

AA County Safe Routes to Schools - Sunset ES (2023-10-26 18:03 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

Andrew Diehl, Ayden Cohen, Ayden Cohen's Presentation, Dave Moncrief, David Braun

Transcript

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Dave Moncrief: All right. Why don't we go ahead and get this underway this evening? Pull up my notes Here.

Dave Moncrief: I want to thank everyone for joining us today for the Amarillo County Department of Works virtual open public meeting for safe routes to school accessibility studies tonight focusing on Sunset Elementary School. We have seen a fair bit of interest in this projects specifically with this school. We received a lot of feedback with the parent surveys, which is super helpful, and we're happy to have everyone here joining us this evening. Before we get too far. I do want to introduce myself and those from the County's project team or here this evening. My name is David Moncrief and I am standing in for Adam Greenstein. Who is the DPW project manager for the safe routes to school project. We are giving this presentation to 17 different schools this month and I agreed to tell him for Adam on some of those presentation's.

Dave Moncrief: So what I'm going to do is introduce the group serve represented here this evening. And then when we get to the if applicable the folks that will be answering those questions or comments. We'll introduce themselves as appropriate. So briefly that the groups are joining us here tonight are of course staff from the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works myself and others including a comfortable folks or a folk from the office transportation. And also from the members of the DPW consultant team tool design. Also potentially joining us at a later point in time our representatives from the Maryland State Highway Administration. and Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Dave Moncrief: So before we get into the bulk of the presentation, I want to go over some of the goals for the meeting which are not sharing the slide, but just a few things to go before we get into the bulk of presentation. So really the primary goal here tonight is to cover high level issues procedures process and guidance for you to review the full accessibility study.

Dave Moncrief: Full safe routes to school study and the report where you can find it Etc. So you'll see a link on your screen the tinyurl link there. If you type that into your web browser on your phone or your computer, it'll take you as to a site that has all the elementary schools listed you can scroll down and find the applicable report for your Elementary School. Or I will drop a link in the chat right now for everyone to access that or in a few minutes to access the specific study for this school.

Dave Moncrief: Ways to provide feedback during the presentation all over that in a second, but if not within the presentation most directly the best way is to send an email to Adam Greenstein. His email address is provided on the screen. We strongly encourage you that if possible when you send those comments to Adam via email that you include photos Maps Graphics Etc and that you write out the full school name within the body of the email or the subject line of the email so that we can most appropriately identify. which street and what area you were referring to? There are as I said 17 schools. Some of them have similar names for roads as well as the acronyms for the schools such as SCS. So please don't use SES Please spell the name of the school.

Dave Moncrief: And the email that would be most helpful for us as we go down the path of implementing some of these and getting a finalized report. Addition to that. You can also call Adam at the phone number provided on the screen. Adam will be happy to hear from you if you give a call. We will be accepting comments the study through November 5th, officially and after which we will be posting a comment response on the website after that point. If you do have a comment you can still reach out to Adam, but we will have a cut off for November 5th for accepting comments specifically to be responded within the parameters of this project. So this

Dave Moncrief: meeting tonight 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 from the presentation, but you can use the Q&A feature which is the primary function for feedback during the presentation. If you're logging in the Google meet on a web browser on a computer to get to the Q&A, you will click on the activities button, which is the button shown on the slide here to the triangle square and circle. And when you click on that you would then select Q&A and then click ask a question. If you're on Google meet on a mobile phone, it's very similar. But before you do those things we need to select three dots then the activities button, which is again, those three shapes and follow the rest of the process, which is to click Q&A and ask a question.

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Dave Moncrief: If you are dialed in by phone, unfortunately, that means we can't share information via the Q&A and you won't have the visual age of the slides tonight. But on the County's project website, you can find Adam's contact information to provide feedback that way.

Dave Moncrief: All right. This meeting is being recorded. We want to make sure that folks who can't join this evening can still participate in the process review the information and get the same guidance in case they're scheduled in a line for them to be here tonight. So after this meeting the audio video recording in addition to a transcript will be posted on the same website within about a week of the conclusion of the meeting and then also on that same website after the conclusion of the study the finalized presentation's those items including the transcript and the recording and a single repository with all the Q&A collected during this Patient as well as the Q&A that sent to Adam outside of this presentation will be posted on the website with responses for every single item.

Dave Moncrief: If you do need translation services, they are available by requests we do that we did not set it up specifically for this meeting because it was not requested in advance. But if you need them, please reach out to Adam and we'll be happy to help. With all that being said I'm going to turn it over to aiding Cohen who was a project manager with our consultant tool design to go over the remainder of our presentation.

Ayden Cohen: Thanks so much, Dave.

Ayden Cohen: Welcome everyone to tonight's virtual meeting. We really appreciate you all taking time out of your busy evenings to join us the goal for tonight's meeting is to give you an overview of the Sanford School accessibility project in Orient, the report As already mentioned we won't be reviewing specific information recommendations. It's just way too much detail to review in one meeting. The full reports are posted on the County's website. We'll start with an overview of the project. And 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, 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 of 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 the project is to improve safety and transportation choices for all residents.

Ayden Cohen: Sunsets reports summarizes existing conditions and makes recommendations for added infrastructure education or encouragement programs to increase the number of children that could safely walk a ride bikes to school. It's based on a site visit that was conducted on January 11th. Parent surveys were also administered by the school district at the start of this calendar year to obtain parent reported travel modes to school and reported barriers to walking your bicycling. 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.

Ayden Cohen: The school overview section defines the project study area Fieldbrook was conducted on rows within a half mile of the school and a desk level review was conducted on roads within a one-mile radius of the school that falls within the School attendance area this section of the report provides School attendance and enrollment information at the time of study which was provided by the school district and it describes the school location and layout finally this section provides an overview of how Walkers bicyclists school buses parent and staff Vehicles access 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 most common travel ideal travel mode to school barriers to walking our bike into school and streets used to walk or back to school.

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Ayden Cohen: However, it is important to note that for most schools the survey response rates represent just a fraction of the student population. We acknowledge what 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 and so for Sunset, we received 53 total survey responses. The arrival in dismissal observation section provides an overview of arrival and dismissal operations as important 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, including Walkers and bicyclists school buses and parents driving. Our observations focused on behaviors conflicts and general couns 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 and a brief description of existing sidewalks Mark crosswalks 88 compliant curb ramps existing plan or program on-road by facilities and Regional Park trails and paths based on GIS data provided by the county of the start of the project. This information serves as a baseline of sorts for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Ayden Cohen: And the report also summaries as 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 recommendations 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. The map distinguishes between spot recommendations such as ones that specific intersection or crossing and segment recommendations such as sidewalker corridors needing speed management. It also color codes recommendations by type of recommendation.

Ayden Cohen: 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 recommendations to ensure that they align with other projects as necessary. a quick orientation to the table not by D 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 school zone or along a key student walking or bicycling room. Keywords were 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 program Etc.

Ayden Cohen: The issue and recommendation columns provide details on identified issues and specific treatment recommendations. Potential cost 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. Time frame reflects General project feasibility or complexity that can help to inform implementation decisions. This is not indication of the County's plan 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 enforcement and evaluation recommendations to help schools 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 potential demand, which is how many people are likely to benefit and potential to benefit vulnerable populations as well as project feasibility costs and opportunity.

Ayden Cohen: Implementation timeline and funding source will be based on the type of recommendation. For example, short-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. Scheduled for any actions after studies are completed has yet to be determined. 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.

00:15:00

Dave Moncrief: Yes, and thank you Ayden for your assistance in the presentation. I will leave the Q&A open for a few more moments. We have not received any comments or questions thus far but I would encourage you that even if you do not provide question or comment. View the Kia function in the Google meet that you do reach out to Adam with any comments or concerns regarding the reports stressed that the information that we gathered. We tried to be as comprehensive as possible and utilizing as many means as possible including parent surveys as well as the on-site visits, but those are snapshots of

Dave Moncrief: Specific time timeframe, so we encourage you to reach out with any comments or concerns with regards to the recommendations that are provided in the report so that we may prioritize and Implement as most appropriate or not implement. We receive some feedback from other communities that the sidewalks that we're proposing in certain areas for instance are not needed. So please do reach out to Adam. I will leave the Q&A open for about one more minute, and if we don't receive any comments, then I will conclude the meeting. Thank you.

Dave Moncrief: All Thank you everyone for your time this evening, and we look forward to the hearing from you.

Meeting ended after 00:17:22 🙌👤