



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Howard Lazarus, P.E., P.W.L.F, Director, Public Works Department
Rob Spillar, P.E, Director, Austin Transportation Department

CC: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

DATE: October 7, 2014

SUBJECT: CIUR 1314 – Transportation Issues for Areas Around
Co-located and/or Adjoining Schools (Resolution No. 20140515-031)

The following memo was coordinated by the Public Works Department (PWD) and Austin Transportation Department (ATD) in response to Resolution No. 20140515-031, which directs the City Manager to initiate a study to examine transportation issues surrounding co-located schools.

Currently, PWD (Safe Routes to School Program) and ATD meet with the Campus Advisory Committees when a concern is raised about co-located schools that share the same footprint. The Campus Advisory Committees (CAC's) are comprised of the principals, teacher representative, PTA president, parent representative, neighborhood association member, business representative and other staff members of the schools. When citizens bring concerns to the city, they are taken to the CAC's to be addressed. Any citizen may also bring concerns directly to the principal or other CAC members and PWD and ATD work with the CAC for a possible solution. Such solutions typically include optimizing on-site traffic circulation, installing traffic control devices, and establishing a preferred route to school to increase safety for all road users.

The short-term goals include continuing to work with these decision-making committees of the adjoining schools, and to have this consensus process become more visible to neighborhood associations and the school community.

Staff from PWD and ATD met with parents, principals, and AISD staff on site at Doss Elementary School and Murchison Middle School on September 19, 2014 during the peak morning traffic period. The site visit determined that repainting existing crosswalks, installing an additional crosswalk, modifying existing parking restrictions, and increasing the conspicuity of pedestrian signs would address some concerns for the short term. ATD will schedule a follow-up site visit to observe conditions during the peak afternoon traffic period and develop additional short-term goals, if needed.

The long-term goals include PWD marketing the Safe Routes to School strategies that promote more active transportation by making the access to all campuses easier for students who walk or ride their bicycles.

This goal may include instituting changes such as giving priority to students who use active transportation to come to school (such as biking on cycle tracks). This could mean changing the drop-off and pick up of students who ride in vehicles to the back of schools, adjacent side streets, or a drop off point a block away from the campus.

Additionally, ATD will evaluate traffic circulation on the surrounding transportation network and the need for a traffic signal or pedestrian hybrid beacon at the intersection of Far West Boulevard and Northledge Drive. Any changes must include the support of the school decision making committee and AISD administration.

PWD and ATD will continue to work with the CAC's at both Doss Elementary and Murchison Middle School moving forward.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.