

Committee Members Attending: Rona Ackerman, Mahri Aste, Mary Ann Bosley, Roger Cryan, Susan Culin, Mark Emery, Kathy Gillette, Judy Harbeck, Michele Menapace, Marlene Parker, Phyllis Payne, Marie Reinsdorf, Patricia Velkoff, Rima Vesilind, Chris Worley, Doug Wright, Brenda (BZ) Zikowitz

Guests: Walt Carlson, Slide Committee; Dick Reed, TTF Chair

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm.

Chair Chris Worley apologized for arriving late. Future meetings will begin on time.

No changes to the agenda were proposed.

Roger Cryan distributed his "Ideas for Tweaking the School Transportation System."

Other documents available to the committee at the meeting were:

1. FCPS Out-of-Boundary Programs, by School, by Mandate
2. A Short Primer on Transportation Bell Schedules
3. FCPS Consortia Proposal
4. K12 Pupil Transportation Services Bell Time Analysis, 1/12/06, MPS
5. Transportation Options & MPS Phase 2 Bell Time Analysis, 12/06, MPS
6. Executive Summary of 1998 Task Force
7. TTF Information Resources

A discussion on the parameters for consideration ensued:

- Should parameters be different for elementary, middle and high school students?
- Impact of civil twilight
- Importance of the needs of the general education population
- Two mutually exclusive but compatible goals: save money and move start times
- Break transportation system into 5 (self-contained?) consortia
- Jobs and after-school activities may need to shift
- Traffic is a serious constraint affecting the timing of bus runs

The committee agreed to the following general parameters:





- a) Cost should be less than or equal to present cost
- b) The needs of the general education population should be considered first
- c) Consortia should be considered as an alternative
- d) Traffic patterns, crosswalks, crossing guards and impediments to walking routes should be considered
- e) Bus arrival times before the first bell should be
 - i) 15 minutes or less for elementary students
 - ii) 20 minutes or less for middle school students
 - iii) 30 minutes or less for high school students

- f) Length of time students ride the bus should be minimized as much as possible.
 - i) 30 minutes or less for elementary students
 - ii) 45 minutes or less for middle school students
 - iii) 45 minutes or less for high school students
- g) Bus routes, walking distances and distances between bus stops need to be considered
- h) Decentralization of the bus transportation systems needs to be considered:
 - i) More parking lots
 - ii) More transportation areas
- i) School boundaries will not be considered
- j) Alternative transportation methods should be considered
 - i) Public transportation
 - ii) Taxis
 - iii) Private contractors
 - iv) Smaller buses

The committee noted the following:

- 1) These parameters are not to be considered as constraints or limitations and may change as the work of the committee progresses.
- 2) A secondary parameter should be having school start no earlier than 7:45
- 3) New capital investment may cost less in the long run
- 4) Other systems that have changed start times should be examined for ideas
- 5) Greater transportation efficiencies may be found by examining legally mandated vs. the non-mandated educational programs. Transportation is only legally required for special education.
- 6) Civil twilight is an important, but not legally binding, consideration for elementary students.

The Tweak Committee agreed to form the following subcommittees:

-  Consortia (a, b, c, e, f, i)
-  Alternative Transportation Methods (a, b, i, j)
-  Out-Of-Boundary Programs (a, b, e, f, g, i,)
-  Transportation Department Efficiencies (a, b, d, e, f, g, h, i,)

The parameters that may be of interest were assigned to subcommittees and are indicated next to each.

Rona Ackerman will send out a list of subcommittees and their members.

Next Tweak Committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 at Mosby Woods

The Mapnet demonstration will be held on Thursday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Lorton Center

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm