

AA County Safe Routes to Schools - High Point ES (2023-10-19 18:02 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

Adam Greenstein, Andrew Diehl, Ayden Cohen, Ayden Cohen's Presentation, Eric Tabacek, Molly Porter, Nicole Holman, Penney Miller

Transcript

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Adam Greenstein: Okay, good evening everyone. My name is Adam Greenstein. I am with the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works. I'm serving as a project manager for The county's safe routes to school accessibility studies and safety training at 17 schools across the county. And as you can see on this screen here, this evening will be going over some information about our study at High Point Elementary School with me this evening we have members of our project team, I won't go over names yet but if we get to specific questions at the end of the presentation, I can introduce them specifically so they can answer some questions for you. We have representatives from the county Dpw Engineering consultant tool design, members of the Department of Public Works Traffic Engineering Division which is within the Bureau of Highways and then also folks with the Office of Transportation we're hoping to have representatives

Adam Greenstein: From Anne Arundel, County Public Schools, but they looks like they might have had a last-minute conflict for the folks. They wanted to have joined today and didn't have a contingency plan, but we did just have folks join from the Maryland State, Highway Administration. And so, there are questions pertaining to the state. Feel free to let us know, and they're happy to help. I do see folks, We waited just after six o'clock this evening to start the meeting and we see folks in the community You're joining. So thanks again, again, my name is Adam Greenstein project manager with County Dpw for the High Point, Elementary School Safe Routes to School Accessibility study as part of Our safe routes to school project for the county. Again, folks from the state Dpw Traffic Engineering County Office of Transportation, and the county's consultant or designer here. This evening. So thanks for joining Ayden if you don't mind moving on to the next slide, that'd be great. Thanks.

Adam Greenstein: So wanted to go over some information and overview of the goals and some housekeeping for this evening. Primarily when it comes to the content will be discussing. We're not going to be going over, anything, really location specific. It's really goals oriented guiding you through your own review of the reports process related, high level general concerns and challenges about the school but nothing really location specific at an intersection or along the segment of roadway, unless it becomes such a hot topic with folks, from the community this evening that we need to discuss it for Specific questions, you can ask them and we will answer them offline. There will be a written record and any questions or comments. There will be a written response or reference in tonight's recording.

Adam Greenstein: You can send us comments Using the contact information on the screen. That's my email address and my phone number. So you can reach me directly. We're happy to get your feedback. We highly value that information to make sure we're trying to do what we can to meet each. Community's needs as best as possible. Especially for the residents here in the vicinity of High Point Elementary. If you send an email, we strongly recommend that you include as much detail as possible, Out the School name not just the acronym and the subject line and in the body of the email include photos maps as much detail and specificity as you can. So we can really understand the detail of the issue. Make sure we have The right understanding of your concern.

Adam Greenstein: We will be accepting public comments until November 5th. And at that point, we will be compiling all comments and questions for all schools within this project and providing written responses and putting a repository of those on the Project Web page which you can see here on the screen you can go to visit that page. Anytime there's reports for all the schools including High Point and we'll keep posting information, including tonight's recording a transcript copies of the Q&A and other information related to tonight's meeting as well. In case you need to refresh yourself or you want to share with someone else or for folks who aren't able to join us here this evening.

Adam Greenstein: As far as some housekeeping. Tonight's meeting is in a webinar. Type format in Google Meet. So if you're not a member of our project team here, you're in view. Only mode, which means you'll remain muted with your camera off, but we want to still provide you, plenty of opportunities, to drive Provide feedback. So that is in the form of the Q&A feature. On the screen Here, you can see the arrow pointing to the black box with a three shapes, a triangle square near circle, that's the Activities Click on that button and select Q&A, and then you can Ask a Question and then you can submit that question. If you're joining us on a mobile phone, using a Web browser or the Google Meet App, Sele, The three dots on the screen, then the Activities button, those three shapes and follow the same process. If you're dialing in this evening by phone. If your audio only, unfortunately we can't share any visual information with you and you can't use the Q&A feature. You can certainly send us comments offline.

Adam Greenstein: Please go to the project Web page which you can find in the notice that was sent down by Public Schools Communications team within the last couple of months. And then you can find my contact information and send me an email or give me a call at any time. If you want to ask a question but you don't want to be identified, you're welcome to do. So you can anonymously. Just make sure when you reach that the screen that says Ask a question, you can click the checkbox for post Anonymously. We'd love to know who you are so we can understand. Who is asking those questions wearing the community? They might live what their issues are. So we can connect with you more directly but it's totally up to you.

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Adam Greenstein: If you do have issues with the Q&A feature, we've noticed this in some of our previous meetings over the course of the project. You can still send us the comments and questions, we will answer them all the same. This is just more of a direct forum for you to be able to communicate with us to see information on the screen, even though it's using the written Q& instead of direct Q&A with your microphone, still want to have that outreach effort, to make sure we provide that full commitment to each schools community, Again, as I mentioned this meeting is being recorded on Web page within a couple of days of the meeting will provide a copy of this audio video recording. So you'll see the slides. My beautiful face. Unfortunately, for better for worse. Anyone else who's speaking? And there will be a transcript in English.

Adam Greenstein: So in case you need to review anything, if there's a problem with the audio, you can review that transcript copies of the written questions will all be posted online. If you need translation services that's available by request and they're still trying to determine how After the fact handles and translation needs for certain communities, if you're in the meeting and you need translation services, you can use the captions feature. If you're on a web browser, select the CC button at the bottom of your screen, however, over the area below the presentation slides, Of where your camera views are and click where it says English.

Adam Greenstein: And there's a gear icon where you can open up settings, ensure the meeting language is set to English, which is the spoken language we're using today and Translate a Captions Select the language that you prefer to use. If you're on a mobile device, select a three dots on your screen, if the Show Captions button, click Settings, and then under the caption Settings, you can select Live Captions. Make sure the language spoken is chosen as English and it can translate property properly to the one that you need this evening.

Adam Greenstein: Our goal is to end the meeting around 10 or 15 minutes before the top of the hour as you might have noticed. We have two to-back meetings tonight. We want to make sure our project team has a chance for a bio break. And a quick stretch to make sure we're good for our next community. At seven o'clock, we will also be ending their meeting 10 to 15 minutes early. So, every school within this project is getting the same treatment, a maximum of about 45 to 50 minutes. Total to make sure we have time for Q&A but a break everyone gets the same opportunity to ask questions but again there's that offline communication by email and phone anytime you need it. With that being said I'm going to turn it over to Aiden Cohen with tool design and she'll be going through the remainder of tonight's presentation.

Ayden Cohen: Thanks Welcome again to the High Point. Elementary accessibility virtual meeting. We really appreciate you all taking Out of your busy. Evenings to join us. As Adam has already mentioned. The goal for tonight is to give you an overview of the Safe Routes to School Accessibility project and orient you to high points report. As already mentioned, we won't be sharing specific information and recommendations. It's just way too much detail to review 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 school accessibility studies at 17 schools across the county. The schools were previously identified and move in Arundel. 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 in February 8th of this year. Consultants staff from my firm tool design, conducted a one-day site visit to each school to observe school rival and dismissal into 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 the project is to improve safety and transportation choices for all residents.

Ayden Cohen: High Points report summarizes existing conditions and makes recommendations for added infrastructure education or encouragement programs to increase the number of children that can safely walk a ride bikes to school. It's based on a site visit that was conducted on January 10th of this 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. The 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. As we've already mentioned, please visit the Anne Arundel County Web page shown on the screen.

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Ayden Cohen: The School Overview section defines the project study area. Fieldwork was conducted on roads within a half mile of the school and a dust level review was conducted on roads, within a one-mile radius of the school that fall 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 it describes, the school location and layout and finally, it provides an overview of how walkers bicyclists school, buses parent and staff vehicles assessed access the 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 mode to school ideal travel mode. To school, barriers to walking, or biking to school and streets, used to walk or bike to school.

Ayden Cohen: the Arrival, in Dismissal Observation section, provides an overview of arrival dismissal operations, as reported by the school, a summary of general observations made by our team and a summary of specific arrival and dismissal observations by each travel mode, which is walkers and bicyclists school bus and parents driving Our observations focused on behaviors conflicts, in general accounts 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 ADA compliant curb ramps and existing planned or program on-road bike facilities, regional trails park trails and pass based on GIS data provided by the county at the start of the project this information serves as a baseline of standards for Train and bicycle facilities.

Ayden Cohen: The reports also summarize five years of crash data to assess the total number of crashes, within a 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.

Ayden Cohen: The Infrastructure Recommendation section includes both the 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 that a 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 conflicts between pedestrians or bicyclists and drivers and provide fully accessible, sidewalks and street. Crossings

Ayden Cohen: As able the plans acknowledge other projects within the study area. But the county will confirm the approach to implement recommendations to ensure that they align with other projects as necessary. A quick orientation to the table. Map ID corresponds to the numbers or letters on the recommendations In addition to defining the specific location of the recommendation. The location column also describes possible significance, such as whether it's inside the schools zone or along a key student walking your bicycling route. Key routes 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, etc. the issue and recommendation columns, provide details on identified issues in specific treatment recommendations

Ayden Cohen: 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. Time frame reflects general project, feasibility or complexity that can help to inform implementation decisions. It's not an indication of the county's plan, time frame for implementation. Again, we've only provided just 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 the schools, improve awareness and knowledge to 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.

Ayden Cohen: 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, which is how many people are likely to benefit and potential to benefit vulnerable populations as well as feasibility costs and 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 Schedule for any actions. After studies are completed has yet to be determined.

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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 Aiden. I really appreciate that. And it looks like we have one question. So I think this information was really helpful and a question itself. I think is a good process related question, understanding where we are now and That's the question in the Q&A plot is, I'm curious to hear what the next steps are following the findings identified in the report and hopefully that those last couple slides indicated, some of that but we can certainly highlight a little bit more but what are the odds that the schools will take the recommendations for sidewalks and that's a really good one for the county state team to keep an eye on. So to expand a little bit more on what Aiden was saying before.

Adam Greenstein: We'll have a compiled list of recommendations from all 17 schools. So we're looking in the several hundreds of total recommendations across the entire project scope and we're going to list them individually and as an Aiden was talking about, we're going to prioritize them in coordination with folks at the State and Public Schools administration, help us develop that priority between What's the safety benefit? How many people might benefit from it? What's the project cost likely to be, at least, at the planning level? How challenging might it be? What's to constructability, is another way of looking at that and then defining a priority order, Some folks have asked us, if you're going to recommend something, if you're going to recommend a sidewalk on a local street, in Neighborhood Street, where folks might not

Adam Greenstein: Copy is interested, but you're also recommending a sidewalk on a busier street with higher volumes of More motor vehicle traffic and higher speeds of traffic and there's just more activity than Why would you focus on the local street? And that's exactly the focus is putting a higher priority on the streets where there's more risk to people and thus they get more benefit from having a separated sidewalk where currently doesn't exist just as an example.

Adam Greenstein: Our next step for this project. Once he's public, meetings are done. We compile all the public comments and questions provide responses to them and share that. With all the communities is to incorporate that to refine our recommendations. Make sure everyone on the project team between the county public schools and Sha are all on the same page and the reports and recommendations. In a priority order will be finalized by the end of December. That'll also include a methodology to evaluate the success of anything's implemented. So there's going to be some type of system that we use to evaluate. If something is successful, they didn't meet the intended need. Once it's out in the field, whether it's a construction project, which would take long to evaluate because it needs time to be designed or something shorter. Ayden was saying a short term low-cost quick hit signing paper markings and things like that. So, again, we'll have those studies done by the end of the year.

Adam Greenstein: On your question of, what the odds are that the schools will take the recommendations for sidewalks. They are an active partner in this project since day one from project planning, before we even got any evaluations and data collection underway. We have staff from aacps administration school staff, transportation specialists assigned to each school managers and the school Division of planning Design and construction. The transportation office across the board reviewing these studies and providing feedback as part of our technical team and they have provided feedback on whether or not they think some of the recommendations actually make sense. One thing to keep in mind is even if we think at this point it makes sense and we'll have a priority order. A lot of these recommendations will need a little bit of a follow-up evaluation. This project was a pretty wide scope and we only had so much budget so we didn't to a ton of extensive data collection or Evaluation beyond what we talk about in the reports, we need to collect more data possibly on traffic

Adam Greenstein: Speeds more detailed crash history. More detailed measurements of transportation conditions of what roads and sidewalks look like conditions around the school and a little bit more depth to really make sure we're on the right page and making sure that the priority order for the recommendations makes sense. Or if we need to totally think about something differently, take it off of the list. Start from scratch with a couple of things. So some follow-up evaluations will be needed beyond that schedule for things like

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Adam Greenstein: Capital project for sidewalks are not really set. If we want to move forward with something that's a super high priority, The County Office of Transportation and Andrew Diehl is here today to expand on that if needed, but there's not too much detail to go into, would put in a request to allocate some funds in the county's capital but improvement program to have that sidewalk implemented. And we'll go through the full engineering design and implementation of process with permits and construction, but we also have folks from Eric Tabacek is here from Dpw Traffic Engineering Division for things like Science Markings modifications for signalized intersections and things like that. if we have a recommendation where we feel like we could get that done on short order, doesn't cost as much money. If it's a high priority, we'll get it knocked out. in the next three, six, nine, 12, 18 months, depending on what it is and there's not as much of a concern and getting buy-in from the school. We want to make sure that

we're all on the same page. They're okay with it but it's much easier to get done. So it's kind of a mixed bag. So if there

Adam Greenstein: Parts of your question that I didn't cover. You're welcome to follow up with another question in the A pod or feel free to follow by email. You can put in as much detail as you'd like and you can reach out to me by phone. I'm sure that was a little bit more long-winded than you expected. But hopefully that provides some detail. You can also review the recording and the transcript. After this meeting in case, there's anything that I said that you might have missed if you need a refresher, but we're here to help. If I miss anything not to put anyone on the spot from the project team Andrew or Eric anything. That I need to add. And if there's nothing to add, there's no need to unmute. Just wanted to check in case anything from product engineering or transportation might be needed.

Adam Greenstein: In that case, I'll mark The question is answered, and what we'll do is one of these questions are compiled with responses. We'll know whether or not they were answered in the meeting or answered offline. So it'll show up as Mark as answered. So you know that we discussed it during the call, you're not awaiting a separate response but we'll make sure to follow up if there's any additional concerns. What I'd like to do at this point is since I don't see any other questions in the Q&A pod. We'll leave this open for a couple of minutes in case those who are here from the community. Have any other thoughts that they want to chew on this a little bit or review something on the side for a minute or two? Add something in the Q&A pod feel free and after a couple minutes, if we don't see anything else in the Q&A pod, we'll adjourn this evening's meeting.

Adam Greenstein: It's 6:25. So we'll wait until about 6:26 or 6:27. For any additional questions or concerns from the community?

Adam Greenstein: Just another minute or so in case there's any other thoughts from the community.

Adam Greenstein: At this point, it's been a couple minutes. Nothing new in the Q&A pod but we appreciate the questions that were asked this evening. I wanted to thank everyone here from County Office of Transportation w Engineering Division and Total Design. Again, if there's anything else that comes to mind that you didn't think of, during the meeting, feel free to use the contact information on your screen, reach out to me directly, we are happy to help. If I can't answer a question that you ask, I will get you in touch with the right person and we'll make sure that we get all compiled comments questions. Put together with written answers so everyone can review them by school and you'll see them in the coming weeks we appreciate your patience and flexibility and participation in the process.

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Adam Greenstein: Thanks again for joining us this evening and take care.

Meeting ended after 00:25:35 🙌👥