

**Foothill Elementary Transportation, Safety and Recreation
Stakeholder Working Group (FSWG)
Meeting #1 - July 15, 2009
Meeting Notes**

Agreements

- The FSWG approved the protocols with the above changes to the language.
- A representative subcommittee will draft a non-engineering plan to address challenges with hug-and-go, cross walks and education.

Action Items

- FSWG Subcommittee will meet and develop a draft non-engineering plan for challenges with hug-and-go, cross walks and education.
- BVSD will send an email to everyone that received the call for applications to let them know who is on the working group, that meetings are open to the public with a brief public comment period and the meeting schedule.
- Jody Erikson, The Keystone Center, will send the draft list of data needs, experiential challenges for participant additions
- Jody Erikson will distribute a meeting summary for revision and approval.
- Jody Erikson will update the protocols and interests list.
- Niki Koszalka, The Keystone Center, will send a scheduling email to participants to plan a regular meeting day.

Next FSWG Meeting: August 3, 2009, 6:00pm – 9:00 pm, Foothill Library

DISCUSSION

Protocols

The group asked to see the following modifications made to the protocols:

- Membership
 - Add - parents with children who are bused to the membership.
- Roles
 - Add - commitment to coming to meetings prepared.
 - Add - “data gathering” section to reflect that all parties will contribute to the level of their experience and expertise and Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) will contribute additional technical data within time and financial limitations.
- Facilitator
 - Add - all issues or complications within the group will be brought to the facilitator to mediate.
- Public Input

- Post meetings on the BVSD website, the school website, and newsletters. It was agreed that for transparency, the multiple websites and newsletters will let the public know about meetings.
- BVSD will provide a general email address for the public to use for any and all feedback.
- Communication
 - Add - if email is used for communication among the group on substantive issues, permission must be obtained before forwarding these emails outside of the group.
 - All media inquiries should be directed to Susan Cousins, BVSD Bond Program.
- Meeting Materials
 - Add - meeting materials are sent out a week before the meeting, at minimum materials must be sent out three working days before a scheduled meeting.
- Schedule and Milestones
 - Add – meeting date in September.

ACTION: The Keystone Center (TKC) will send out a scheduling email.

- New Topic: Final Documentation/Report
 - Add – language about a written plan which may include implementation dates, narratives, strategies, timelines, graphics, tasks for parents, BVSD and responsible entities.

AGREEMENT: The FSWG approved the protocols with the above changes to the language.

Interest Lists

The working group started discussion with a draft list of interests developed through public comments and the public meeting May 19, 2009. After a lot of discussion about what the language meant or if there were too many, the group agreed to start with a short, broad list.

AGREEMENT: Start with: safety, parking demands, rules, congestion, and recreation.

Problem Definition

Traffic Study

Bill Fox, Fox Higgins Transportation Group, spoke to the work group of the findings of the traffic study conducted at Foothill Elementary. The study is posted on the BVSD Bond Program website (go to: <http://bvsd.org/bondproject/schools/Documents/Foothills%20Elementary%20New%20Access%20Report%20updated.pdf>).

Questions/Answers:

Q: Are more parents dropping their kids off on 9th Street than Hawthorn?

A: Yes, people come in from Broadway, drive along Hawthorn and if they do not find a space, they continue on and park on 9th Street. Though it is important to note, all the people coming up 9th Street, were not counted.

Q: When was the traffic study conducted?

A: It took place on April 13, 2009 at the morning and afternoon drop off times, during construction. It was observed, even before the kids were being dropped off, all parking on the south side of Hawthorn was full. It is teachers, construction workers, People's Clinic, and residents.

Q: Why are Boulder's school/student trips per day numbers higher than the national average?

A: It could be, in part, the open enrollment numbers. It also seems over time, people are less comfortable watching their children go to the door and choose to walk them. Affluence could also play a role.

Q: How many people did u-turns on Hawthorn to go back to Broadway?

A: Seven out of the 44 people were observed coming in and parking along the frontage of Hawthorn and then making a u-turn.

Q: Did the traffic study observe a lot of illegal street crossing (not at the cross walk)?

A: There were a few parents who parked illegally and crossed with children outside the crosswalk. He suspects it would have happened more if there was more parking available on Hawthorn. He reported seeing nine parents on the south side of Hawthorn and two of the nine made u-turns to leave. All but one or two of these nine parents crossed their kids not at a cross walk. It was noted the only injury at Foothill was on the south side of Hawthorn.

Q: Are the students being dropped off last minute? Are the last fifteen minutes, before the bell rings, more congested?

A: There were people still arriving after the official start time. Did not see any increase of unsafe behavior as it approached the start time of school.

Q: Will there be an opportunity to look at non-engineering solutions with the new population at the school?

A: Yes, this will be looked at from the first day of school until the fall work group meeting, two months into the school year.

Experiential Problem Definition

Participants shared their own experience of the challenges with drop off/pick up:

- Posted signs are not obeyed, if they were, it would be a safer environment.
- People park up to street corners blocking visibility and forcing bikers into the middle of the street.

- Iris-Broadway-Hawthorn traffic for many open enrollment parents.
- Illegal crossing (not at crosswalk) and behaviors of bikers and walkers cause congestion.
- Children are dropped off in the teacher's parking lot.
- There is confusion at the crossing of Hawthorn and 9th; it causes people to stop, and then a build up of congestion. In general there is too much of all kinds of traffic at this juncture.
- Some parents exhibit bad behavior towards those enforcing the parking and drop off rules. Often parents are combative both driving and biking. The parents yell and there have been pretty nasty interactions with staff.
- In the winter parents park in the drop off area to keep their children in the car until the bell rings.
- Car doors opening onto narrow side walks impede the flow of kids walking.
- Car doors open into the street on the driver's side.
- Kids are dropped off in the bus lane.
- Left turns are made onto Broadway from east bound Hawthorn.
- Monday is trash collection day which impedes the ability and availability to park.

One participant stated they never had a problem driving to school. They park at Grape and 9th and walking the child to school. Even when visiting the school, they never had to park more than two blocks away.

ACTION: The facilitator will send the above draft list to the participants for additions or edits.

Additional Data Needs

ACTION: The facilitator will send a draft list of additional data needs for participant additions.

Non-Engineering Elements

The work group discussed and added to the draft list of non-engineering elements. In this context, non-engineering means non-construction; both paint and signage would be considered non-engineering.

Small Tangible/Material Change

- Two drop off points for the 2nd and 5th graders.
- Crossing guard at Hawthorn and 9th
- Stop sign at 9th and Iris
- Stop sign at 9th and Hawthorn making the intersection a 4-way stop.

Program(s)

- A good-behavior reward system for the students if their parents abide by the parking and drop-off rules. The theory is children will drive their parent's behavior.
Example: A 'Safe Student' sticker if the student gets out of a car on passenger side.

Education

- Safety assembly in the beginning of the year to give clear definition to the rules and how they should be followed.
- Handout of rules for crossing guards to hand out if there are any infractions.
- Signed agreement from parents and kids on the “rules” for transportation which would cover all modes.
- Handouts in Friday Folders with guidelines (for reducing traffic congestion and clarifying traffic rules/suggestions), soliciting feedback.

Enforcement/Staffing

- Consistent training and education for all cross walk guards.
- Hire crossing guards. The challenge has been the pay scale, which is very low, especially when the time commitment is so small (a half hour). In addition, the city and BVSD attorneys rejected this idea.

AGREEMENT: A representative subcommittee will draft a non-engineering plan to address challenges with hug-and-go, cross walks and education.

ACTION: Subcommittee will draft something in advance of August 3rd. Committee consists of: Melisa Potes, Sarah Schulte, Holli Hoskins, Erik Park, Pat Stevenson, Tom Wyman, and Chris Hagelin.

ATTENDANCE

Parents: Kim Boyd, Julie Cepulis, Diane Harpold, Blair Norman, Erik Park, Sarah Schulte, Tom Wyman

Neighbors: Jane Monson, Pat Stevenson, Leila Thomas

Foothill Principle: Melisa Potes

Foothill Staff: James Brittenham, Holli Hoskins, Natalie Warshaw,

BVSD: Landon Hilliard, Don Orr

City of Boulder: Bill Cowern, City of Boulder; Chris Hagelin, GO Boulder