County Council Presentation: Youth Pedestrian Safety

November 17, 2015
MCDOT and MCPD

Youth Pedestrian Safety Engineering, Education, and Enforcement Efforts
Safe Routes to School Program - Coordination of Engineering, Education, and Enforcement

Youth Pedestrian Safety
Party at Fault by Age

Age of Pedestrian at Fault

% of Total

0-9 yrs 10-19 yrs 20-29 yrs 30-39 yrs 40-49 yrs 50-59 yrs 60-69 yrs 70-79 yrs 80+

2011-2013 Avg. 2014 % of County Population

Age of Driver at Fault

% of Total

0-9 yrs 10-19 yrs 20-29 yrs 30-39 yrs 40-49 yrs 50-59 yrs 60-69 yrs 70-79 yrs 80+

2011-2013 Avg. 2014 % of County Drivers

Sources: MCPD, Census Bureau 2013 5-Year ACS Population Estimates, MD Highway Safety Office
# Ped. Collisions within a ¼ mile of Public Schools: School Aged Pedestrians Only

## Youth Pedestrian Safety

### Number of Collisions near Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Collisions w/ School-Aged Ped. Near School</th>
<th>All Collisions Near Schools</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>50</td>
</tr>
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<td>2014</td>
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- Ages 6-11 Near Elementary Schools
- Ages 12-14 Near Middle Schools
- Ages 15-19 Near High Schools
Collisions Within ¼ Mile of Elementary Schools: Pedestrians of Elementary School Ages – 2009 to 2014 (Six Years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary School</th>
<th>Involving Peds. Age 6-11</th>
<th>Elementary School</th>
<th>Involving Peds. Age 6-11</th>
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Collisions Within ¼ Mile of Middle Schools: Pedestrians of Middle School Ages – 2009 to 2014 (Six Years)

<table>
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<th>Middle School</th>
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<td>Newport Mill</td>
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Youth Pedestrian Safety
## Collisions Within ¼ Mile of High Schools: Pedestrians of High School Ages – 2009 to 2014 (Six Years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Involving Peds. Age 15-19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Montgomery</td>
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<td>Kennedy</td>
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<td>Bethesda Chevy Chase</td>
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<td>Blair</td>
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<td>Gaithersburg</td>
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<td>Johnson</td>
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<td>Springbrook</td>
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<td>Wootton</td>
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<td>Churchill</td>
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<td>Clarksburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damascus</td>
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<td>Einstein</td>
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<td>Northwood</td>
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<td>Poolesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quince Orchard</td>
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<td>Seneca Valley</td>
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<td>Watkins Mill</td>
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<td>Sherwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Edison</td>
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<td>Wheaton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitman</td>
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Safe Routes To School Program

Objectives

• Documenting Existing Conditions
• Identifying and enhancing school walking routes
• Minimizing Vehicle / Student Interaction
• Increasing Student Visibility at Schools
• Organizing and controlling Traffic in School Zones
• Controlling Arrivals and Departures
• Traffic Safety Education for Students
School Safety Assessments

- Initial school safety assessments done in 2004-2005. These surveyed existing signs, markings, sidewalk network, crosswalk inventory, etc. within a 1/4 mile radius of the schools

- Each school was scored based on these initial assessments and comprehensive assessments were scheduled with priority given to schools with low Initial Safety Scores

- From 2005 to 2014 comprehensive studies conducted for all public schools. MCDOT now doing private schools.
School Safety Assessments

• Initially assessments focused on bringing signing and marking and sidewalk connectivity along school walking routes up to current standards.
• Over the life of the program the scope has expanded greatly to include evaluating traffic operations during arrival and dismissal times, and physical traffic calming in front of the school and along walking routes.
• While comprehensive studies were being conducted, MCDOT also responded to MCPD, MCPS and residents concerns/issues.
• MCDOT continues to respond to specific concerns brought to our attention.
Engineering Improvements Around Schools

- Improved school warning signing and pavement markings
- Traffic calming by curb extensions and refuge islands
- High-visibility crosswalks at intersections and enhanced pedestrian crossings
- Improved sidewalks and enhanced pathways
- Upgraded school flashers
- Parking and turning restrictions near schools
School Engineering Projects

Winston Churchill High School

Galway Elementary School
Engineering Projects

Cold Spring Elementary

Carderock Springs Elementary

Oakland Terrace Elementary

Carderock Springs Elementary

Oakland Terrace Elementary
↑ Kingsview MS/
Ronald McNair ES

↑ Clemente MS/
McAuliffe ES

← Seneca Valley HS
MCDOT Pedestrian Safety Education

- Working with School Principals and through PTA’s to build partnerships
- Schools are provided a toolkit of educational activities to implement
- FY14: $100,000 Authorized to expand into High School Pedestrian Safety Education
- Collaboration between MCDOT and MCPS Office of Communications
- Crash Data Analyzed to Identify Targeted Approach
- Launched Fall Campaign in October 2014 – Second Wave in March 2016
- Use Web-based Resources – “Tool Kit” Made Available to All Schools – public and private
- Social Media used to reach students and school communities
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education

Crosswalk Simulation and Bike Rodeos

- Simulated real world experience of crossing a street.
- Bike rodeo is a clinic to teach children the skills and precautions to ride a bicycle safely.

Train-the-Trainer

- High School students are trained to conduct the simulation and assist with bike rodeo activities at various events.
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Partnership with MCPD

Otto the Auto – MCPD and AAA Mid Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education

Video for pedestrian safety skill development for ages 5-18
“It’s Academic” Style Game

Which group is at the greatest risk for pedestrian injuries?
Middle School Take Action Against Distraction Video Contest

This is what could happen to you when you are on your phone about to cross the street.
Four Corners: The Blair Walk Project

- Working Group of students, administration/staff, and PTSA shaped campaign
- SWAG Bracelets
- “Best Eyes” Contest
- Text Message Contest
- Train-the-Trainer
Walk Your Way Projects

Pay Attention as you Cross Road

Don’t use a crosswalk or nah? Nah!

Safe or Sorry

Don’t Miss Out!

Come join us

Learn about Pedestrian Safety Awareness

From Thursday May 22nd

in the auditorium during lunch!

Be Safe. Be Proud. Walk Our Styles.
YOLO – You Only Live Once
High School Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign
YOLO Toolkit
Above: One way students chose to display their photos
Below: Student signing the pledge at a student led pledge banner drive

Above: Student led assembly each student was given a glow stick as reminder about visibility
Below: At the assembly students opened with a performance to a song called “Glow in the Dark”
Bethesda Chevy Chase High School
Pedestrian Safety Website

Promoting Pedestrian Safety at School

#YOLOWalksafe

Whether in the classroom or on the street, student safety is a priority for everyone involved in the education of Montgomery County's youth. That's why the Montgomery County Department of Transportation created the YOLO campaign and is partnering with Montgomery County Public Schools to raise awareness of the risks of distracted walking and other dangerous pedestrian behaviors.

The YOLO toolkit sent to each high school and the resources on this website were created to help school communities encourage safe pedestrian practices. The YOLO Campaign Guidebook is filled with great ideas and information, whether your school already has a pedestrian safety program or is looking for ways to get started.

Thank you for helping us spread the word about pedestrian safety!

Al Roshdieh
Acting director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Larry A. Bowers
Interim Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
MCPS Safety Website Expansion

Youth Pedestrian Safety
MCP School Safety Section
School Safety Section (SSS)

• The Crossing Guard program (CGP) has been in existence since at least 1955
• The SSS and CGP were assigned to the newly formed Traffic Division in 2009
• SSS is one of the largest Sections in the Department (178 employees)
  • (1) Sergeant - Supervisor
  • (1) Corporal – Deputy Supervisor
  • (3) Officers – School Safety Coordinators
  • (3) Principal Administrative Aides – School Safety Aides
  • (170) Crossing Guards
  • (6,000) Safety Patrols (approximately)
• Annual Budget 5.8 million
Crossing Guard Program

• There is no absolute national criteria for identifying which street crossings in a community require an adult school crossing guard.
• Crossing Guards provide scheduled pedestrian crossings to over 150 elementary and middle schools daily in both the morning and afternoon.
• The purpose of the Crossing Guards are to stop traffic and cross people **not** to direct traffic.
• No Crossing Guards are assigned on school property.
• Each SSS Coordinator is assigned oversight responsibility for two Districts and the schools which are assigned Crossing Guards.
Crossing Guard Program

- Safety assessments for every crossing are done annually by the coordinators and supervisors of the SSS.
- Crossing Guards assignments are authorized based on:
  - Bussing plans
  - Child counts - age and number of children
  - Types of roadway - arterial, primary or secondary residential
  - Controlled vs. Uncontrolled intersections – traffic and/or pedestrian signals
- Older children should be able to negotiate intersections controlled by four-way stop signs and pedestrian signals
- Crossing Guards are not provided to High Schools
- SSS works collectively with DOT and MCPS-Transportation
Public Communication & Outreach

- The SSS provides training to the School Safety Patrol Sponsors and over 6,000 Safety Patrols.
- SSS Coordinators provide mentoring and some elementary school based programs like Bicycle Safety and “Stranger Danger”.
- SSS Coordinators attend Patrol meetings on a monthly-bi-monthly basis.
- SSS sponsors two one week Safety Patrol Leadership Camps.
- SSS Sponsors a week long Safety Patrol Picnic
- Several units in the Traffic Division participate in School Assemblies, Safety programs like “Every 15 Minutes” and teach in the 10th grade health classes.
School Resource Officers

• SROs assist their respective schools to develop and maintain efficient and safe traffic flow pattern. This is especially important, during drop off and pickup time periods.
• SROs also meet periodically with their district's patrol and traffic Sgt's to discuss strategies for those occasional spot enforcement details where the SRO might need additional assets or at larger events such as football games.
• SROs are often asked to communicate traffic safety concerns with staff and students directly via the morning school announcements or with parents at evening events (PTA).
• Because of their unique partnerships, SROs assist the State's Attorney's Office with both their school and community presentations that have involved drug/alcohol awareness, fatal collisions, etc... MCPD units (AES-SOD) sometimes utilize SROs with the production of traffic safety details and training videos involving jaywalking and crosswalk violations.
• Others take part in regularly scheduled outreach and prevention programs such as the “every 15 minutes.”
Montgomery County Public Schools

Student Pedestrian Safety
Walking distances

• BOE policy calls for 2, 1.5, and 1 mile non transported distances
• 0.5 mile distance to stop guideline
• Adjusted for lack of safe walking routes
• Two-thirds eligible for bus, One-third not eligible
Safe walking

- Safe walking routes to school and bus stops
  - Neighborhood streets
  - Major roadways
- Bus stops at driveways
Change from ride to walk

- Pedestrian amenities
- Construction
- New roadways
Evaluating Safety issues

• Annual route reviews
• Questions about existing walks
• Appeals of existing or recently changed walks
Communicating Safety

- Elementary schools teach safe walking/bus riding
- Ride by the rules
- Website
- Specific information about recent changes
All walk/ride schools

• All ride high schools: Blake, Damascus, Magruder, Sherwood
• All ride middle schools: Baker, Redland, Farquhar (7 total)
• All ride elementary schools: 23
• All walk elementary schools: Cold Spring, Glen Haven, Highland (6 total)
• Actual ridership varies by level and community
• Lots of cars at all ride schools