Safe Routes to School MCCPTA Committee Work Plan 2020-2021

Committee: Safe Routes to School Subcommittee

Chair: Alison Gillespie

Email: alisonupstairs@gmail.com (saferoutes@mccpta.org)

Address: 1826 Brisbane Street, Silver Spring, MD 20902

Phone: 301-385-0313

Vision

All students should feel safe walking to school, riding their bike to school, and riding a bus to school. Currently, many of our streets are unsafe, and pedestrian and bike safety are not big priorities for many of our elected officials. We aim to make walking and riding safe and are working with parents, students, teachers, staff and administrators to reach this goal. This means getting MCPS to work more in concert with those who maintain roads and transportation networks, and also the county planning department. It also means empowering parents to advocate at their own schools for needed infrastructure changes.

Goals

Our biggest goal remains the same: to reduce the number of staff, parents and students involved in crashes in school zones. This year the SRTS Subcommittee will:

-try to figure out how the construction process works and where/at which points we can advocate.

-build tools and apply advocacy measures that would broadly help all students or parents at all schools to advocate for their own communities as opposed to taking on things for schools.

Draft some materials for the coming year, including:

-templates/how-to guide for walk audits that parents could use themselves and submit to DOT or SHA or others

-advocacy guides

-how-to guide for riding to school safely

-video projects, perhaps made by volunteering high school students, on how to ride or walk to school safely by yourself, how to ride the Ride-On bus safely

-we should also try to promote pedestrian and bike safety to parents as the year begins and use MCCPTA messaging to keep parents aware of planning issues, etc.

Action Steps

We will be meeting regulary (at least once a month) with Duwan Morris from MC Department of Transportation on traffic education.

We also hope to keep increasing our committee membership to eventually include a representative at every school in the county.

We will continue working with Todd Watkins, Cara Grant, and other MCPS staff members to form a working group that can meet regularly to discuss pedestrian safety on a regular basis, and draft a comprehensive plan to adopt Vision Zero at all MCPS schools. <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/> Montgomery County is one of the places in the U.S. to initiate a Vision Zero plan, and the county has put resources in place eliminate fatal collisions in the next few years.

We will also be working with officials from the MD State Highway Administration, the Montgomery County Planning Department, the Montgomery County Police Department, the Washington Area Bicycling Association, the Action Committee for Transit, and several key staff members from the Montgomery County Council.

Meeting Schedule

Given the limitations of COVID, we plan to meet at least every other month via Zoom.

Budget request

We do not have any buget requests this year, due to COVID.