# Safe Routes to School















## Meet the SRTS Team

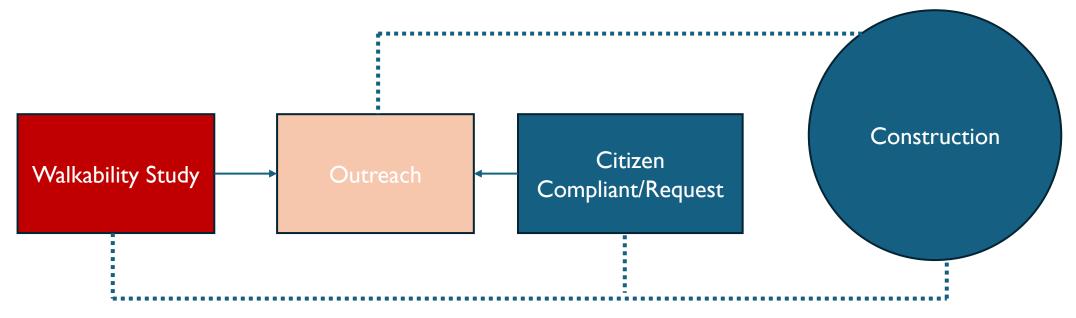
- Nima Upadhyay, Capital Projects Manager
- Charles Freeman, Senior Planning Specialist
- Zabiullah (Z) Hakimi, Project Engineer
- Duwan Morris, Planning Specialist III, Outreach Lead
- Taran Johnson, Senior Engineering Technician



## Safe Routes to School



- Funded Under Pedestrian Safety CIP -Link
- Projects and program are under three categories:



Walkability Studies — Planned Outreach- Both Planned and Request Driven Construction-Walkability Study and Citizen Request Driven



# Walkability Studies Purpose / Background





#### **Purpose**

Evaluate the infrastructure safety needs near MCPS schools and recommend projects to improve access and encourage students to

walk and bike to

school.



#### **Description**

Planning level study that will need updating as conditions change

#### Phase I

 Began 2005, limited in scope along school frontage

#### Phase II

 Began 2018, expanded in scope throughout walkshed



## Vision Zero Initiative

FY 25 Work Plan

 Fifteen Schools
 Studies funded and managed by MCDOT



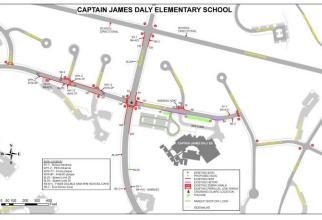
# School Selection Proce ss

Equity Emphasis Areas

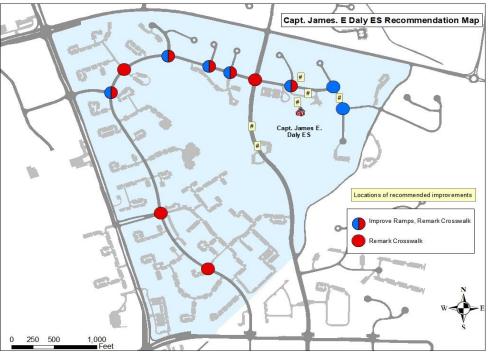
Potential Walker Enrollment

Date of Phase I Assessment

Citizen Requests



#### Phase I



# Evaluation Components: Part I





Walkshed / Study Area

Defined by MCPS, generally one to two mile walk distance to school, without school bus service



Coordination with School Staff / Community



Local Adopted Plans / Guidelines

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans Complete Streets Design Guide



# Evaluation Components: Part 2





Infrastructure Inventory

Sidewalk

Ramps

Signs and Markings



Arrival / Dismissal Observations

**Priority Routes** 

**Crossing Guards** 

Driveway Operations: Buses / Private Vehicles



Walk Audit of Priority Routes





# Study Recommendations

- Short Term
  - Maintenance / Minor Construction within Public ROW
    - Signing
    - Pavement Markings (crosswalks, etc)
    - ADA Ramps
    - Speed Control
    - Pedestrian Refuge Islands
    - Curb Extensions
    - Pedestrian Flashing Beacons
- Long Term
  - Construction projects with potential impacts, possibly requiring ROW acquisition
    - New Sidewalk Construction
    - Intersection Improvements
      - Curb Extensions
      - Traffic Circles
  - Public Involvement



## Website / More Information



- MCDOT SRTS Walkability Studies Website
  - <a href="https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/srts/resources.html">https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/srts/resources.html</a>
  - Contents
    - Map of Study Schools and Walksheds
      - Complete (links to reports)
      - In Progress
      - Planned
    - Upcoming Public Meetings
    - Concept and Design Plans
  - Website updates are planned













Majority of SRTS construction stems from Walkability studies and MC Resident's Requests

Studies:

Resident's Logs

Improvements



## **SRTS - Type Of Safety Improvements**



- Traffic Signing and Markings
- Intersection improvements
- New Sidewalk
- ADA Improvements





## FY 25 Inventory For 18 Schools

- I. 129 ADA Ramps
- 2. 60811 SF Sidewalk
- 3. 13 Refuge Island
- 4. 1597 SF Traffic Signs
- 5. 21528 LF Markings

\$1,427,000.00











## **OUTREACH OVERVIEW**

The Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Team conducts outreach throughout the county.

This fiscal year - we have held or participated in 259 events!













## Annual Art Contest

Our 3rd Annual Art Contest recently wrapped up. Elementary school students were encouraged to create art with a pedestrian safety message.

We had the opportunity to visit **6 schools** and named a contest winner from each school.

#### **Schools visited:**

#### K-3

- Beverly Farms Elementary School
- Wayside Elementary School
- William B Gibbs Jr Elementary School

#### 4-5

- Burning Tree Elementary School
- Fox Chapel Elementary School
- Candlewood Elementary School















# Bike Month

13 bike rodeo tours

400+ helmets distributed

## **Rock Creek Valley ES**

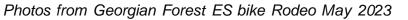
**75** students biked to school













## Walking Wednesday

We held **30 Walking Wednesday** events at County elementary and middle schools this school year. These events are held before school to encourage students to walk safely to and from school while having a little fun!



**30,000+** students reached







#### **BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY & WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**













## School Outreach

Montgomery County Department of Transportation
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot

In addition to Walking Wednesday events, we attend back to school fairs, picnics, health and wellness events, and scout meetings.













### Walktober

October is focused on safe walking with events like Walk to School Day and Halloween-related events.









# Safety Day 2024

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- Safety Day is a one-day event to bring the community together to learn more about traffic safety in a fun, festival environment.
- The event is appropriate for all ages but targeted to younger children and their families.
- This event was planned with the help of Montgomery
   County's <u>Vision Zero Youth</u> <u>Ambassadors (VZYA).</u>
- Safety Day was first planned in 2020 as a community event to convene resources and partners to share information and demonstrations that promote pedestrian, bike, and traffic safety.
  - Piloted in 2023
  - Launched in 2024 as full-scale event















# Safety Day Site Map



## Safety Day 2024



#### **Partners**









- 3000+ attendees
- Over 70 vendors
- Pop-Up Traffic Garden
- Free bike Raffles











# Questions?



