



Safe Routes to School Subcommittee

December 18, 2015
10:00 – 11:30 am

Participants

Amy Sackaroff
Matt Watterson
Dirk Siebenbrodt
Kristen Brookshire
Sara Merz
Sharon Peterson
Karen Rindge
Susan Wilson

Sandi Bailey
Stephen Sposato
Lynn Edmonds
Jason Brown
Jennifer Delcourt
Tim Gardiner
Kenneth Withrow

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 addressed the subcommittee with an update on the John Rex Endowment grant project. She stated that the <http://saferouteswakecounty.org> website is up and running. The website is intended to be used by the SRTS subcommittee, the five partner schools, the media, and general public. Eventually the site will contain stories from the partner schools and their SRTS action plan. She asked to subcommittee to let her know if there are events, resources, or news items that should be added to the site.

Activities at the five partner schools – Ms. Brookshire said that the steering committee kick-off meeting has been held at each of the five schools. Issues that span multiple partner schools include: greenway access, drop-off/idling practices, communication with neighbors, options for using the Let's Go NC! curriculum, and options for remote drop-off sites and walking school buses. The first draft action plan will be done in January for Northwoods Elementary in Cary. Northwoods has the strongest parent involvement and good participation from Town staff. The first draft action plans for the remaining four schools will be completed in February and March. At Ligon Middle School in Raleigh, there will be some opportunities to coordinate with nearby street projects and the Chavis Park Master Plan implementation. At Bugg Elementary in Raleigh, there is an opportunity to coordinate with the nearby community center and the PTA's new health and wellness committee. Hodge Road Elementary in Knightdale has enthusiastic support from staff and strong interest from Knightdale staff and elected officials. Hodge Road has a large Spanish-speaking population, so there is interest in translating Let's Go NC! curriculum materials. Lincoln Heights in Fuquay-Varina will be undergoing renovations and soon benefit from adjacent roadway project, but there are issues with the perception of safety around the school so SRTS might offer opportunities to raise the profile of the school.

Reporting results from the policy audit – Ms. Brookshire also discussed the Policy Audit. She interviewed staff members from all Wake County municipalities during late fall. The data gathered during interviews will be used by the JRE project team to set a baseline and track changes over the next three years. Some of the topics will be summarized into "issue briefs" that 1) explain state of the practice in Wake County, 2) highlight noteworthy local examples, and 3) offer recommendations and resources. Topics will include Complete Streets policies, school-related policies/practices, sidewalk prioritization/ funding/ construction, and connectivity policies. The briefs may be used by WakeUP Wake County and Advocates for Health in

Action (AHA) to inform advocacy efforts and by municipalities to learn about efforts around the county and recommendations for improvement. HSRC can expand on the briefs if there is interest of need for technical assistance. Ms. Sharon Peterson of Wake County government mentioned the idea for an issue brief about perception of safety. Mr. Tim Gardiner said that prioritization practices deserve significant weight in the issue brief about sidewalks.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Withrow noted that this was an informational item; therefore, no action was taken.

Program Elements

Ms. Sackaroff presented the final revisions to the "Program Elements" spreadsheet. After a brief explanation to the Subcommittee on the various components of the Program Elements, the Subcommittee voted to have the TCC recommend Executive Board adoption at their next meeting (January 20, 2016). Mr. Stephen Sposato noted that transportation to schools is very impactful; and Mr. Gardiner suggested that metrics coming from the Program Elements need to be included in future "summary sheets". Also, Ms. Peterson asked if radii for school walk zones have been established. Ms. Brookshire noted the uniqueness of each of the five partner schools and that the radius and/or suggested walking routes for each school would vary.

ACTION ITEM: The Subcommittee approved Program Elements, and that the TCC recommends Executive Board adoption of the Program Elements as the initial stage of the Capital Area MPO's SRTS Program.

Safe Routes to Schools Resolution for Wake County Public Schools

Mr. Stephen Sposato indicated that the resolution will be presented to the Wake County School Board in the spring. Additional modifications/revisions need to be done before the resolution can be presented. Both WakeUP Wake County and AHA will meet with members of the School Board on the resolution prior to a presentation.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Withrow will provide a draft copy of the revised resolution encouraging Wake County to adopt SRTS policies.

Other Business/February 2016 Meeting

Ms. Karen Rindge provided the participants with an update on the Wake Transit Plan.

ACTION ITEM: The Subcommittee will provide comments and suggestions to Ms. Rindge.

Other Business

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 5, 2016 at 1:00 pm.

Adjournment