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Narrow space for pedestrians on sidewalk with buses and trucks approaching from behind.


One student of Mrs. Klemkowsky's first grade class (2016)'s explanation of Sock Hill importance as recreational space, during the school day (at left), when it's not used for drop off/pick up queue for parent's vehicles.

This report outlines barriers to walking/biking and proposes solutions to make walking to Suncrest Elementary safer and faster.

Why pursue better options for biking / walking?

- Kids who walk/bike to school are better able to concentrate

Parents contribute more than $80 \%$ of traffic during peak rush hour on Collins Ferry Road.

- Trucks on Mylan and school buses passing pedestrians on sidewalk from behind is a safety concern.
- Collins Ferry is uncomfortably busy for pedestrians during morning rush hour.
- MMPO plans Collins Ferry expansion and connection to I-79 in next 5 years, but the right of way on Collins Ferry ranges from 30-50 ft wide.

At the old Suncrest Primary school, Principal Joanne Hine estimates between $40-60$ children were walkers (personal communication, September 2017). At the new Suncrest Primary, only 2-9 walkers have been observed (on $5 / 23 / 17$ $9 / 13 / 17$, and $9 / 15 / 17$ ).

The following analysis of existing conditions guided recommendations for crosswalk locations and additional pedestrian connections between Suncrest Elementary and nearby resiconnections between Su,
dential neighborhoods.

Design considerations:

- First grade uses the drop off loop, or 'Sock Hill,' for recreation during the school day (see drawing, lower left)
- Architect's plan included sport fields behind the schoo
- More event parking is needed (for example for basketbal tournaments)
- Access from Rail Trail is key for pedestrian access
-School Board does not want stairs on any trails (per Ella Belling, personal communication Summer 2017).



## Traffic Counts: Wednesday 9/13/17

Traffic observation window: 7:55 am - 8:36 am, 40 minutes
Weather: Sunny, mild
545 Cars: 206 northbound, 107 southbound*
111 Drivers noticing the observer (waved, made eye contact, or turned head): 97 northbound, 14 southbound; 2 waved
21 Conspicuously speeding cars: 19 northbound, 2 southbound, 2 parents
22 Buses: 11 northbound, 11 southbound
Trucks observed: 4 (3 northbound, 1 southbound)
Directionality of traffic: northbound 66\% (206), southbound 107 (34\%)
Pedestrian/cyclist observation window: 7:45-8:36 (51 minutes)
10 Pedestrians observed: 8 northbound, 1 southbound, 1 city bus passenger
4 Cyclists observed: 3 northbound, 1 southbound

* Note: Directionality was not observed from 7:56-8:06 and from 8:10-8:17 on 9/13


## 572

## Traffic Counts: Friday 9/15/17

Traffic observation window: 7:53 am - 8:35 am, Friday, 9/15/17 (42 minutes) Weather: Cloudy, mild
478 Cars observed: 325 northbound, 154 southbound
Drivers noticing the observer: 6 waved, 2 spoke
Note: due to cloudy weather, could not observe drivers for eye contact through glare on windshields
8 Conspicuously speeding cars observed: all northbound, usually after bus
22 Buses observed: 11 northbound, 11 southbound
8 Trucks observed: 6 northbound, 2 southbound
Directionality of vehicular traffic: $67 \%$ northbound (343), $33 \%$ southbound (167)
Pedestrian/cyclist observation window: 7:42-8:42 (1 hour)
9 Pedestrians observed: 7 northbound, 1 southbound, 1 city bus passenger 5 Cyclists observed: 4 northbound, 1 southbound

On both dates, observer was located across street from school at bus lane entrance

## Driver responsibility



## 524 Responsible car drivers 9/13/17

21 Conspicuously speeding cars 9/13/17
26 Trucks and buses 9/13/17

471 Responsible car drivers 9/15/17
8 Conspicuously speeding cars 9/15/17
30 Trucks and buses 9/15/17

"A National Safe Kids study on driver behavior at intersections in school zones and residential neighborhoods found that 45 percent of drivers failed to completely stop at the intersection even though a stop sign was present, and of these, 7 percent did not even slow down for the sign. Although the study found that drivers were more ikely to stop when a pedestrian was present compared to not present, 36 percent of drivers violated the stop signs when pedestrians were waiting at the curb to cross and 24 percent of drivers did not come to a complete stop at the intersection while pedestrians were crossing."

Efficacy of Pedestrian Crosswalks for Stopping Cars
WIthout a crosswalk at Suncrest Elementary, walkers can expect as many as 38 vehicles to pass before meeting a gap in traffic -- or a sympathetic driver

The efficacy of various alternatives is considered below.
Per City Lab, stop signs are only $64 \%$ effective; that is, $36 \%$ of drivers will not stop at a stop sign. An unmarked crosswalk (shown at left: Farrell Street) is only 5\% effective for stopping drivers. A crosswalk with flashing lights is the recommended solution, and can be expected to be $61 \%$ effective at stopping drivers (below right).
"The compliance rate plummeted to almost 5 percent at unmarked crosswalks. Under the law, a crosswalk is present whenever a sidewalk leads into the street, regardless of any markings present."

- Chicago Tribune
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/hilkevitch/ct-crosswalk-survey-getting-

"According to an observational study conducted by the advocacy group Active Transportation Alliance, only 18 percent of drivers on average stopped for people on foot in a marked crosswalk.'


## - City Lab

tps:/Imw.
will-waving-the-orange-flag-make-pedestrians-safer/379878

"At crosswalks with flashing lights, brick or stone crosswalks, signs, or raised crosswalks, the rate went up to 61 percent."

City Lab
htps://www.citylab.com/transportation/2014/09 ill-waving-the-orange-flag-make-pedestrians-safer/379878

## Excerpts from West Virginia Code:

Pedestrian Rights \& Duties
§17C-10-2. Pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalks.
(a) When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger, but no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a
vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. This provision shall not apply under the conditions stated in section three paragraph (b) of this article.
(b) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.
§17C-10-3. Crossing at other than crosswalks. (a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway
-- West Virginia Code, Chapter 17c, Article 10 (2016) accessed at: from: http://www.legis.state.wv.us/wvcode/Code. cfm?chap 17 c\&art $=10$


WITHIN CROSSWALK


## Suggestions for Promoting Driver Awareness

1. Work with Monongalia County Sheriff to enfore newly posted 15 mph speed limit along Collins Ferry Road. Request police presence by calling Monongalia County Sheriff, at 304291 7291; ask for Captain Wilson or one of the deputies. (Called 9/13.)
2. Install radar feedback speed limit signs on Collins Ferry Road just before hills that limit sight distance at Green-dale-Hillview and near Timberline Road. Ensure these signs are in place to offer drivers feedback especially during the 7:25-8:35 am and 3:15-5:35 pm rush hours, when children are most likely to be present. Cost of each Radar Speed Control Dolly is $\$ 3895$ from Traffic Safety Warehouse (at left)
3. Remind school bus drivers of 15 mph limit. A speeding (empty) schoolbus (\#239) was observed 9/15/17.
4. Continue to work with Mylan Pharmaceuticals to request delivery trucks arrive after 8:30 am to reduce large vehicle traffic that imposes on Collins Ferry Road sidewalk. Contact Hollie Howes at Mylan Pharmaceuticals, 304-599-2595, extension 6081. (Called 9/13.)
5. Alert City Council to unsafe pedestrian conditions on Collins Ferry. Petition City Council to adopt Collins Ferry within Morgantown city limits, then work to improve cross walks at Suncrest Elementary, Timberline, Lawnview, and Hillview-Greendale. At present, on a sunny day, only $19 \%$ of drivers notice a person standing at across Collinns Ferry Road from Suncrest Elementary.
6. Ask the City Council to fund crossing guards for Lawnview, Hillview-Greendale and Suncrest crosswalks during peak school hours.
7. Reinstate crosswalk striping at Junior and University: signs exist but striping was covered over with new pavement. Add a 'yield to pedestrian' sign to encourage drivers to pause at the crosswalk.


On average, between 1.2 and 22.7 cars pass before pedestrians walking to school are able to cross Collins Ferry Road Cars were counted during students' regular walks and bike rides to school, with families crossing at Hillview-Greendale, Lawnview and Suncrest Elementary bus lane (both entrance and exit).

Based on traffic observations at the school ( $9 / 13$ and $9 / 15$ ), a 13-second or longer natural gap in traffic occurs on average every 5 minutes between 8:10 and 8:30. It takes 13 seconds for a child to cross Collins Ferry Road at ordinary walking pace: in practice, however, families sprint.

The closer to 8:30 it is, the more difficult it is for a pedestrian to cross Collins Ferry due to increased south-bound traffic from parents who have finished dropping off children at school.

It's helpful for families walking to school when considerate drivers stop to help them cross Collins Ferry Road.

## Suggestion for Walkers

Walkers should wear bright colors and wait for a considerate driver or 13-second+ gap in traffic: from the bus entrance lane at Suncrest, no cars visible on the hill. The bus exit lane is not recommended for crossing due to the short sight distance for drivers.

Walkers should plan to arrive at school early. Suncrest Elementary staff could encourage walkers not enrolled in Kidematics by opening the Library to walkers only from 8:00 8:10, similar to the afternoon dismissal policy of keeping walkers inside until bus riders and car riders have been dismissed. Unmarked crosswalk within $1 / 2$ mile Rail trail
Rail trail access point
City / School Board property
US DOE property (NETL)
North Elementary attendance
Skyview / Mylan Park attendance
Proposed road improvements (MMPO, 2016)
Playground, existing

The highlighted streets (red, orange and yellow) fall within 1 mile walking distance of school, and represent the existing catchment area for potential walkers.



City property
Sight distance
Tree obscuring sight distance

## 2-ft contour

10-ft contour

$\square$Unmarked crosswalk within $1 / 2$ mile of school

The wider radius at the intersection of Lawnview and Collins erry Road makes it difficult as a pedestrian to find a safe place to wait to cross.

Walking at child's speed of $3.0 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$, families need 18.6 seconds to cross Collins Ferry Road at Hillview Greendale (56 $\mathrm{ft})$ or 17.3 seconds to cross at Lawnview ( 52 ft ).

The limited sight distances at both locations mean that a car traveling at 30 mph can cover 44 feet per second, or the length of these sight triangles in $7.8-8.8$ seconds. A speeding car at 40 mph can cover the sight triange distance in $5-9$ to 6.6 seconds.

The following table summarizes stopping distance - but depends on a 1.5 second reaction time. A distracted driver coffee, kids in back seat, late for work) poses additional hazards.

| speed |  | Stopping distance |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 20 mph | $=29.3 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ | 63 ft |
| 25 mph | $=36 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ | 85 ft |
| 30 mph | $=44 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ | 109 ft |
| 35 mph | $=51.3 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ | 136 ft |
| 40 mph | $=58.7 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ | 164 ft |
| 45 mph | $=66 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ | 196 ft |

It is unreasonable to expect a child to travel at an adults average jogging speed ( $5-6 \mathrm{mph}$ ) to cross a busy road on the way to school. Families must trot at $8.5 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{second}$ or 5.8 mph to be able to cross at Hillview-Greendale "while the coast is clear". At Lawnview, families must travel even faster, at 6.0 mph or $8.8 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{sec}$ to cross safely.

*https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/vehicle_stopping_distance_and_time_upenn.pdf


Summary of how many cars / trucks pass a walker during 11.3 minutes on Collins Ferry, adjusted for a range of arrival times. Arriving at 8:07, 124 cars and one large truck pass a walker. Arriving at 8:19, however, 257 cars and 14 large trucks/buses pass a walker during the time it takes to walk 11.3 minutes on Collins Ferry.

[^0]$\dot{\hat{K}} \hat{\mathrm{~K}} \hat{\mathrm{~h}}$ Pedestrians observed ${ }_{9 / 13 / 17}$
वí Cyclists observed 913/27
Wednesday walk to school: Vehicles passing on Collins Ferry Road


Passing cars in $11.3 \min _{9 / 13 / 17}$
Passing trucks and buses in 11.3 min 99/13/17
$\dot{\lambda} \hat{\lambda} \hat{\lambda}$ Pedestrians observed ${ }_{9 / 13 / 7 / 7}$

|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8:03 | 3 | 89 |
| 8:04 | 4 | 117 |
| 8:05 | 5 | 117 |
| 8:06 | 5 | 108 |
| 8:07 | 5 | 101 |
| 8:08 | 5 | 109 |
| 8:09 | 6 | 110 |
| 8:10 | 5 | 116 |
| 8:11 | 5 | 118 |
| 8:12 | 6 | 122 |
| 8:14 | 8 | 143 |
| 8:15 | 9 | 150 |
| 8:16 | 8 | 130 |
| 8:17 | 10 | 140 |
| 8:18 | 13 | 158 |
| 8:19 | 13 | 159 |
| 8:20 | 13 | 167 |
| 8:21 | 14 | 173 |
| 8:22 | 14 | 170 |
| 8:23 | 13 | 180 |
| 8:24 | 14 | 190 |
| 8:25 | 13 | 174 |
| 8:26 | 12 | 184 |
| 8:27 | 14 | 175 |
| 8:28 | 12 | 165 |
| 8:29 | 9 | 160 |
| 8:30 | 10 | 166 |
| 8:31 | 9 | 150 |
| 8:32 | 8 | 141 |
| 8:33 | 9 | 131 |
| 8:34 | 9 | 116 |
| 8:35 | 7 | 90 |
| 8:36 | 6 | 88 |

Vehicular traffic is lighter on Fridays. At 8:07, 101 cars and 5 trucks/buses pass a walker on Collins Ferry; at traffic peak, 190 cars and 14 trucks/buses pass, which is $19-26 \%$ less traffic than measured on a Wednesday.

Suggestion: Encourage families new to walking or biking to first try it early on Friday mornings; schedule group walks and bike rides for 7:45-8:00 am




School bus route*
School bus number
Schedule school bus time, (+/-10 minutes) City bus route (red line) City bus scheduled time Residences farther than 1 block from bus route City / School Board property

US DOE property (NETL)
Proposed bus stop at existing park
${ }^{\text {per http://boe.mono.k12.wv.us/ms//one.aspx?portalld=109692\&pageld=758046 }}$

Suggestions to increase bus ridership:

- For Fall 2018, adjust bus routes to include the neighborhoods (orange) not within a block of existing routes. It may be stops on busy streets that deter families from using the bus.
- For Fall 2018, advocate for a bus stop at municipally owned "Pebble Park" on Woodland Drive (green dot) to encourage neighborhood gathering at the playground while waiting for the bus, like at the former Suncrest Primary bus stop.
- Promote awareness among parents that much of rush hour traffic along Collins Ferry Road is due to parents picking up and dropping off children at school, and reducing traffic will make the road safer for everyone.
- Distribute map of bus routes and times to promote ridership. Encourage stay-at-home parents in particular to consider sending their child on the bus or walking, to make it safer for all families to walk.
- People will take the bus or walk when it's cheaper and faster than driving


School Bus and City Bus Routes: Gaps in Service




Priority crosswalk (lights + striping) Secondary crosswalk (striping only) Sidewalk
Mon River Trail, North / Pedestrian walk
Pavement
Rail trail access point
Water
Building
Collins Ferry Rd. Right of Way (30-50' ROW) City / School Board property
Proposed trail




Proposed Timberline Trail: Slope



|  | Length (linear feet) | Length (miles) | drop <br> (feet) | Average slope | Maximum slope |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sock Hill Trail | 228.86 LF | 0.04 mi | 6.25 FT | 3\% | 5\% |
| Woodland Loop <br> Boardwalk over intermittent drainage Consider gate at entrance to Woodland Loop | $\begin{gathered} 1569.00 \mathrm{LF} \\ 16.00 \mathrm{LF} \end{gathered}$ | 0.30 mi | 99.00 FT | 6\% | 10\% |
| Fumich Walk | 788.00 LF | 0.15 mi | 19.00 FT | 2\% | 5\% |
| Farrell Trail <br> Boardwalk over intermittent drainage Boardwalk over ditch next to rail trail | $\begin{gathered} 1684.10 \mathrm{LF} \\ \text { 16 LF } \\ 16 \mathrm{LF} \end{gathered}$ | 0.32 mi | 142.00 FT | 8\% | 10\% |
| Timberline Trail (propose to private property owner) | 1430.10 LF | 0.27 mi | 88.00 FT | 6\% | 20\% |
| Lawnview Trail <br> Bridge, Lawnview drainage: 4 ft ht Bridge, Selwin drainage: 3 ft ht Boardwalk over ditch next to rail trail | $\begin{gathered} \text { 991.70 LF } \\ \text { 16.00 LF } \\ \text { 16.00 LF } \\ \text { 16.00 LF } \end{gathered}$ | 0.19 mi | 94.00 FT | 9\% | 20\% |
| Western Trail | 282.30 LF | 0.05 mi | 39.00 FT | 14\% | 15\% |
| Congress Trail <br> Boardwalk over ditch next to rail trail | $\begin{gathered} \text { 855.60 LF } \\ \text { 16.00 LF } \end{gathered}$ | 0.16 mi | 144.00 FT | 17\% | 20\% |
| Capri Trail Boardwalk over ditch next to rail trail | $\begin{gathered} 1574.80 \mathrm{LF} \\ 16 \mathrm{LF} \end{gathered}$ | 0.30 mi | 138.00 FT | 9\% | 20\% |
| Eastern Trail <br> Bridge over tributary of West Run, height TBD | 302.50 LF | 0.06 mi | 3.00 FT | 1\% | 2\% |

Totals:
$7344.16 \quad 1.44 \mathrm{mi} \quad 772$ FT $11 \%$ 20\%

Total Proposed Trail Distances, Average and Maximum Slopes

## School Board

- Request permission to flag the proposed trails behind Suncrest Elementary school for further consideration: seeing how they fit on the slope will help decision-makers visualize feasibility of this proposal.
- Students in Fall course, LARC 360 Natural Systems Design could help identify existing vegetation behind Suncrest Elementary School - especially in area of Woodland Loop.
- Students in Spring course, LARC 331 Landscape Architectural Construction II can flag and refine trail design.
- Trail construction can be by volunteers. In the first twelve months at Falling Run Greenspace, 1243 mostly student volunteers dedicated 3984 hours to construct three miles of trail.


## Pedestrian Safety

- Continue to advocate for crosswalks on Collins Ferry Road at Fumich Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue / Greendale Road
- Can sidewalk improvements for Collins Ferry Road be part of proposed \$200 million transporation bond? Or will the proposed I-79 bypass not connect to Colins Ferry Road?

City Council

- Request permission to flag the proposed trails in Suncrest neighborhoods on city property for further consideration.
- Request that Suncrest Elementary be annexed into city limits so that crosswalk, crossing guard, police presence for speeding can be considered at the municipal rather than county level.


## Traffic Calming

Students of LARC 331, Landscape Architectural Construction II, can provide design ideas for what crosswalks could look like, including traffic-calming measures such as pedestrian islands, bulbouts.


[^0]:    - Passing cars in 11.3 min 9/13/17
    - Passing trucks and buses in 11.3 min 99/13/17

