

# Transportation Update to the School Board

September 6, 2018



*Every Student Succeeds*

# How did we get to this point?

- The school division embarked on *redistricting*...
- Which led to *walk zone revisions*...
- Which led to our *assessment of bus routes and stops* - over time we had accumulated bus stops, which was inefficient and inequitable.

# Why were changes needed?

## For Efficiency:

- Reduce corner-to-corner stops
- To ensure service for the increased number of students with IEPs
- To accommodate more after-care requirements

## For Equity:

- Equity was one of the criteria established for the redistricting process
- Over time ACPS had accumulated bus stops through requests from families

# How do we prevent this happening in the future?

- ACPS is exploring a change protocol to ensure that any change implemented across the division go through the same process.
- All large-scale changes that take place in the division will be supported by an implementation plan and a communication plan.

# Implementation Schedule Shared at April 12 Board Meeting

- **May 2018:** Following approval, new walk zones will be updated in Transportation's software system.
- **May 2018:** Transportation staff will develop routes using the software.
- **June 2018:** Letters will be sent to all families to inform them of their transportation eligibility for school year 2018-2019.
- **Ongoing:** Students are added and removed from the system daily as they enter and leave the school division.

# Future Implementation Schedule

- **March:** Following approval, new walk zones will be updated in Transportation's software system.
- **April:** Community engagement to seek feedback from families.
- **May:** Transportation staff will develop routes using the software.
- **June:** Transportation staff will develop final routes using the software and other assessments.
- **July:** Letters will be sent to all families to inform them of their transportation eligibility for school year 2018-2019.
- **August:** Specific routes are sent to students.

# What is the Impact of the Transportation Changes?

- The walking policy changes has afforded *fewer* students walking than last school year and there are more students on the bus.
- It has made bus transportation more *equitable & efficient* across the division.

# What is the Impact of the Transportation Changes?

- Students eligible for bus services: **8,266**
- Students eligible due to a recognized hazard in the system: **2,060**
- Total eligible for ACPS bus service: **10,326**
- Students identified as Walk to School: **5,023**



# Assumptions

- Previously we relied heavily on the software.
- Not everything shows up in the software
- Assumptions did not include blind spots on hills, or streets without sidewalks.
- These additional assumptions will be included when evaluating routes in the future.

# Reassessment criteria includes factors such as:

- Is the location an appropriate location for students to wait for a bus?
- Is the walking route safe with regard to clear sidewalks, crosswalks, and speed limit zones?
- Is the waiting area adequately lit and safe?
- Can we find alternative solutions to make the walking route safe?

# Process for Adjustments, Reinstatements, and/or Changes

- Staff is still in the process of refining the bus routes and stops for this school year.
- All adjustments are communicated on Thursdays so that bus drivers and families both receive updated schedules in time for the following week.

# Transportation Adjustments, Reinstatements, and/or Changes

- Overcrowding on three buses serving MacArthur, Patrick Henry and George Washington Middle School.
- **Solution:** A new bus was added to split the routes at MacArthur, Patrick Henry and George Washington.

# Transportation Adjustments, Reinstatements, and/or Changes

- Increased transportation needs to after-care from
  - Lyles Crouch/Lee Rec Center
  - Mount Vernon to Cora Kelly
- **Solution:** Bus assignments were changed and/or buses added.

# Transportation Adjustments, Reinstatements, and/or Changes

- The more limited choice of bus stop locations compared with last year and additional walk distances/need to walk on streets without sidewalks.
- **Solution:** These bus stops and hazards will be reassessed and modified this coming week and families informed on September 13.

# Transportation Adjustments, Reinstatements, and/or Changes

- The safety of walk routes to Patrick Henry.
- **Solution:** The City has cleaned up parks and supported the area with additional police patrols.

# Transportation Adjustments, Reinstatements, and/or Changes

- Distance and difficulty of walking to Ferdinand T. Day and William Ramsay
- **Solution:** Addition of a 25 mile per hour school zone, landscaping cleared along the sidewalk, support from Alexandria Families for Safe Streets.



# Issues PENDING

- Bus stops at/near/serving North Van Dorn, Southern Towers, George Washington, Charles Barrett, William Ramsey, Polk, Mount Vernon and Lyles Crouch.

# Issues PENDING

- Distance required by high school students to walk to T.C. Williams and Minnie Howard.  
**Solution:** These issues have not been addressed as this would require a change in the walk zone policy.

# Questions?

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