



Prince George's County

SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2024

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

- Wanika Fisher, Council Member
- Timothy Meyer (PTO President)
- Pamela Boozer-Strother (BOE), Chair
- Marcus Monroe (Brentwood), Council Member
- Troy Lilly (Forest Heights), Mayor
- Charoscar Coleman (PGCPS)
- Erv Beckert (DPW&T)
- Leo Davidson (PGCPS Student)

Minutes

- Arian Albear, EWD Director, took attendance, and Workgroup members introduced themselves.
- Workgroup members approved past minutes.
- Joanne Waszczak, from the US Department of Transportation (DOT), presented a fact sheet created by her team in collaboration with the Department of Education (ED) showcasing tools to reduce chronic absenteeism through better pedestrian safety infrastructure.
- The Fact Sheet is made for decision-makers at every level and provides a menu of transportation strategies that school systems could use.
- She also explained ways to use available DOT and ED funding to implement the strategies.
- She provided suggestions such as encouraging and enabling students to walk or bike to school, establishing school streets, expanding safe routes, aligning local land use and zoning codes for safer areas around schools, and offering free or discounted fares for students in public transportation.
- Council Member Fisher asked how recipients are determined, and Ms. Waszczak noted that some are formula funding, and some may be yearly and competitive grants. She added that the federal government generally looks favorable to cross-government-level partnerships as they show that the area is aligned with their priorities. Ms. Waszczak also mentioned that DOT has consultants available to meet with groups to help make their grant applications competitive.
- Council Member Olson asked for further information from staff regarding past funding for students

to ride WMATA's Metrobus and trains free before and after school.

- Timothy Meyer added that 9 Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) have already joined the walking school buses structure.
- Erv Beckert provided information on the amount of money that the County received from the federal Safe Streets funding. The County received \$21 million, with construction expected to start early next year.
- Workgroup members reviewed the different final subgroup recommendations and discussed each one. The recommendations needed to be edited further, so the Workgroup held them for the following meeting with the expectation that members and staff would work together to improve the wording of each recommendation.
- Arian Albear, EWD Committee Director, discussed CB-084-2024. The Bill authorizes stop-sign monitoring cameras around school zones.
- The following meeting of the Workgroup was set for November 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm.