

AA County Safe Routes to Schools - Brooklyn Park ES (2023-10-03 19:02 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

Adam Greenstein, Ayden Cohen, Dave Moncrief, David Braun, Diane Lambert, Diane Lambert's Presentation, Erik Engblom, Tanya Asman

Transcript

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Adam Greenstein: There it is. Okay. wait, just another minute or two. For folks to join up any little bit more time. And then we'll go ahead and get started.

Adam Greenstein: After those here, in case you do want to access the full report this evening although it's available to you at any time in case you want to Check out what we're going through our Presentation Tonight. Link to the project Web page. Just posted in chat including a link specifically to the report for Brooklyn Park Elementary School.

Adam Greenstein: With that being said, we're a couple minutes after seven o'clock here. So we'll go ahead and get underway. I did want to thank everyone for joining this evening from the Brooklyn Park community. And from the county's project team from the Department of Public Works. My name is Adam Greenstein. I'm the project manager for the Bpw Safe Routes to Schools study including Brolyn Elementary School. I did want to give some introductions to members of our project team. Here we are not coming covering individuals but in case there's questions this evening to pertain to a specific group that can provide more information or insight. We can let you know who they are. We have folks, from the Department of Public Works and the Bureau of Engineering If staff from the county Office of Transportation, and also from Anne Arundel, County, Public Schools Transportation.

Adam Greenstein: They provide somewhat different services, similar goals. But two different groups, depending on the types of transportation questions, you do have this evening and then members of our consultant team from tool design, who's working for the Department of Public Works to get these accessibility studies completed. We were hoping to have folks from the Maryland State Highway Administration on this evening. But I think something came up and they weren't able to join but if there's any questions pertaining to the state, since we know where the school is in the vicinity of the state's road network or if there's other questions about the project pertaining to the state because they did help, provide some grant funding for us to be able to complete this work. We can certainly route those questions to them.

Adam Greenstein: Next slide, Great, Just wanted to go over some high-level goals and housekeeping items for tonight's meeting. The goal here in terms of the content we're covering is not really about the location-specific issues. You are welcome to provide feedback on those tonight or otherwise in the public

comment process. The goal tonight is to talk about high level issues about the project itself. Procedural questions about what we did at, Brooklyn Park element at and around, Brooklyn, Park Elementary.

Adam Greenstein: More like process and policy type things about the project really just high level. But if you wanted to post questions tonight, we'll get into the details of how to do that in. Just a minute, you can certainly share them and we'll plan to discuss that offline of our project team and make sure that all of the comments questions and our responses to those are posted on the project Web page for the public to view.

Adam Greenstein: You can send us comments at any time using the contact information shown, which is my email address, and my phone number. Make sure to be as detailed as possible. It's most helpful to us, if possible photos maps, Google Street view, things like that. Please write out the full name of the school instead of the initials of the school. So BP es It's most helpful if it's in the subject line of the email but if not as long as it's in the body of the email, we can identify the school since there's upwards of 75 to 80 schools in the county, a lot of the letters repeat in those initials we want to make sure we're definitely identifying. Brooklyn Park Elementary School and as much detail and as much specificities, you possibly can about the location and the issue, we make sure we get into that. So we're not missing anything looking at the wrong spot. We're looking into the wrong concern that you have.

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Adam Greenstein: A comments will be officially accepted on this project through November 5th, which is about a week and a half after the end of the series of public meetings for these 17 Elementary schools. If more time is needed, we can certainly discuss that but that's the current plan, but also it's not, the end of the timeline for public feedback. You're always, welcome to reach back out to public works. The Office of Transportation and Public Schools with feedback questions, concerns or things that you want to bring to our attention. We're always happy to discuss them. It's just a matter of whether or not if it's in that public, comment, period. How do we incorporate it into the project versus more of a general approach for the county, the state, and all of our partners, moving forward to improve transportation throughout the county including for school students.

Adam Greenstein: A Couple of Housekeeping Items Real Quick. If you're not a member of the project team, and you're coming from the public and the community, you joined us this evening, you did with your cameras off. So it's a webinar format, but you can use the Q&A feature to provide questions, which we can answer throughout the course of tonight's meeting. click on the Activities button which you see on the slide here and is replicated at the bottom. Right? Of your screen, a triangle square in a circle. And then select Q&A and click Ask a Question, If you would like to post it anonymously. After you select Ask a Question, Just hit the Post Anonymously button. If you wish to not share who you are, of course, we'd love to know who's posting so we can reach back out to you, but of course that's totally up to you. if you're joining us on a mobile phone, this evening and you're using Google Meet, you can still use the Q&A feature, by selecting the three dots, and then following the rest of the steps that we just described with that Activities button and the Q&A feature,

Adam Greenstein: If you are dialing in and going audio only, unfortunately, we can't share with you on your phone. Any of the visuals this evening and you can't use the Q&A feature. But again, strongly encouraging, you to reach out to us with comments. Although you can't see my contact information with my email address and phone number. It's on the project Web page and you can reach out at any time. If something else comes to mind that you can't see. From the visual this evening, my apologies. the

meeting is being recorded as you might be able to see on your screen, if you are using the Google Meet app or on a web browser. We will provide recordings of the audio and video, a PDF of the slides, written questions and eventually responses to those at a later date.

Adam Greenstein: And a transcript of the meeting. They will all be posted on the project Web page as soon as we can get to it. After this meeting is completed, it might take a few days and we have a series of meetings we need to get all that information compiled but we'll do it as soon as we can. So please keep an eye out on the project Web page for those updates. Translation services are available by request and we know that there is a number of different languages spoken in the Brooklyn Park community and we are certainly happy to help. So if you do need any of this information, translated, we're still figuring out how to get that done and what content can be translated to make sure we get it done as quickly as possible but of the highest value to all of you. So please make a request in writing to us and we'll do what we can to get this translated details out to you. So with that, what I'll do is I'm going to turn it over to folks from our tool design team to go through the remainder of the crux of our presentation.

Diane Lambert: Thank you, Hi everyone. My name is Diane Lambert. I'm a senior planner with Tool Design group. Welcome to tonight's virtual meeting for Brooklyn, Park Elementary School. We appreciate all of you taking time out of your busy evenings to join us. Our goal tonight is to give you an overview of the Safe Routes to Schools Accessibility Study Project and orient to Brooklyn Park Elementary's report. As already mentioned, We won't be reviewing specific information and recommendations, it's just too much detail to review in a short evening meeting but full reports are posted on the county's website is Adam just mentioned.

Diane Lambert: We'll start with an overview of the project. Anne Arundel County and Anne. Arundel County Public Schools are partnering on safer to Accessibility studies at 17 schools across the county. The schools were previously identified, and move Anne Arundel, which is the county's Functional master, plan and studies are being overseen by project management team, consisting of county state and school district representatives. Between October 24th of 2022 and February 8th of this year. Consultants staff. From my firm Tool Design group 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 existing school walk zone. But also assessed other opportunities within the school attendance area to expand, active transportation to school.

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Diane Lambert: The overall goal of the project is to improve safety and transportation choices for all residents. Brooklyn Parks 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 conducted, December 8th of last year. Parents 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 and again, 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.

Diane Lambert: The School Overview section contains a bit of information. It defines the project study area fieldwork was conducted on roads, within a half. Mile of the school. And desk level review is conducted on roads, within a one-mile radius of the school that fall within the school attendance area.

This section also provides attendance information 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 parents and staff, vehicles access the school grounds.

Diane Lambert: 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 school ideal travel mode. To school, barriers to walking, or biking to school and streets, used to walk or bike to school. If that was a travel mode, that was identified. However, it is important to note that for most schools, the survey response rate rates represent a fraction of the student population and we acknowledge that they may 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 for Brooklyn, Elementary 13 Total Survey Responses for Received.

Diane Lambert: The Arrival in Dismissal section provides an overview of arrival and dismissal operations as reported by the school. It also provides a summary of general observations made by our team and a summary of specific arrival and dismissal observations by each travel mode by four travel mode specifically walkers and bicyclists school bus riders and parents driving our observations focused on behaviors conflicts and general counts of all travel modes and inform how the various travel modes function and interact within the existing infrastructure.

Diane Lambert: Speaking of the Existing Infrastructure Conditions section provides maps and a brief description of existing Crosswalks ADA compliant curb ramps and existing planned or programmed, on-road, bike facilities and regional trails park trails and pads. All that's based on GIS data, that was provided by the county at the start of the project. And this information serves as a baseline of swords for the pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The report also summarizes five years of crash data to assess the 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 within the 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 the map. What you're seeing an example from Brooklyn Park Elementary on the screen 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 recommendations at specific intersections or crossings and segment recommendations such as sidewalks or road corridors that need speed management. It also color codes recommendations by the type of recommendations.

Diane Lambert: All recommendations in the plan, aim to improve safety and accessibility for students to walk and bicycle to school, including measures to reduce vehicle speeds, address conflicts between pedestrians bicyclists, and drivers, and provide fully accessible, sidewalks and street. Crossings As able the plans also acknowledge other projects within the study area. For example, the Brooklyn Park. Mobility audit was taking place at the same time as this safest school accessibility study. The county will confirm the approach to implementing recommendations to ensure that they align with other projects in the study area as necessary.

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Diane Lambert: A quick orientation to the 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 possible. Significance of the recommendation such as whether it's inside the school 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 school observations,

Diane Lambert: Facility type provides. The general category of the recommendation such as sidewalk crosswalk, curb, ramp etc, the issue and recommendation columns, provide details on the identified issues and specific treatment recommendations Potential costs listed in the table, reflect planning level construction costs, details related to construction. Can't be determined until the method of implementation for proposed improvements is confirmed. So these are cost estimates only 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 time frame for implementation. And again, in tonight's presentation, we've only provided a snapshot of the recommendations table to view 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 in those instances and additional consideration slide was added after the recommendations table to acknowledge the issue. And to suggest further study for Brooklyn Park Elementary, the wooded area between the middle school campus and the park and park road presents such a barrier.

Diane Lambert: Each school report also includes education and encouragement enforcement, and evaluation recommendations to help the schools, improve awareness and knowledge of safe practices to reinforce safe, behaviors and 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 recommendation that was made

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, such as how many people are likely to benefit from an improvement and potential to benefit vulnerable populations as well as an assessment of project, feasibility cost and Timeline and Funding Source. We 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 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

Diane Lambert: Again full reports are posted on the county's website information on how to provide input is provided there and also provided on the screen. But 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 will turn it back over to Adam to facilitate any questions.

Adam Greenstein: Thanks so much, I think hopefully that information was really helpful to everybody. This evening. I did want to officially open the floor using the Q&A pod, but it's been open. All evening. So we strongly encourage that. We don't see any questions currently posted. We can certainly, hang on, for at

least a few minutes to give folks. Plenty of time to chew on what they Look at the report real quick and see if there's any questions you want to add that are more high level, big picture, process related for our project in Brooklyn Park or the elementary school. All folks are thinking about Anyone from the project team between the county public schools or tool, any other additional feedback that we wanted to provide since we have some time Requirement, just wanted to throw it out there.

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Adam Greenstein: We'll leave the meeting open for at least the next five minutes or so the case folks have anything that they wanted to ask the team we're definitely here to help.

Adam Greenstein: And if nothing else comes to mind at that point in time, when we do close the meeting in a few minutes, again, make sure to jot down that contact information or visit. The project Web page. If you need to reach out to me by email, it'll come directly to me and phone calls will be directed to me as well. I'm happy to discuss them on a call if needed.

Adam Greenstein: or people until 7:25 just another minute or so, since we don't see any questions coming in, again, wanted to encourage everyone to Think about this information offline because we feel free to reach out at any time. We'll just leave it open until 7:25 just another minute or so.

Adam Greenstein: All right, we have hit 725, Still no questions in the Q&A pod. Definitely, some information to think about. If you want to Take some time to review it and get back to us at a later date. We're still open for public comments again until November 5th. But reach out at any time, If you have more information that you wanted to discuss some more questions about the project, we're always here to help. Thanks again for joining this evening, take care.

Dave Moncrief: Thanks everyone.

Tanya Asman: Thank you.

Meeting ended after 00:23:15 🙌👋