

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



CITY OF PALMDALE

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

June 15, 2016

4:00pm to 6:00pm

*Development Services Conference Room
38250 Sierra Hwy, Palmdale, CA 93550*

Attendance:

Mike Behen, City of Palmdale
Brian Kuhn, City of Palmdale
Jessica Sevilla, Palmdale School District
Rhonda Hanson, Westside School District
Dr. Larry Freise, Antelope Valley High School District
Alan Thompson, SCAG
Dietter Aragon, AVTA
Richard Marshalian, County of Los Angeles
Dale Benson, Caltrans
Tony Jusay, LA Metro
Rory Vaughn, Metrolink
Elaine Macdonald, AV Trails, Recreation and Environmental
Mandy McConaha, AV Partners for Health
Arlene Granadosin-Jones, Kimley-Horn (consultant)
Ryan Snyder, TranspoGroup (consultant)
Melody Wu, TranspoGroup (consultant)

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2016 Meeting

The TAC members approved the meeting minutes from the previous TAC meeting.

III. Update on Suggested Routes to School Plan Outreach and Findings

- What is SRTS?

- Overview of SRTS Workshops
- Preliminary Findings and Summary of Key Comments Received

Ryan Snyder, TranspoGroup, provided an update on the SRTS outreach and findings.

IV. TAC Comments/Discussion on Suggested Routes to School Plan

Mike Behen asked whether the consultant heard any complaints from parents that Sheriff Department representatives are around the schools too often.

Brian Kuhn mentioned that parents may complain about Sheriff's presence after they have been ticketed.

Arlene Granadosin-Jones opened the discussion on the SRTS Plan.

Jessica Sevilla: It's summer school so we are not getting so much feedback. Crossing guards were excited about the opportunity to voice themselves. Each school has its unique issues and challenges: some schools with great turn out and others without any turn out. Everybody has a different perspective. Bus drivers were not able to attend the workshop because of their hours but they have a lot to say about congestion. Schools were built in smaller-scale neighborhoods but the large student count has contributed to the congestion and there is no relief. The biggest takeaway is that this is a continuing education process and hope to have more time in the future to encourage more attendance.

Ryan Snyder: We hope that every school starts a SRTS committee made up of parents, crossing guards, and school administration. Have you heard of any schools that have started any committees?

Jessica Sevilla: We are in a contractual transition, so not at this time.

Ryan Snyder: Has anyone at the city talked about forming a citywide SRTS committee to get continual feedback on getting these programs started.

Jessica Sevilla agreed about the importance of a citywide SRTS committee.

Brian Kuhn: We did a similar effort in the past that was not a continuous and on-going effort.

Ryan Snyder: By doing the SRTS Plan, the City is now in a competitive position to apply for a non-infrastructure grant to get these programs executed.

Mike Behen asked to work together on applying for grants in the future.

Ryan Snyder: The Caltran's ATP grant deadline is today, but the City of Palmdale can apply for it next year. The non-infrastructure grant would be used for program start-up.

Ideally, train someone that can give the safety education in the school district, the Sheriff's Department or the Palmdale School District Transportation Division.

Jessica Sevilla agreed that training someone in-house in the Palmdale School District Transportation Division would be a good idea.

Ryan Snyder: The physical improvements will generally take years, so it is quicker to get a foothold of the initial programs.

Rhonda Hanson mentioned that parents and volunteers in the Westside Union School District understand the importance of the programs.

Mike Behen: How do we ensure that these programs and projects are under our radar to apply for grant funding.

Ryan Snyder: We will show an example later in the presentation on how we prepare the Plan. The engineering recommendations are up to the City, but it is up the schools to get the programs established. The City can help the schools get the grants for the programs started.

Rhonda Hanson: reflected on similar efforts the Westside Union School District (i.e. Safe Move City, bicycle rodeos)

Arlene Granadosin-Jones: We will include some policies on how these projects will be implemented

Mike Behen: Are we going to do a short-term, mid-term and long-term prioritization process? We would like to have a phased approach to the prioritization process.

Ryan Snyder: We will need to check the scope

Jessica Sevilla: How do we know what the resources the schools can pull from as the schools grow?

Ryan Snyder: There needs to be a person to act as a catalyst to help the schools get the programs going. This is where the non-infrastructure grant can play a part in getting the programs started.

Rhonda Hanson: We had a community partner with High Desert Medical Center to register the volunteers. It's about \$32 dollars to get a volunteer fingerprinted. With the programs in Lancaster, we fingerprinted about 100 volunteers and High Desert Medical Center paid for it.

Ryan Snyder: recommends someone joining the National Partnership for SRTS to get on the email list to get plugged into the programs.

Tony Jusay: Important to stay plugged into Metro's potential grant programs. Metro's website www.Metro.net/projects and scroll down to SRTS webpage link.

Dr. Larry Freise: From being a site administrator, the general concerns identified from the workshops is no surprise. We have a 3-mile bus radius, and the students that live beyond the 3-mile radius are driven in. In some schools, we redesigned entrances to create more efficient flow of traffic during drop-off and pick-up times. Usually the population figured out the best way to get in and out of the school. High school students have issue of autonomy and the concern of lack of crossing guards is irrelevant.

Rhonda Hanson: Does the City of Palmdale have a program to teach student valets?

Brian Kuhn: No, we don't have a program

Rhonda Hanson: Highland High School was very willing to provide community service to Cottonwood Elementary School

Dr. Larry Freise: There is a certain uncool factor of riding a bike to school amongst high school students. It may not be a realistic possibility to encourage students to bike to school.

Ryan Snyder: A lot of the urban schools, it is cool to ride a bike. Environmentalism is part of the trend, and riding a bike is part of the factor. How does one create a campaign to bring that cool factor?

Jessica Sevilla: Weather is a big factor. Parents do not want to get into conflict – people socially have also evolved and don't interact with each other as much. Incentives will help.

Dr. Larry Freise: Perceptions of predators also plays a major part in parents' willingness to let their kids walk to school

Alan Thompson: You cannot argue with a parent about the perceptions of predators. It is hard to argue with statistics, when for parents it is an emotional argument

Jessica Sevilla: There can be more opportunities to push for the benefits of carpooling and have parents meet each other through social events.

Dr. Larry Freise: There has been limited success in allowing parents to carpool. With social media, there is a greater opportunity for outreach amongst parents.

Ryan Snyder: There has been "zip code" parties where people where their zip code on their shirt.

Jessica Sevilla: In many of the neighborhoods, there are stay-at-home moms that have family vans with ads for carpooling for a small fee.

Ryan Snyder: Then there is regulations and liabilities involved, but there is great potential to that.

Dietter Aragon: Is there any discussion that AVTA can provide in public transportation service. We noticed an increase in service amongst routes that serve high schools. We

are looking at increases in ridership and it seems for the most part, college/high school/junior high students are using public transportation. We hope to develop a student pass for a discounted rate.

Ryan Snyder: The focus of the workshops has been about walking and biking, but there are opportunities for encouraging transit. Help to post more service times and route maps on apps, etc.

Dietter Aragon: Started a program with Antelope Valley College with the school pass. It is discounted at \$10 for full-time students. Nextstop app is currently operating. Getting into google transit.

Brian Kuhn: Need to be aware of who the driver is for the carpooling program. Students cannot transport students.

Rhonda Hanson: Anaverde Hills, Cottonwood, Esperanza will be putting committees together and starting the Walking Wednesdays programs.

Ryan Snyder: Will those committee members be willing to spread the word and showcase what they are doing

Rhonda Hanson: We can suggest that

Mike Behen: Good idea for AVQMD can be involved in the prizes

Ryan Snyder: We will provide a funding guide and a contact person

Alan Thompson: We look at SRTS as walking and biking, not so much carpooling.

Dale Benson: Look at the location hot spots where people feel unsafe crossing the street that can encourage more people to walk and bike.

V. Development of the SRTS Plan

- Analysis
- SRTS Program Components
- Integration with Palmdale Active Transportation Program

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. Next Steps/Adjournment

- Upcoming Community Workshop (Complete Streets)

- Future TAC Meeting Date TBD