



## Safe Routes to School Subcommittee

April 22, 2016  
10:00 – 11:30 am

### Participants

Amy Sackaroff  
John-Paul Zitta  
Nancy Pullen  
Kristen Brookshire  
Susan Wilson  
Sharon Peterson  
Nancy Pullen (via conference call)  
Kenneth Withrow

Russell Dalton  
Stephen Sposato  
Lynn Edmonds  
Jeff Triezenberg  
Jennifer Delcourt  
Tim Gardiner  
Nicole Bennett  
Michelle McKinley

### Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Amy Sackaroff called the meeting to order and began the meeting with introductions. She reminded everyone that regularly scheduled Subcommittee meetings are held on the third Friday every two months. The change in April was due to the AHA “Making Great Places” special event on April 15.

### Updates on the John Rex Endowment (JRE) Child Pedestrian Safety Program

Ms. Kristen Brookshire addressed the Subcommittee concerning the five schools involved in the JRE grant program. Since February, JRE staff members have incorporated public workshops in standing events held at the schools. The standing events included: (1) Northwoods Elementary – International Night, (2) Lincoln Heights Elementary and Hodge Road Elementary schools – Step Night, (3) Ligon Middle School – the annual 5k Health Fair, and (4) Bugg Elementary School – the Community Advisory Council. While working through these events, the public was able to know about Safe Routes to School. All five schools have also had steering committee meetings; strong attendance by either parents, teachers, or town staff depending upon the school. These schools will have completed draft “Action Plans by the end of the school year. Other events that JRE staff members have participated in other events including: (1) the annual Triangle Bicycle & Pedestrian Workshop, (2) Wake County’s School Health Advisory Committee, (3) the Wake County Planners Group meeting; and (4) the Wake County Public School System’s (WCPSS) School District Staff meeting; where discussions were focused on public relations, marketing, and training. During the summer months, work will be geared to work on infrastructure around the schools; as well as setting up implementation projects in the fall season. The work is intensive and needs staff support. Task Forces have been established; however, the challenge is making sure that the task forces for each school are sustainable beyond the scope of the JRE Grant project. Tying the Task Forces to school programs and school positions is the mechanism to keep them “tied in” or “institutionalized”.

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

### City of Raleigh – Complete Streets Policy

Ms. Susan Wilson of the City of Raleigh addressed the group concerning the City’s Complete Streets Policy. The policy was adopted in 2015. The policy is useful in applying for grants. City staff looked at “peer communities” for useful policy examples. The list of cities included Portland, Maine; Asheville, North Carolina, Baldwin Park, California; and Indianapolis, Indiana. The policy is very specific and is incorporated into the City of Raleigh Comprehensive Plan. The city is working on project checklists, and educating staff on the purpose of the policy. Impetus for the policy implementation was on the staff level;

particularly due to grant requirements. The Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended the policy to Council for their adoption. The city will work to develop performance measures as they implement the Complete Streets Policy. One area of measurement will be traffic speeds on streets.

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

### **SRTS Resolution**

Ms. Lynn Edmonds addressed the Subcommittee by stating that AHA and WakeUp met during the month of March with eight of the nine Wake County School Board members. Specific board members included Tom Benton – chair, Bill Fletcher – Facilities Committee Chair, and Jim Martin – Policy Committee Chair. The meetings concerning the resolution were very positive. As the month of March progressed, other more controversial resolutions were being presented to the School Board. As a result, the Board decided not to do any resolutions. The positive perspective is that the Wake School Board encouraged AHA to pursue a policy initiative. Tom Benton wants AHA and WakeUp to meet with Tim Simmons – Communication Director and Bill Fletcher to do communications concerning Bike to School Day on May 4. Discussions associated with Safe Routes to School will continue through various School Board work groups and committees. The Wake County School Board does want to do something positive for Safe Routes to Schools. Suggestions include meeting with SHAC, the principals group, etc. Amy suggested that the AHA, WakeUp, and the Subcommittee consider how to market Safe Route to Schools in Wake County. Ms. Nancy Pullen explained that any procedures such as “remote drop-offs” truly ensure that parents are safely directing their children to the school facility. None of the Board members expressed any concerns altogether with Safe Routes to Schools projects. Bill (Fletcher) was interested in doing walking audits prior to doing building renovations and siting new schools. Stephen Sposato suggested that policies be connected to the Strategic Plan (which has been adopted) and incorporated into its (the Strategic Plan’s) implementation phase. The Strategic Plan is on the Wake County homepage website, and is called “Vision 2020”.

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

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Jennifer Delcourt addressed the Subcommittee on various Active Routes to School/Safe Routes to School activities. The six items that she addressed included: (1) Town of Wendell Pedestrian Plan – underway. Jennifer will represent and address needed SRTS elements for the Plan, (2) Bike to School Day – May 4 (Nancy Pullen stated that registrations in North Carolina for 2016 have well exceeded last year’s registrations), (3) Active Routes to Schools’ support for the AHA Awards, which leads to (4) Michele McKinley that the “Brains and Bodies” Awards will be held on Wednesday, April 27, (5) A Walkability Audit will be held at the North Ridge Elementary School in May, and (6) Jennifer Delcourt and Susan Wilson are working with 4H of Wake County and the Chavis Community Center to host a Bike Camp in August.

Subcommittee members expressed an interest in learning about the SRTS Prioritization Process that will begin during the summer; as well as about LAPP prioritization, and connecting the Wake County Public School System transportation managers with municipal planners.

### **Other Business**

The next meeting will be held on June 17 at 10:00 am.

### **Adjournment**