



**APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative Task Force Meeting 1**

September 21, 2021

*Present:* Cordell Bock (APS CMP), Kalyn Finnell (APS CMP), Kizito Wijenje (APS CMP), Reynaluz Juarez (Whittier ES), Marcus Lopez Scharbach (Truman MS), Richard Meadows (BernCo), Julie Luna (BernCo), Jamie Jacobson (APS C&I), Hugh Hulse (CABQ SRTS), Ashleigh Curry (Las Cruces Public Schools) Tim Brown (CABQ DMD), Karen Alarid (FD+C), Ben Harris (FD+C/BLUZ), Terra Reed (Community Member), Hodgins Serrullo (APS CMP), Jerome Martinez (APS GES)

*Location* Zoom

*Next Meeting* TBD

*Notes Taken By:* Kalyn Finnell

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**I. Agenda**

**1. Vision Zero Task Force Introductions**

**2. Vision Zero Introduction**

Vision Zero is an initiative adopted by various municipalities and school districts across the country and around the world. It is a shift in framework and mindset, which sets a goal of zero pedestrian and cyclist fatalities resulting from crashes. School districts across the country are pairing Safe Routes to School with the Vision Zero framework, because they both:

- Focus on pedestrian and bicyclist safety
- Advocate for systems-level changes above influencing individual behavior
- Acknowledge children as vulnerable populations

**3. APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative Overview**

Through its participation in the Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), APS Capital Master Plan was awarded federal Safe Routes to School funding for the APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative, which involves both pedestrian and bicyclist safety curriculum and a public awareness campaign directed at drivers.

**The APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative is a district-wide initiative to be implemented in all (88) elementary schools, (2) K-8 schools, (27) middle schools and (14) high schools.**

- APS aims to fill an important gap by teaching students how to navigate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The awareness campaign component of this initiative will aim to increase safety awareness to drivers and reduce speeds near schools (during and outside of school hours).

**4. Purpose of the APS Vision Zero Task Force**

CABQ has designated itself as a VZ city, which APS is a partner agency to compliment efforts.

The purpose of the Vision Zero Task force is to ensure a streamlined effort between necessary collaborators across the district.



The APS Vision Task Force will be comprised of Principals, Community School Coordinators, and Curriculum specialists from schools, representatives from Capital Master Plan, BLUZ, APSPD, and Community & Agency Partners.

The APS Vision Zero Task Force has the following main goals:

- Give input on curriculum (video, materials, delivery)
- Give input on awareness campaign materials (video, radio messages, media material such posters and logos)
- Give input on APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative Action Plan
- Help facilitate school/youth outreach (school representatives)

Task Force Timeline:

- Meeting 1: Overview, Walk Survey
- Meeting 2: Curriculum
- Meeting 3: Campaign Materials
- Meeting 4: APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative Action Plan

**5. Vision Zero Pilot Schools**

We identified and prioritized a handful of schools based where traffic-safety is a high priority based on:

- Crash Data, focusing on areas with high crash numbers
- Crosswalk Study done by CABQ
- Top Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash data from MRCOG
- Geography
- Demographics

These schools will host a preliminary Vision Zero Campaign & Curriculum.

- Longfellow ES
- Eugene Field ES
- Monte Vista ES
- Emerson ES
- Van Buren MS
- La Mesa ES
- Chaparral ES
- Truman MS
- Alamosa ES
- MacArthur ES
- Lyndon B. Johnson MS
- Ventana Ranch ES
- Governor Bent ES
- Janet Kahn (Eubank) ES
- Hoover MS / John Baker ES
- Cleveland MS
- Whittier ES
- Coyote Willow Family School



## 6. Timeline

- a. Mapping Sessions with APS students (Spring 2021, COMPLETE)
- b. Major Task Force meetings: Fall 2021
- c. Walk Survey: Fall 2021
- d. Curriculum/Campaign Development: Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- e. Implementation: Fall 2022

## 7. Complete Items: Mapping Sessions

In collaboration with the University of New Mexico, Cordell Bock (Capital Master Plan), will be facilitating Mapping Sessions and Walk Surveys as a part of his Vision Zero Master's Thesis Project. These engaged research methods are intended to engage our main stakeholders, the students, in the planning and development of the Vision Zero for Youth Initiative.

In the last weeks of the 2020-2021 School Year, Capital Master Plan facilitated Traffic Safety Mapping Sessions with a handful Elementary and Middle School Students from the following schools from the Pilot School List. The Mapping Sessions engaged students to visually map out their route to school or walk in their neighborhood. With their maps, the students told stories about things that made their walk Good, Difficult, Threatening, and discussed Opportunities to make walking to school safer.

The student narratives were recorded and used to design the **Walk Survey**, which will engage a broader group of students. In ensuring the APS Vision Zero for Youth Initiative continues in a collaborative manner, the APS Vision Zero Task Force will be tasked with overseeing the design and implementation of the Walk Survey where. The information collected from the participants if the Walk Survey will be further used in the development of the APS Vision Zero Curriculum, Action Plan, Campaign, and collaborative efforts with partner agencies.

## II. Discussion

Walk Survey feedback:

1. Reynaluz Juarez feedback:
  - a. Can use walking school bus at Whittier ES
  - b. Recommends working with Together 4 Brothers
2. Kalyn asked about walking school bus programs at the schools
  - a. Hugh Hulse asked for us to send a list of the schools
3. Jami Jacobson
  - a. Recommends not using survey since kids will be on devices while walking
    - i. Kalyn response – add a line that says that students should wait until they arrive at school to fill out
4. Terra Reed
  - a. Good to collaborate with people like Reyna at the schools
5. Ashleigh Curry
  - a. Would be good to send out with paper in case kids don't have access to devices



- b. Would be good to have incentives
  - c. Independence and mental health are also positives for walking to school. Good to elaborate on that prompt as well
  - d. Traffic safety rules: yes/no won't get the response you're looking for. Formulate it as "name some safety/traffic rules that you know"
6. Walk Survey Timeline
- a. October 6 is International Walk to School Day. Would like to implement walk survey here, but not sure if that allows for enough time
  - b. Kizito Wijenje: depends on the schools. Reach out individually with the different pilot schools.
  - c. Terra Reed suggests allowing for multiple days, could do the month of October.
7. Reynaluz Juarez:
- a. Friday is when we launch the walking school bus at Whittier
  - b. October 17<sup>th</sup> is CiQlovía: promoting bike and pedestrians. Good for leveraging partnerships.
  - c. Community schools are good to work with in participation

Overall feedback:

8. Karen Alarid:
- a. How do you approach sustainability from school to school
  - b. How does BLUZ get involved?
9. Cordell Bock/Kalyn Finnell:
- a. It will be a mandate in all APS schools. The walk survey and mapping sessions will be used in the planning process only.
  - b. BLUZ = Bus Loading and Unloading Zone Team. Includes APS and multiple agencies for coordination purposes. BLUZ may be involved with the curriculum delivery. We are going to be making those decisions on this committee.
10. Karen Alarid:
- a. Background of BLUZ team: BLUZ team was initially only for bus loading and unloading zones, but at this point it deals with any type of circulation or traffic safety issues at the schools. Coordinates with APS FD+C, APSPD, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, APD and Bernalillo County Sheriff's office to deal with traffic/road/safety issues that arise, since APS does not have right-of-way off of school property.
11. Jami Jacobson:
- a. Recommend using PE curriculum as a time to work on this.
12. Richard Meadows:
- a. This is great, and gives us another place to coordinate. I hope one of the next pilot schools will be in the unincorporated area so that we can work on county roads.
13. Tim Brown:
- a. I'm excited to see what comes out of this. When we did the crosswalk study, we found that there are many that don't get used. There is a lot of latent demand, where people would walk if it felt safe for parents to allow their kids to do so. The City was looking at some locations for pilot projects – picking some of those areas that had no student use to see if we could make a path and look at those locations. We are currently working on those that are getting used and need some attention. If you all are able to come up with data from students or parents showing barriers, we would be happy to receive that and look forward to working with you all.



**III. Next Steps/Action Items**

- Kalyn/Cordell to send Hugh Hulse the pilot list school for the Walking School Bus overlaps
- APS CMP to reach out and work with schools individually for coordinating the walk survey during the month of October
- APS CMP to schedule the next Task Force meeting
- APS CMP to look into collaboration possibilities with CiQlovia