

**Foothill Elementary Transportation, Safety and recreation  
Stakeholder Workgroup  
December 9, 2009  
Meeting Notes**

**Agreements:**

- Participants agreed to focus further discussion and investigation on the following engineered solutions. They also agreed to the priority order of preference, if funding is available:
  1. Widen the sidewalk on Hawthorn and redirect water drainage by kindergarten playground
    - a. Along the whole Foothill property
    - b. Along the hug and go lane
  2. Purchase additional bike racks
  3. Extend the curb at 9<sup>th</sup> and Iris
- The group agreed to initiate the following committees to address outstanding issues and additional non-engineering solutions:
  - Bike Planning Committee – establish rules of behavior, best bike flow around the school, training, etc.
  - Staffing Issues Committee - address training needs, maintain necessary amount of staff to maintain non-engineering solutions over time
  - Education Committee – how to keep parents and students informed of the rules and best flow during drop off and pick up
  - Teacher Parking Committee – address how to set up a permit parking system in the parking lot
  - FSWG Outcomes Committee – develop strategies to communicate the final product of the FSWG

**Action Items:**

- Don Orr will confirm the ownership of the wall on the west side of the parking lot - City or BVSD ownership.
- BVSD will look at design, landscaping, implementation and costs of the prioritized list of engineered solutions.
- Bill Cowern and Don Orr will work on a recommendation for the new width of the sidewalks based on industry and city wide standards and Foothill needs.
- Bill Cowern will look into when Hawthorn is scheduled for street repaving and if that includes curb improvements (to 90 degree curbs).
- Holli Hoskins will put together the Parking-lot Committee.

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## **DISCUSSION**

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### **Data Review**

The group reviewed several data points.

### ***Hug and Go***

Melisa Potes showed the group a video showing the hug and go, crosswalk activity, and bike traffic both in the morning and afternoon. A member provided their observation that on a recent cold afternoon there were 18 cars and by 3:00, in the space of ten minutes, the 18 cars were dealt with. Most of the parents, when asked, said they loved the new hug and go system. Other members shared their observations of the good workings of the hug and go lane.

### ***Infraction Counts***

The group reviewed the infraction counts conducted from August to October and felt the numbers seemed low based on the experiences of those who often witness child drop off and pick up events. Parking services were present during one of the infraction counts which could have significantly lowered the numbers.

### ***West Wall Ownership***

It was determined that the wall was owned by the city by looking at an aerial photo. Don Orr will check with the survey data to verify the wall is owned by the city. There is a possibility BVSD could have built it in the city right-of-way.

### ***Playground Guidelines and Amounts***

Since none of the engineered solutions significantly impact the playground, the group did not discuss these guidelines or Foothill amounts.

### **Engineered Solutions**

Participants discussed the list of suggested engineering solutions gathered during interviews with group members, including:

- Widen the sidewalk on Hawthorn along hug and go
  - Pro
    - Improves flow of the hug and go
    - Improves safety for children (don't have to step into the road to avoid a person passing)
  - Requirements and considerations
    - Moving the fence
    - Cost prohibitive to move utility poles
    - How wide would it be?
    - Negative aesthetic because of additional concrete
- Widen the sidewalk on Hawthorn along the kindergarten playground
  - Pros
    - Improves flow, decreases pedestrian congestion where the buses park
    - Decreases the 'canyon' effect between the buses and retaining wall

- Keeps people on the sidewalk and not in the street because there is no room to pass
- Cons
  - Potentially cost prohibitive to move the retaining wall
  - May have a tree that cannot be moved/cut down
- Extend the curbs at Iris and 9<sup>th</sup> into the parking lane;
  - Pros
    - Permanently prohibits cars from parking in the crosswalk at the corner
    - Reduces the need for cones
    - Makes crossing the intersection easier
  - Cons
    - Financing would not be possible through the city
    - Complications with drainage would greatly increase the expense
    - BVSD is disinclined to pay for off-site improvements
- Place a gate at the parking lot entrance to prohibit people from parking to drop off or pick up children
  - Cons
    - Costly to maintain and manage
    - Congestion on 9<sup>th</sup> caused by cars waiting to enter
- Redirect the water drainage by the kindergarten playground – it creates dangerous ice patches across the sidewalk
- Invest in a lighted pedestrian-activated crosswalk.
  - Con
    - Financing would not be possible through the city
- Designate a hug and go on the west side with a coned off area.
  - Pros
    - Dropping off older kids here could reduce congestion elsewhere
    - Accommodating to families living on the west side of the school
  - Cons
    - Encourages more cars through the crosswalks on 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Encourages right turns onto 9<sup>th</sup> which will back up traffic
- Invest in a “jersey barrier” to designate the crosswalk – there was little support or discussion for this option; and the city would not support it.
- Reconfigure the parking lot on the west side – this is out of the scope for the current bond funding; if desired it is possible to add it if there is another bond.

AGREEMENT: Participants agreed to focus further discussion and investigation on the following. They also agreed to a priority order of preference, if funding is available:

1. Widen the sidewalk on Hawthorn and redirect water drainage by kindergarten playground
  - a. Along the whole Foothill property
  - b. Along the hug and go lane
2. Purchase additional bike racks
3. Extend the curb at 9<sup>th</sup> and Iris

ACTION: BVSD will look at design, implementation and costs of the above list of engineered solutions.

ACTION: Bill Cowern and Don Orr will work on a recommendation for the new width of the sidewalks based on industry and city-wide standards and Foothill needs.

ACTION: Bill Cowern will look into when Hawthorn is scheduled for street repaving and if that includes curb improvements (to 90 degree curbs).

### **Outstanding Issues and Non-Engineering Solutions**

The group discussed processes to address the following:

#### *Outstanding Issues*

- U-turns on Iris – drivers seem to make a choice for u-turn than going through several crosswalks
- Bikers – biker behavior, driver's lack of expectancy around biker behavior and flow: bike rack locations and quantity; and training
- Maintaining non-engineering solutions over time
- Parents with extenuating circumstances that need to park closer to the school – How?
- Hug-n-go management – who decides how to change how it works, process to provide input on improvements
  - Hug-n-go pm work like in the am (line up, move forward)– address efficiency needs
  - Hug-n-go signage improvements (example: sign west of the end of fence needs to be a bit further west)

#### *Additional Non-engineering Solutions*

- Create permit parking in the parking lot – 'permit parking only' or 'tow-zone' signs, permits or numbered spaces
- Use parent volunteers outside instead of classroom – address need for teachers to use that time to talk with kids
- A roving staff person to educate people (on Iris particularly since there is only one staff there) – address additional and continuing education
- New and refresher crossing guard and valet training throughout the school year – address how and when to conduct trainings

AGREEMENT: The group agreed to make the following committees:

- Bike Planning Committee – establish rules of behavior, best bike flow around the school, training, etc.
- Staffing Issues Committee - address training needs, maintain necessary amount of staff to maintain non-engineering solutions over time
- Education Committee – how to keep parents and students informed of the rules and best flow during drop off and pick up
- Parking-lot Committee – address how to set up a permit parking system in the parking lot
- Foothill Outcomes Committee

**ACTION:** Holi Hoskins will put together the Parking-lot Committee.

**Foothill Bond Budget**

BVSD spoke with the group in regards to the Foothill bond budget. At this time, the project management team estimates that the Foothill Bond project budget has been expended due to unforeseen additional costs. Any engineering solutions from this group will need to be funded from other bond budgets. To honor this process, BVSD will find moneys from a reserve account for some of the suggested engineered solutions.

**Next Steps**

Next meeting will be January 20, 2009, 6:00-9:00. This will be the final meeting. The agenda will cover: decision making on engineered solutions to move forward and process to address outstanding issues and additional non-engineered solutions; and a presentation by the City, Noreen Walsh, on the Broadway construction project.

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**ATTENDANCE**

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

***Neighbors:*** Jane Monson, Pat Stevenson,

***Foothill Principal:*** Melisa Potes

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

***BVSD:*** Landon Hilliard, Don Orr, Susan Cousins, Tom Blahak (BVSD Contactor)

***City of Boulder:*** Bill Cowern