



Safe Routes to School Subcommittee

June 19, 2015
10:00 – 11:30 am

Participants

Alissa Hennen
Candace Davis
David Bamford
Sara Merz
Shelby Powell
Amy Sackaroff
Brandon Watson
Kenneth Withrow

Jason Brown
Jeff Triezenberg
Jennifer Delcourt
Nancy Pullen-Seufert
Stephen Sposato
Karen Rindge
Laura Sandt

Welcome and Introduction

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

Regular Meeting Schedule

Following introductions and the addressing of the “Meeting Schedule” item by Ms. Sackaroff, Mr. Kenneth Withrow noted that since the March 31 meeting, the Subcommittee does not have an established meeting date and time. Participants briefly discussed the frequency of either bimonthly or quarterly meetings.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Withrow will send out a doodle poll to participants to determine favorable meeting dates and times.

Policy Update(s)

The Policy Update section of the agenda began with Mr. Brandon Watson, staff member for the City of Raleigh, addressing the participants concerning the City's new Crossing Guard Program. The Crossing Guard Program is administered through the Raleigh Police Department. The Crossing Guard Policy, as associated with the Program allows for one guard per elementary school and one guard per middle school. However, there are at least five schools that have more than one crossing guard. Currently, there are 26 schools that have requested crossing guards (21 new schools and 5 that already had one and are asking for a second one) based on the new program, which was adopted by the Raleigh City Council in April, 2015. As of June 19, 2015, 28 schools already had crossing guards and wanted to continue. Mr. Watson noted that the City of Raleigh has had a Crossing Guard Policy for many years; but after reviewing policies in other cities around the state the decision was made to update the policy. Following Mr. Watson's presentation, participants asked questions and provided discussion. Committee members requested to obtain the list of schools that currently have a crossing guard(s) and which new schools made a request. Subcommittee members could use the information provided to evaluate “walkability” for a particular school and develop “walk zones”. Ms. Nancy Pullen-Seufert also asked, “How will infrastructure improvements be addressed.” An additional question that was asked, “If schools rejected to host a crossing guard, why did the school say ‘no’?”

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Withrow will gather the list of schools that currently have crossing guards. City of Raleigh and Capital Area MPO staff will contact Office Hopkins of the Raleigh Police Department to find out (1) which schools requested crossing guards, (2) which schools declined using crossing guards and, (3) what their reasons were. Mr. Withrow will also distribute to the group the PowerPoint presentation as provided by Mr. Watson.

During the transition between discussion points, Ms. Karen Rindge of WakeUp Wake County noted that the Raleigh City Council voted down during for the Raleigh Bikeshare Program at 6 to 2. The biggest issue was that the City couldn't find a corporate sponsor. However, the subject is still "alive", and interested citizens are talking to Mr. Sig Hutchinson on how to proceed. Ms. Rindge also noted that the ½ cent sales tax was passed in the North Carolina legislature.

Policy Update discussions continued with a focus on policies/practices that are happening (or are being developed) at the municipal level to address pedestrian safety. Municipal government staff did not have specific information at the time. Ms. Laura Sandt inquired staff about the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) funding and SRTS infrastructure projects. Ms. Danna Widmar, LAPP Administrator, explained that the LAPP funding process will continue to accept SRTS infrastructure projects and not SRTS programmatic funding. An additional question was asked as to whether the Wake County Public School System will match funding with municipalities seeking to gain LAPP funds. The answer provided is that the PTA can coordinate with local schools and their associated municipalities in order to apply for funds associated with the LAPP process. The Subcommittee agreed that in the next meeting time will be devoted to talking about how the municipalities can connect with the PTAs for SRTS –related improvements.

Following discussion, Ms. Jennifer Delcourt addressed the Subcommittee concerning the following SRTS victories:

- Laurel Park Elementary school in Apex hosted a "Bike Smart/Growth Smart" training session in May.
- The Town of Wake Forest conducted a "Meet the Street" event.
- Powell Elementary students in Raleigh participated in Bike Month events.
- Olive Chapel Elementary School in Apex celebrated their 10 year anniversary of conducting "Walk to School" events.
- Scott's Ridge Elementary hosted a Walking School Bus Planning Workshop.
- SHAC – which stands for "School Health Advisory Council" made recommendations to the WCPSS Board of Education to 1) promote, "Let's Go NC," as well as SRTS to school administrators, 2) provide information about biking and walking on the school's website, and 3) Promote SRTS to principals and parents.
- WCPSS also commended every school that is doing walk/bike to school events (including Scott's Ridge Walking School Bus plans).

HSRC also mentioned updating the JRE website (formerly WakePedNet) to be a "home" for documenting SRTS efforts for the project and beyond and can link to SRTS pages/materials created by any partners; and furthermore, the Capital Area MPO will be adding SRTS materials to their website. Subcommittee members at the next meeting will look to encourage next steps and track progress made/actions taken by WCPSS on these items. The subcommittee will also discuss at future meetings how to facilitate the implementation of the SHAC recommendations.

John Rex Endowment Update/Evaluation Plan Approval/School Selection

Ms. Sandt addressed the Subcommittee with a presentation and handouts concerning the current actions being accomplished under the John Rex Endowment grant. Ms. Sandt noted that five out of 137 schools in the Wake County Public School System will be selected to participate in the model SRTS Program. So far, Ms. Sandt has only heard from Mr. Brian Glendenning about three of the five schools. Subcommittee members asked questions as to how the information can be addressed by the media, and how the information that can presented to the School Board. Ms. Sandt also noted that Ms. Kristen Brookshire (formerly Langford) of HSRC will be doing the "Policy Evaluation Work" and "Policy Audits."

ACTION ITEMS:

For the next meeting, municipalities need to be prepared to discuss policies that need to be evaluated for their respective communities. Ms. Brookshire will provide a draft list of questions related to the policy audit.

In the next meeting (or subsequent ones, depending on time available, Stephen Sposato will make a presentation on how walk zones for the WCPSS are determined by the district and how principals may augment policies at each school.

Adjournment