

Meeting Minutes
Justice High School Pyramid Community Working Group

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Justice HS Library

WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE

- Jeff Longo, co-chair
- Ann-Marie Ward, co-chair
- Kathleen Brown
- Mark Doehnert
- Kim Lanoue

FCPS ATTENDANCE

- Sean Rolon, Justice HS Principal
- Colleen Lally, Justice HS Assistant Principal

Minutes were taken by co-chair Ann-Marie Ward due to liaison schedule conflict.

Minutes from November 19 were approved without objection.

Members who attended the Safe Routes to Schools Walking and Biking Routes Assessment on December 12 are asked to send their final observations to Merari so that she can complete the report.

After reviewing FCPS Facilities Chief's response to our question about the proffer (see page 2), the group spent the remaining time discussing an outline of our recommendations document (see pages 4-5).

The group will finalize the document at our meeting on Monday, January 6 from 6-8 pm in the Justice HS library.

Response from Janice Szymanski, FCPS Chief of Facilities, to our question about the Proffer

Hi All,

I wanted to follow up with some information regarding your questions regarding the proffer language. Our team had the chance to review the proffer along with research some of the background engagement our team had conducted with VDOT and FCDOT.

Pursuant to following Proffer 6D of the Justice High School Proffer Statement (last dated June 24, 2022):

D. Pursuing opportunities for off-site parking, such as, but not limited to, designating parallel parking spaces on the north-south public road segment of Peace Valley Lane for school use during school hours, subject to VDOT and County approval.

And,

Ongoing discussion during Justice HS Parking Workgroup meetings and notes inquiring if there has been such an investigation for referenced parking on the north-south segment of Peace Valley Lane:

The FCPS office of Design and Construction has reached out to both VDOT and FCDOT to discuss the possibility of developing and enforcing parking restrictions to allow school permit parking only during school hours on a public (VDOT) street. A VDOT Engineering Specialist provided FCDOT contact information as the appropriate agency to govern such permit programs.

FCDOT's response to this proposed parking request is that the County does not have a parking program to establish permit parking for public school use on public streets within the County and it is not currently clear if the Virginia Code would authorize the County, by state law to create such a program. Absent of state granted authority, a legislative action by the VA General Assembly would be required to grant said authority. The representative sums up their response that "...there is no legal mechanism or program to offer permits for school use of Peace Valley Lane and there are serious challenges to the development of such a program."

Should you have further questions regarding the Workgroups request to explore the possibility of designating the north-south segment of Peace Valley Lane as permit parking only during school hours, please forward and we will assist in providing the information.

Thank you.

Janice

Committee Member Mark D. Shared the Following in Response

The Fairfax County Code cites these two sections for the authority for the Board of Supervisors to create residential permit parking districts “For authority of the County to adopt this Chapter, see Va. Code Ann., §§ 46.2-1220, 46.2-1222.”

It appears that these below are the Virginia Code sections.

They apply to parking on VDOT controlled roads and explain how the county governing bodies (e.g., Board of Supervisors) can control parking to include parking meters.

I’d suggest you look them over because it would seem that the school board and county board can already work together to make solutions.

§ 46.2-1222. Regulation of parking on secondary highways by certain counties.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter12/section46.2-1222/>

§ 46.2-1220. Parking, stopping, and standing regulations in counties, cities, or towns; parking meters; presumption as to violation of ordinances; penalty.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter12/section46.2-1220/>

Draft Outline of Recommendations (to be finalized at the January 6 meeting)

INTRODUCTION (How we got here)

- Initial plans did not take into account all relevant stakeholder input (both school and local community)
- Revised plans abandoned plans to provide adequate parking
- CITE PROFFER
- Justice HS is the smallest HS physical footprint, highest percentage of students with FRM.

RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

The following groups may need to work together to accomplish the following recommendations: FCPS, FCDOT, VDOT, FCSchool Board, FCBoard of Supervisors, FCPD

- **Pursuing parking on N/S Peace Valley Lane (per proffer)**
 - FCPS responded that they did not have the statutory authority to pursue the option.
 - HOWEVER, FCPS has shown that they in fact DO have the authority when they OWN the road in question.
 - The survey identified that students and staff do not feel that they have enough parking (cite).
 - The school has since taken steps to ensure enough staff spots at the expense of ~30 student spots (currently 52 student spots for >1000 driving age students).
 - The lack of student parking is an equity concern, as a portion of student parking fees go to the school.
 - restricts student access to after school enrichment activities
 - school must pay for after school busses – daily busses currently cost prohibitive
 - WMATA/FCDOT buses do not serve school – closest stop is on Rt 7
 - The lack of student parking is a safety concern because students must walk further into communities (beyond the RPD) to access parking.
 - OUR RECOMMENDATION is that FCPS purchase the eastern half of N/S peace Valley Lane, similar to how they own the East/West Peace Valley Lane, so they can administer parallel parking.
 - If the county and/or FCPS believes they have a better way of achieving the result of dedicated student parking (during school hours) along Peace Valley Lane in a constrained time period, then that is acceptable, it just need to get done.
- **Walkability/Bikability + Safe routes**
 - The WG worked with Safe Routes to School and the FCPS Office of Safety and Security to conduct a walking and biking routes assessment.
 - Multiple major intersections on all sides of the school lack 4-way stops and lead to students to walking in the road due to lack of sidewalks and crosswalks, with some roads including blind turns with no student egress path. Several sidewalk locations are in disrepair.
 - Known unsafe walking routes that have led to the death of a student over a year ago remain unremediated.
 - Why was a student death in Oakton handled with more expedience than a student at Justice?

CONCLUSION (and other notes)

- Other space constrained sites in the region budget for adequate parking with solutions like structured parking.
- The county's comprehensive plan calls for structured parking in higher density areas, but FCPS is not planning for these high density scenarios.
- Other options such as e-bikes and e-scooters were considered but have implementation complications.
- Survey, walking + biking routes assessment, full text of proffer, interim report are included in their entirety as appendixes