobile phone. Whether on a browser or using the Google Meet app, the only extra step is just clicking the three dots on your screen and then hitting that activities button, the three shapes and then selecting Q&A and then submitting your question, which you can do anonymously, if you choose to do. So again, we'd love to know who you are and we'll part of the community you're in and how these things might impact you or your questions on the process to give us a bigger and more valuable overall perspective. So feel free to provide some questions. We don't currently see anything in the Q&A pod for the moment, but we're happy to leave it all open for another couple of minutes. And if there are none at that point in time we will and the

Adam Greenstein: This evening. But again, you're always welcome to reach out to us as something comes to mind after the meeting ends. Feel free to contact me using this information whenever you need.

Adam Greenstein: So again, we'll leave the Q&A pod in the meeting open for a couple minutes here. Maybe the next two minutes or so. In case there's any feedback that comes to mind.

Adam Greenstein: So I see that you've used the raise hand feature and I appreciate you trying to provide some input. The format of the meeting tonight is if you only or webinar format Except for those on the project team including myself and others who you see here in the virtual room with us. So, the best way to do this is since we've been conducting, every meeting up to this point and we'll do so for the whole series of meetings is to use the Q&A feature.

Adam Greenstein: So if you don't mind using that that would probably be easiest. So everyone here, this evening is able to ask questions in the same way.

Adam Greenstein: But if you did have a question, we're still happy to leave the room available for a few minutes. So you can find the Q&A pattern, provide a question or multiple questions if you have them. And we do appreciate your feedback and interest in the project.

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Adam Greenstein: Just another couple minutes or so, for questions.

Adam Greenstein: We appreciate everyone's patience and the project human from the community for anyone who might be entering them just another minute or so.

Adam Greenstein: Any final questions folks, would like to enter in the Q&A pod this evening. We've just a short amount of time, but it looks like we will. Include our meeting this evening, although I see that someone did just join again. So we'll leave the Q&A pot open for just another minute or two. In case, those folks who want to answer questions.

Adam Greenstein: Need to find a Q&A pot. We'll leave it open for just a short time now. But appreciate everyone being here. And thanks for everybody's patience.

Adam Greenstein: as a reminder. If you need to access the Q&A pod, use the Activities button, the three shapes, as you can see on the slide and then find Q&A. And then click Ask a Question.

Adam Greenstein: Just another minute or so.

Tanya Asman: Adam, you might I guess maybe reiterate, this is Tanya but if Grandy cannot figure out how to post his question here that he certainly can send you his question via email.

Adam Greenstein: Absolutely if you can see on the screen here and appreciate that very much Tanya, I content information is here. So if you have issues with the Q&A pod, as Tanya mentioned, feel free to contact me directly using that phone number or the email address on the screen. We will save all. Comments and questions on the record and respond to each individual 1s feasible or by group depending on the topic. Again, we'll have this public comment, period, open until November 5th. You're welcome to reach out at any time beyond that. But it's just a matter of the nature of how we incorporate those comments and other feedback into the future of some of these potential improvements, whether it's part

of the official public outreach, period or not. So again, that'll be open in tone November 5th. But feel free to email me I'm more information is at that URL on the screen.

Adam Greenstein: If there are no questions in the Q&A pod, I think we're going to go ahead and end our meeting this evening. But I do appreciate folks joining this evening, team members of the community, this will all be posted on the project web page as soon as we can get around to it. Hopefully within the next few business days. Hopefully by early next week, if we Can make that happen. We'll do our best and we'll keep everyone posted if we run into any issues. Thanks again for joining and we appreciate your interest in the project and we will follow up soon. Take care and have a great evening.

Meeting ended after 00:24:37 👋 ✊🏿