



## Safe Routes to School Subcommittee

June 17, 2016  
10:00 – 11:30 am

### Participants

Amy Sackaroff  
John-Paul Zitta  
Benjamin Howell  
Kristen Brookshire  
Susan Wilson  
Todd Edwards  
Robbie Hayes (Parsons Brinckerhoff)  
Kenneth Withrow  
Jennifer Baldwin  
Sara Merz

Scott Lane  
Stephen Sposato  
Lyn Edmonds  
Brandie Crawford  
Jason Brown  
Tim Gardiner  
Nicole Bennett  
Sarah Martin  
Chris Lukasina  
Monique Hazelwood (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

### Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Amy Sackaroff called the meeting to order and began the meeting with introductions.

### Updates on the John Rex Endowment Child Pedestrian Safety Grant

Ms. Kristen Brookshire of UNC Highway Research Center updated the Committee on work being done at the five pilot schools; and briefly mentioned the SRTS presentation given at the NC AMPO Conference in Greensboro in May. In the five pilot schools, Action Plans should be completed by the end of June; and will be coordinating with the cities on infrastructure projects. Both Kristen and Jennifer Baldwin have been working with the five pilot schools on other components of the Safe Routes to School programming as well. Stipends for lesson planning are being looked at for teachers. During the fall surveys and policy audit actions with the municipalities will be worked on. The action plans document the processes (i.e. the Program Toolkit, infrastructure planning) that are occurring at each school.

Ms. Jennifer Baldwin arrived and indicated that while there isn't a priority infrastructure project at Ligon Middle School that could be completed with JRE grant funds alone, there is an inset intersection that could utilize City of Raleigh funding. A cut sheet was created for the intersection, and a complementary sidewalk project was recommended to connect with Ligon Middle School. The City, Ligon, and the Task force are working to improve student movement to the school. Jennifer and Kristen noted the value of the principal being involved in the process. Kristen also noted that each Action Plan for the schools is different. For example, the Bugg Elementary plan will include information on how parents can pursue sidewalk construction around the school and neighborhood through the "Sidewalk Petition" process. Subcommittee members noted the challenges of busing, magnet schools, parental participation, etc.

ACTION ITEM: The Subcommittee received as information.

### Recap – SRTS policy directive for WCPSS

Ms. Sackaroff briefly mentioned that the Wake County SRTS Working Group met prior to the Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Lyn Edmonds briefed the Subcommittee concerning the outcomes of the meeting. Ms. Edmonds noted that WakeUp Wake County and Wake County Advocates for Health in Action representatives had met with eight of the nine Wake County School Board members earlier in the spring. While they liked the resolution, in light of events of the time the School Board members indicated

that they will not be supporting any resolution at this time. The School Board members, however, directed the representatives to develop some policy directives that could be applicable. As a result, the Working Group met prior to the Subcommittee to discuss those directives. The next steps include pulling together the policy directive language, have a meeting with Mr. Jim Martin who chairs of the WCPSS Policy Committee, and bring back to the Subcommittee. The timeline is to complete this process before the November election. Ms. Sarah Martin also talked about "Policy Migration" and its impact upon Wake County Schools. Mr. Jason Brown of Knightdale commented that policy issues should be community oriented.

Mr. Chris Lukasina, director of the Capital Area MPO, addressed the Subcommittee about Senate Bill 778 (SB 778) in the North Carolina General Assembly. SB 778 includes a provision that would exempt schools from state or local transportation impact requirements except when addressing school site ingress and egress. It defines what improvements there are to be, but does not include sidewalks, bicycle facilities, etc. The law requires NCDOT's final approval on all plans. This law is of concern to several cities; and Mr. Lukasina wants to ensure that the Subcommittee stays abreast of this bill.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Subcommittee received as information.

### **SRTS activities in Tennessee**

Mr. Robbie Hayes (Parsons Brinckerhoff's Nashville Tennessee office) presented SRTS Infrastructure projects in the State of Tennessee. He addressed the Subcommittee using a PowerPoint presentation and was accompanied via conference call by Ms. Monique Hazelwood of the Nashville PB office. The program in Tennessee started in 2008 as part of SAFETEA-LU. Over 100 projects have been funded; with over \$14 million allocated for those projects. Applications come through the local governments (from the school systems) to the Tennessee DOT. Once awarded, the project goes through the NEPA process. Following NEPA, the project then goes to final design, then right-of-way, then construction. The MPOs in the state only play a supportive role in the process. Following Mr. Hayes's presentation, questions were asked by Subcommittee members. There is a training required for local agencies.

**ACTION ITEM:** No action was taken. The Subcommittee received as information.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Jennifer Baldwin – Gave an update on the Capital Area MPO prioritization process. The intent of the prioritization process is help schools and municipalities determine how to prioritize schools for LAPP funding for either infrastructure and/or non-infrastructure projects. Chris Lukasina suggested that the prioritization process should avoid binary scoring criteria. Following conversations, Ms. Sackaroff recommended creating a working group for this activity.

Scott Lane – Gave a presentation concerning "Bike Smart/Growth Smart". The program has taught hundreds of kids how to safely ride a bicycle. Scott is a LAB master certified instructor. The program currently only covers Wake County. Susan Wilson is doing a "Bike Camp" through partnering with 4H in teaching kids how to maintain a bicycle.

Lynn Edmonds – There will be a Wake Transit "Community Event Forum" on Monday, June 20. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will be the guest speaker.

### **Other Business**

The next meeting will be held on August 19 at 10:00 am.

### **Adjournment**