

Getting Started on Walk Zone Reviews

Group 1

Ashlawn, Discovery, Jamestown,
McKinley, Nottingham, Tuckahoe

February 20, 2018

Yorktown High School



Arlington Public Schools



Getting Started on Walk Zone Reviews

AGENDA

- I. Introductions and Overview
- II. Transportation & Walk Zones 101
- III. Getting Started on Walk Zone Reviews
- IV. School Task Group Community Engagement
- V. School Task Group Working Session
- VI. Wrap-up



Overview: APS Today

Student enrollment 10-year projections

- 30,000+ students by 2022, and 32,000+ students by 2026

APS is:

- Working to create the best learning experiences for our students
- Experiencing strong enrollment growth, shifting demographics, and evolving state education requirements
- Implementing complex and overlapping initiatives



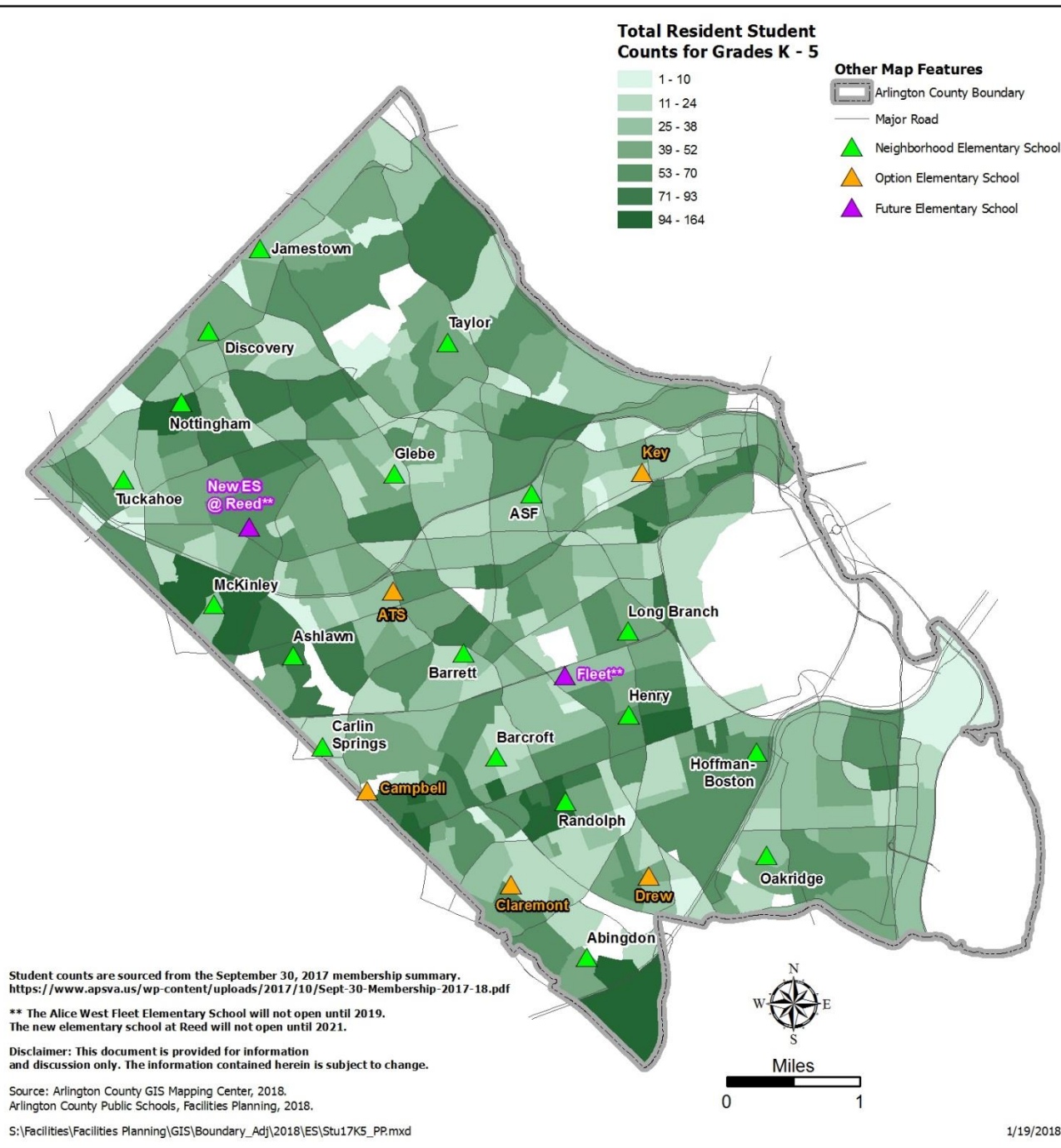


Elementary School Planning Initiative

- Multiple elementary school openings and program moves:
 - **Sept. 2019:** Alice Fleet opens as neighborhood school
 - **Sept. 2019:** Elementary Montessori program moves from Drew to Henry site, and Drew opens as full neighborhood school
 - **Sept. 2021:** Reed opens as neighborhood school
- School Board directed staff to develop two proposals to create attendance zones for elementary schools planned through 2021:
 - **One Proposal:** Recommend strategic placement of option and neighborhood schools, and adjust boundaries to include new schools
 - **Second Proposal:** Keep option schools at current sites and adjust boundaries to include the new schools

K-5 Resident Students in County

- Current K-5 resident students by planning unit
- Current and future elementary schools





Opportunity to reassess locations of elementary schools throughout the County:

- APS may be able to make better use of resources by placing neighborhood schools closer to where large numbers of students live
- This process could result in changing a neighborhood school site to an option school site, or vice versa
- This process will not assign any specific option school to a specific site
- Staff proposals will be based on student resident data and will take into account other considerations in recommending school locations
- Community input is essential during this process



Overview: Elementary School Planning Initiative

- Operating and administrative costs will increase with the opening of new schools.
- Need for optimized use of existing APS resources.
- Walking is a priority given recent community input and strong interest in keeping our communities walkable.
- Limited transportation resources necessitate greater efficiencies with busing.
- Reducing growth in transportation costs can help keep more funds in classrooms.
- APS wants to ensure there is equitable access to option schools.



Transportation & Walk Zones 101

Kristin Haldeman

Director, Multimodal Transportation Planning

APS Department of Facilities and Operations



Introduction

- My background
- Transportation Roles & Responsibilities
- Illustrative Work Plan
- Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC) & Joint Committee on Transportation Choices (JCTC)



Walk Zones – Past, Present and Future

- From 1 mile to what we see today
- Considerations used to develop current set of walk zones
- JCTC's Walk Zone Working Group (WZWG) 'no cross designations' and infrastructure review



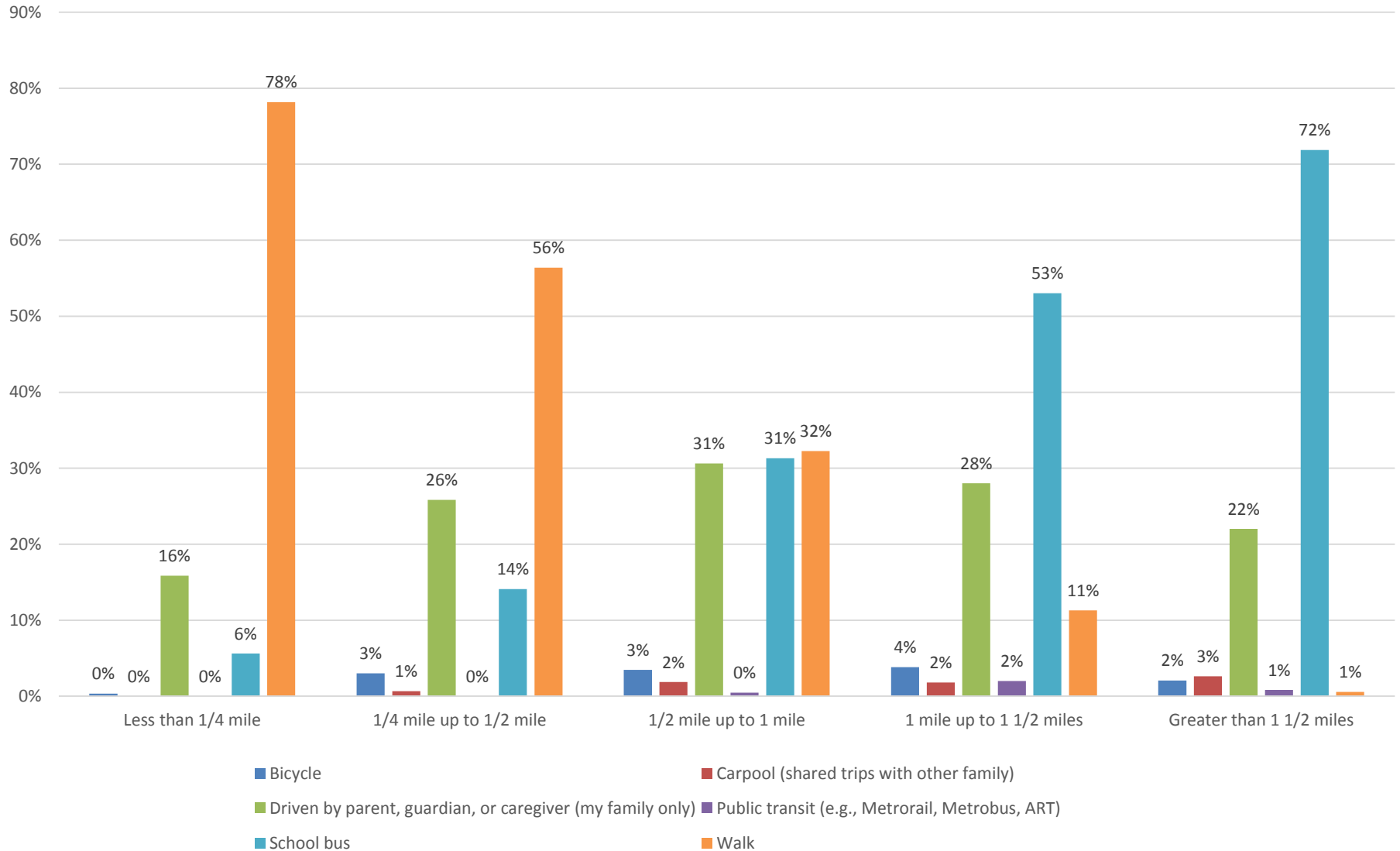
Relationship to Bus Service

- Efficiency:
 - Are our buses used well in these adjacent Planning Units?
- Operational Issues:
 - Driver shortage
 - No place to park



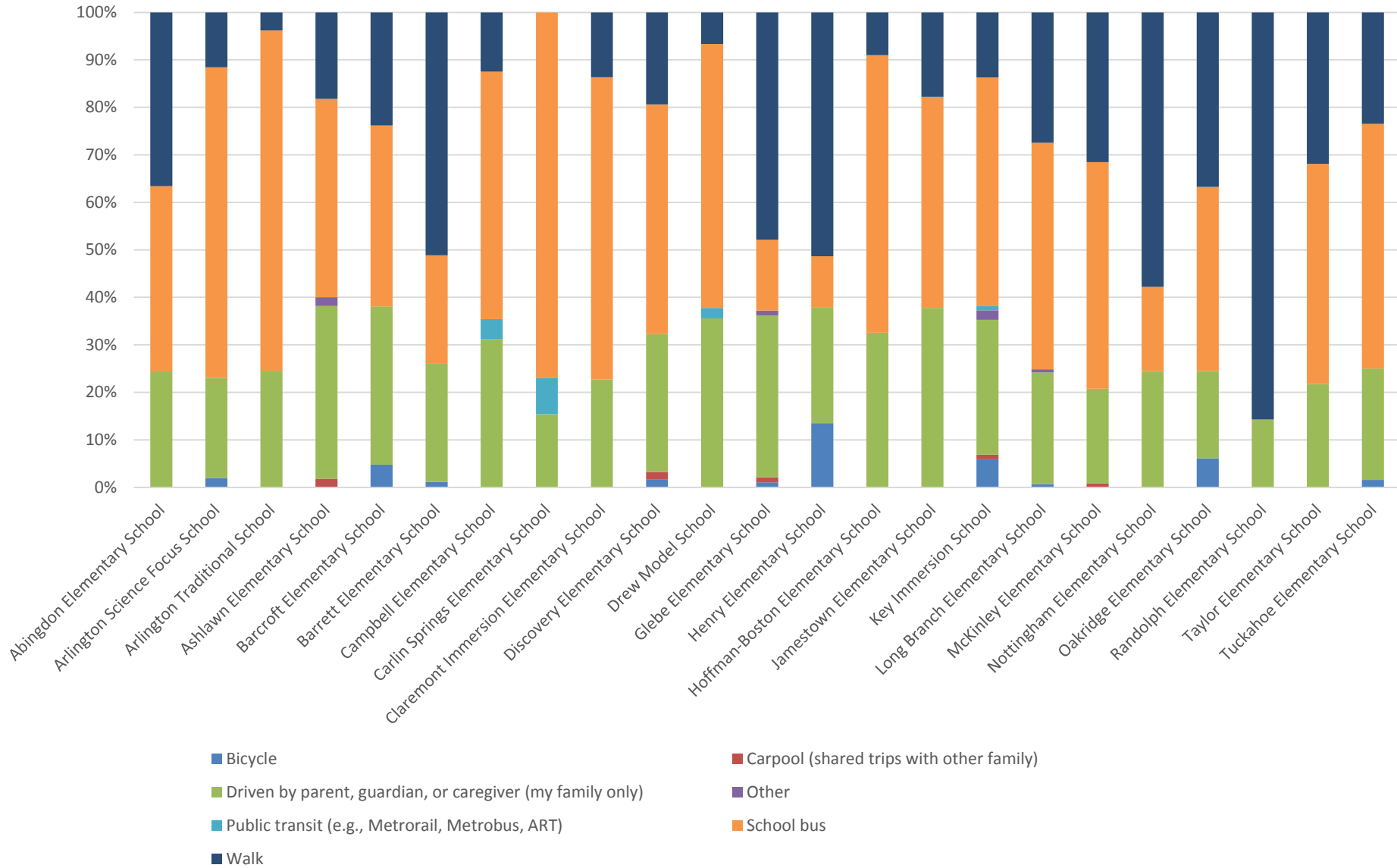
System Level Mode of Access By Distance

2016 Travel Mode By Distance - Elementary





Primary Mode of Travel by School





Transportation & Walk Zones 101

...Trying to avoid the third condition in school areas





Questions?





School Task Group Working Session

Kristin Haldeman, Director, Multimodal Transportation Planning

Michael DePalma, Facilities Planner

APS Department of Facilities and Operations

Zach Larnard, Integrated Project Planner

APS Department of Planning and Evaluation



Main APS Objectives for This Process

1. Identify possible areas for walk zone expansion
2. Take an inventory of 'walkability needs' on which to work with County Dept. of Transportation



How APS Will Use This Community Input

Facilities and Operations

- Develop walk zones that will take effect as of Sept 2019
- Work with County to address any walkability concerns identified through the walk zone review process

Planning & Evaluation Staff

- Determine current and projected resident students in the elementary school walk zones
- Take into account with other considerations to identify recommended sites for neighborhood and option schools



Tonight's Focus

- Review school-level materials
- Review initial area map
- Demonstrate community input form
- Go over community engagement tool kit

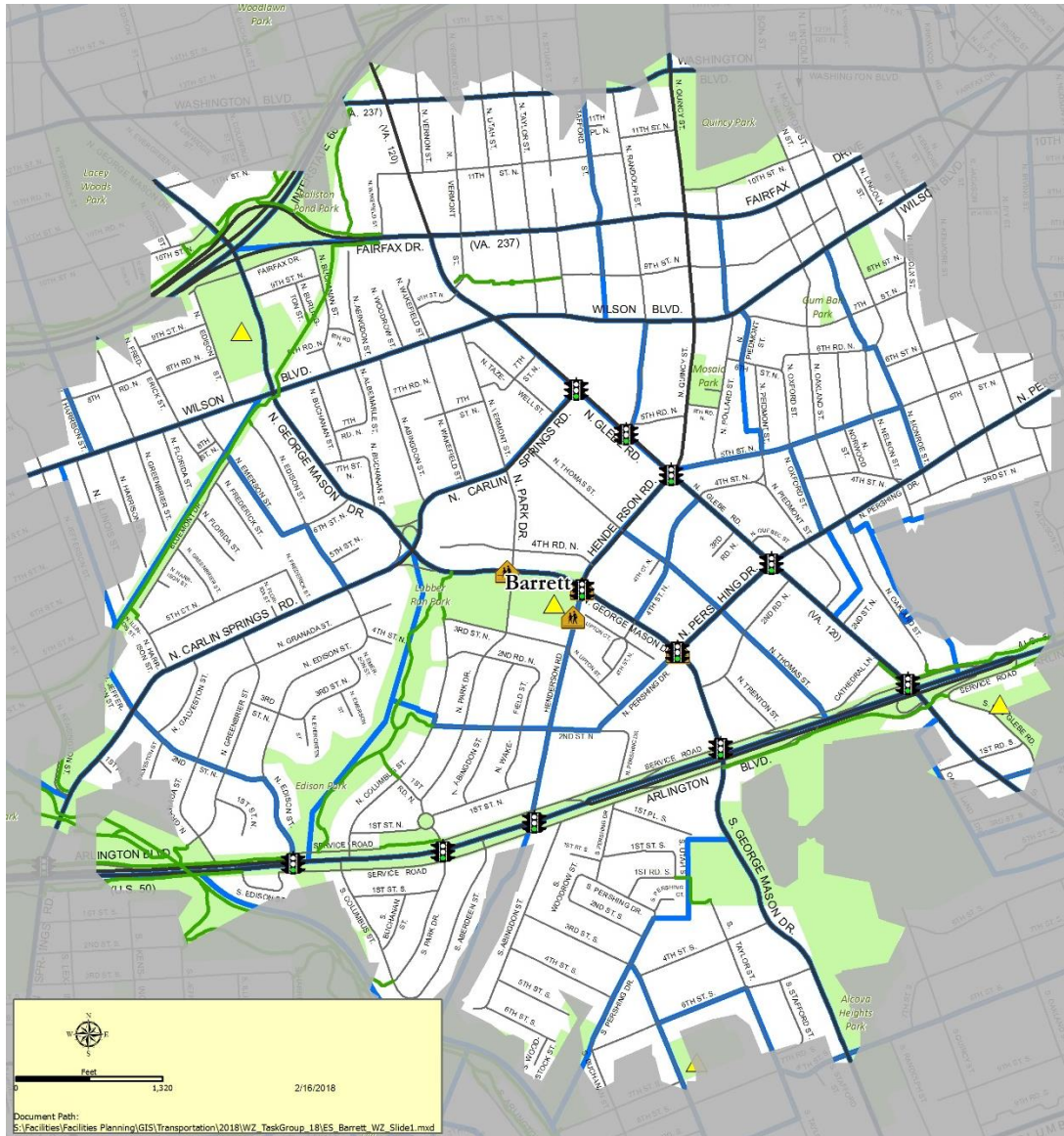


Review Resource Materials

- School Maps
- Countywide WZWG proposed expansions
- APSGo! 2013 Access Opportunity Scores
- APSGo! 2016 Survey data
- APSGo! 2016 School level Mode of Access By Distance chart




Walk Zones 101: Reading the Map









Legend

Walk Zones

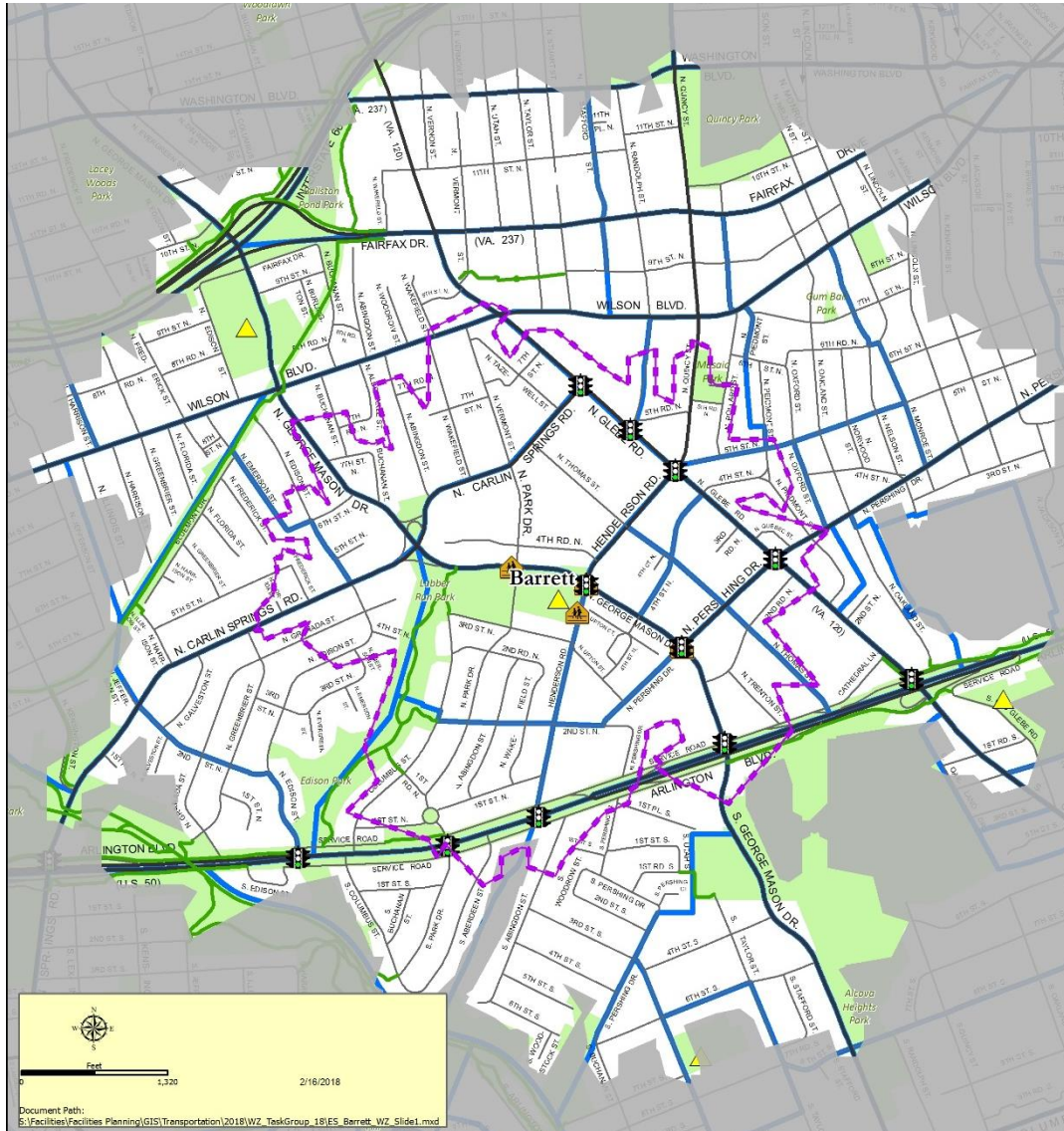
-  One Mile Per Policy
APS PIP 50-5.1

Other Map Features

-  ARL County Boundary
-  Planning Units
-  Elementary School
-  Crossing Guard
-  Signalized Crossing
-  Off-Street Trail



Walk Zones 101: Reading the Map



Legend

Walk Zones

 One Mile Per Policy
APS PIP 50-5.1

 Half-Mile Walk Shed


Other Map Features


 ARL County Boundary

 Planning Units

 Elementary School

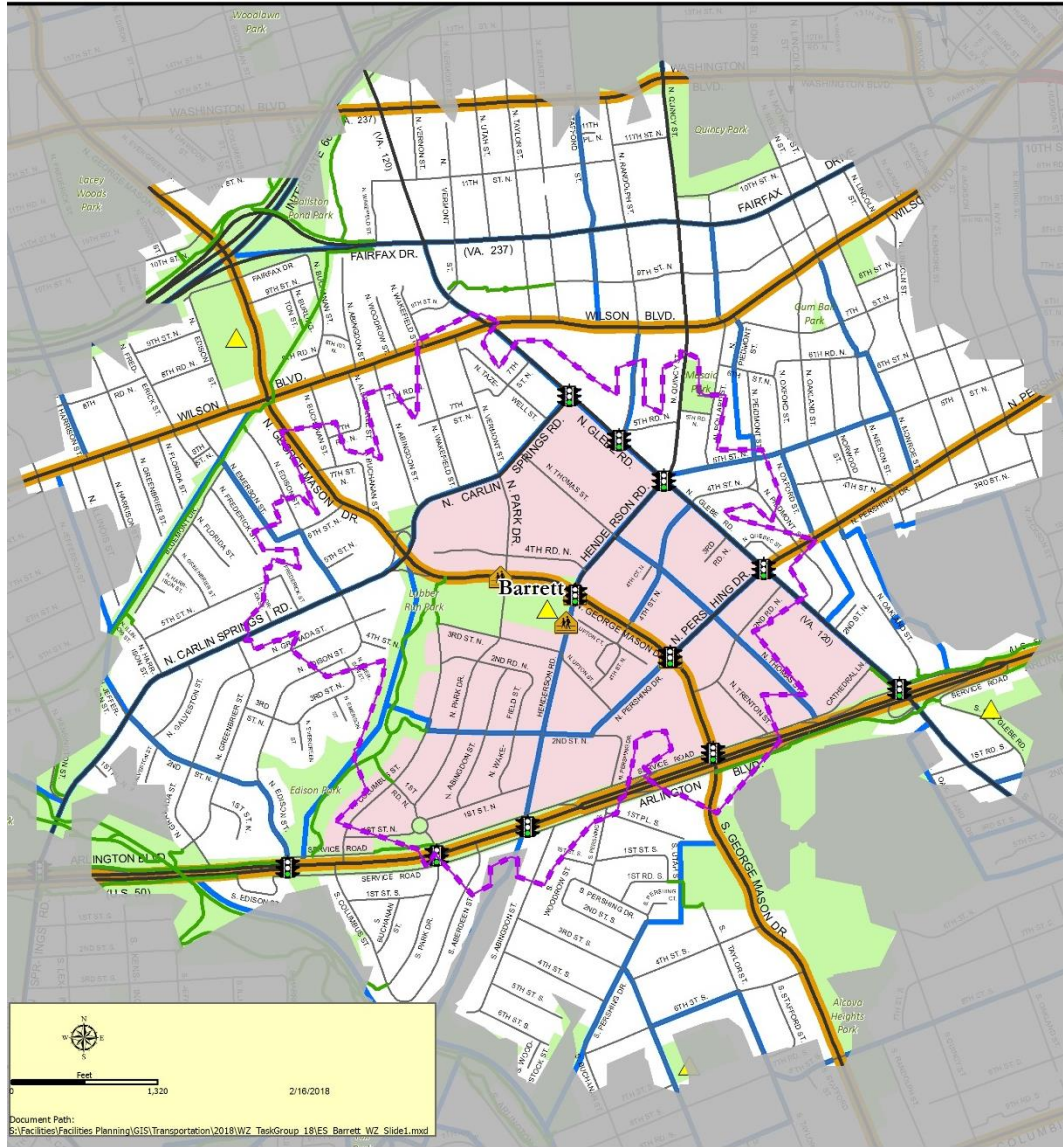
 Crossing Guard

 Signalized Crossing

 Off-Street Trail



Walk Zones 101: Reading the Map



Legend

Walk Zones

- One Mile Per Policy APS PIP 50-5.1
- Current Walk Zone
- Not Eligible for Bus Service, May 2013

Half-Mile Walk Shed

Street Crossing Designation

- Only Middle and High School Students may Cross*
- No Grade Levels may Cross*

Other Map Features

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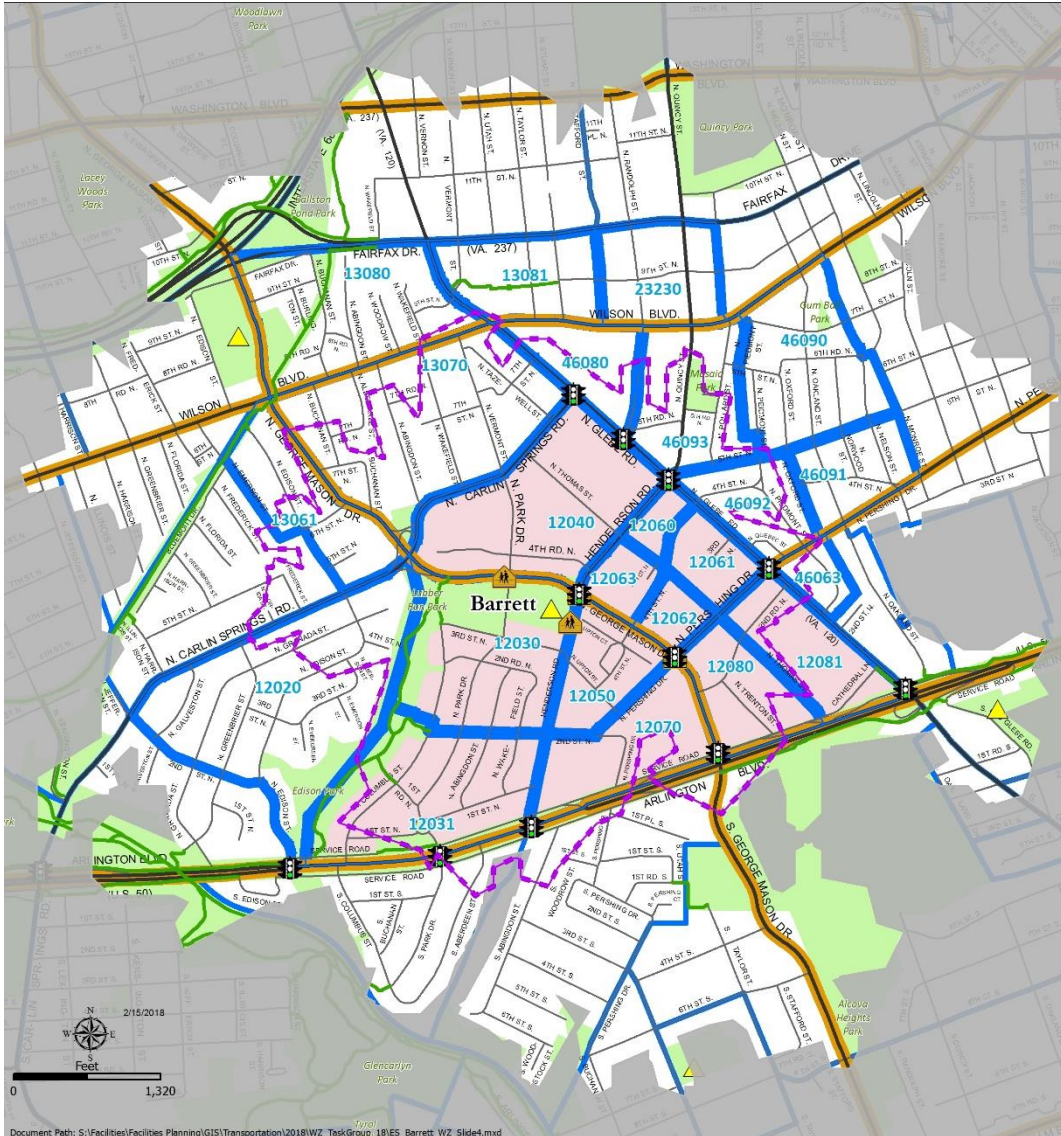
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 Document Path:

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Walk Zones 101: Reading the Map



Legend

Walk Zones

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APS PIP 50-5.1
- Current Walk Zone
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Half-Mile Walk Shed

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Community Input Questionnaire

- Each school site has its own map and questionnaire at www.apsva.us/engage
- The same questions are asked for all schools
- The questionnaire is available in English and Spanish
- Can be completed online or in print
- Each School Task Group will receive a summary of online input before the second working session



Community Input

- Select which Planning Unit(s) within the 1-mile policy distance could be added to expand the walk zone
 - Note that Planning Units must be moved in their entirety
- Select from a list of infrastructure improvements that may make an area safer for elementary students to cross
 - Example: Improve cross walk markings, widen sidewalks, etc.
- Opportunity to provide additional comments
- APS works closely with County transportation staff



Walk Zones 101: Community Input

Survey Participation x

You have accessed this survey in TEST MODE. Your answers will not be recorded

Within planning unit 14060 which specific locations, intersections, or nearest address, would benefit from additional infrastructure to make it safer for elementary students to cross?

	Location (intersections or nearest address)	Please answer below
Location 1	<input type="text"/>	--Select--
Location 2	<input type="text"/>	Add a pedestrian push-to-walk signal or audible signal Increase the amount of time for people to cross Decrease the amount of time people have to wait before crossing Add a traffic signal or HAWK signal
Location 3	<input type="text"/>	Improve the crosswalk markings Install traffic calming measures Place crossing guard to reduce distance between safe crossings
Location 4	<input type="text"/>	Connect sidewalk segments Widen sidewalks Repair broken sidewalk
Location 5	<input type="text"/>	Install a buffer between sidewalk and street Add a stop sign Reduce the posted speed limit (note current speed limit)
Location 6	<input type="text"/>	Add "School Zone" signage Add a crosswalk Narrow road to reduce crossing distance
Location 7	<input type="text"/>	Install median or pedestrian refuge Remove parking or other crossing sight line obstructions Remove sidewalk obstructions (poles, signs, shrubs, etc.)
Location 8	<input type="text"/>	Install sidewalk (note which side of street - N, S, E, W) Add no U-turn sign Increase traffic enforcement
Location 9	<input type="text"/>	Add/improve lighting (to trails)
Location 10	<input type="text"/>	--Select--

You have accessed this survey in TEST MODE. Your answers will not be recorded



Accessing the Questionnaire

- www.apsva.us/engage/engage-aps-online-feedback/
- www.apsva.us/elementary-school-boundary-change/walkzonereview/

Printed questionnaires are also available in English and Spanish



School Task Group Community Engagement

Gladis Bourdouane, Integrated Planner

Kathy Mimberg, Coordinator of Community Engagement

APS Department of Planning & Evaluation



School Task Group Responsibilities

- Inform community members about how they can participate in this process
- Gather community input about the school walk zone and identify possible areas of expansion
- Conduct neighborhood “walking tours” within one-mile policy zone
- Share community input with staff at Task Group Working Sessions



School Task Group Tool Kit

- School Task Group Timeline
- Community Engagement Opportunities
- Planning Neighborhood Walking Tours
- Promoting Neighborhood Walking Tours
- Resources for School Task Groups



School Task Group Timeline

Group 1: Ashlawn, Discovery, Jamestown, McKinley, Nottingham, Tuckahoe

- **Starting Feb. 20:** Questionnaires available online and in print for community input on walk zones
- **Feb. 26–March 9:** Online questionnaire for community input on considerations for APS to take into account in reviewing elementary neighborhood and option school locations
- **March 12:** Deadline for community input on walk zones
- **March 15:** “What We Heard on Walk Zone Review” Working Session



School Task Group Community Engagement

How Can Residents Engage During Task Group Activities?

- Review information and walk zone maps at www.apsva.us/engage
- Share input via online questionnaires on walk zones at www.apsva.us/elementary-school-boundary-change/
- Observe a School Task Group Working Session (no public comment period, but written commentary and questions)
- Participate in a Neighborhood Walking Tour and provide input to the School Task Group
- Provide input on considerations for elementary school locations at www.apsva.us/elementary-school-boundary-change/
- Send questions and comments to engage@apsva.us



How Can Residents Engage After Task Group Activities?

- Staff will publish draft recommendations on April 12
- Staff Office Hours Sessions (Spanish-speaking staff available):
 - Monday, April 16: 7-8:30 p.m., Wakefield H.S.
 - Friday, April 20: 7:30-9 a.m., Education Center
 - Saturday, April 21: 9:30-11 a.m., Kenmore M.S.
- Community Meeting—Staff will present draft recommendations and answer questions
 - Tuesday, May 1, at 7 p.m.
 - Yorktown High School (5200 Yorktown Blvd.)
 - Live-streamed, with simultaneous interpretation



Neighborhood “Walking Tour” Ideas

- Opportunity: ES Parent Teacher Conferences are March 1-2
- Table in front of the school
 - Signage at table
 - Maps and questionnaires available
 - Self-guided “tours” or “buddy tours”
- Encourage a variety of “tour” routes within neighborhoods not in the current walk zone but within one-mile area
- Note specific points to share with APS, either online or written documents, or by phone with details attached
- Questionnaire can be completed online or in print
- Answer questions at table or refer people to engage@apsva.us
- Other ideas?



Neighborhood Walking Tour Guidelines

- Task Groups can choose to hold more than one “tour”
- These do not need to be group tours, but just offer a starting point and a chance to participate in the process
- Daylight hours, with at least one on a weekend
- Provide maps and other useful materials
- Do you need to identify a Spanish speaker in your community to help with Task Group activities?
- Safety is paramount



Promoting Community Engagement and Neighborhood Walking Tours

- PTA and Civic Association websites
- Neighborhood listservs; NextDoor.com
- Facebook posts
- Twitter
- Text messages
- Flyers

The School Task Group Tool Kit has helpful content you can use!



Sample Content

- [SCHOOL NAME]'s Task Group has info for self-guided tours of school walk zone. Pick up a map and questionnaire at [LOCATION] at [TIME RANGE] on [DATE]. #EngageAPS
- No time for a tour of the [SCHOOL] walk zone? No problem! Find a map and questionnaire at www.apsva.us/engage and share your thoughts by [DEADLINE]. #EngageAPS
- Have suggestions for APS about how the [SCHOOL NAME] walk zone might safely be expanded? Fill out a questionnaire at www.apsva.us/engage and join the conversation at #EngageAPS.



School Task Group Reporting at Next Session

- Task Group will review online APS community input report
- Provide information collected in printed form so that it can be added to online commentary related to your site
- Share community commentary and questions with staff
- Next Working Session for this group:
 - “What We Heard on Walk Zone Reviews”
 - Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.
 - Yorktown High School Cafeteria



Staff contacts for School Task Groups

- **Process**—Gladis Bourdouane gladis.bourdouane@apsva.us
- **Walk Zones**—Kristin Haldeman Kristin.haldeman@apsva.us
- **Communications**—Kathy Mimberg Kathy.mimberg@apsva.us

Community Resources

- Community input and questions—Engage@apsva.us
- Information, Maps and Updates:
www.apsva.us/elementary-school-boundary-change/



Questions?



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