**Safe Routes to School Regional Meeting**

**10/29/13**

**Facilitated Discussion**

**What is the first thing that comes to your mind right now? Any aha-moments?**

* We need a State of Commuting to School survey
	+ Lack of data on this topic
	+ National Center has a process for doing surveys in classrooms on student’s trips to school (Arlington expanded it by also asking how students get to before and after school care/programs)
* More information on Fire Up Your Feet
	+ Info for Safe Routes to School coordinators
* Place for success stories
	+ Best practices

(this is started on the Greater Washington network website)

* Information needed on how to work with local businesses
	+ For example, Takoma Park’s 5K is supported by local businesses
	+ How do businesses find Safe Routes to School opportunities?
		- For example, to provide volunteers
* Good to hear comprehensive nature of Safe Routes to School
	+ Stories from communities and the broader perspective
* Broader way to sell SRTS
	+ Health, transit, empower youth
* Comment submitted post facilitated discussion: There should be a region wide educational campaign on Safe Routes to School which gives everyone a base level of knowledge. Then, when we approach schools they will already know about the program or encourage schools to ask for the program. (in response to many presenters that said they had to work really hard to get into schools)

**What is needed to move Safe Routes to School forward in your jurisdiction?**

* Data
	+ Cost savings on busing
* Data
	+ Work with nurses and PE teachers to quantify academic and health benefits of Safe Routes to School

**\***Comments made about the Denmark study, Specialized Bicycle grants and a book on this topic\*

* Guide through federal grant requirements
	+ Especially for small communities

(Advocacy Advance may have these materials)

**What next steps would you like to see the Greater Washington network take to continue the momentum of this meeting?**

* Way to stay connected
* Compilations of groups
	+ Information on national newsletter
	+ Create a regional newsletter
	+ VA SRTS newsletter
* Notes are in Google Doc from Aysha Ruya Cohen @AyshaRuyaCohen
* Regional list serv
	+ Messages/topics should be archived and searchable
* Forum for sharing for example, a blog
* Reach decision makers
	+ Get to events, local forums
	+ School administrators
		- Get “blessing” for Safe Routes to School throughout district
* Federal transportation bill information specifically on Safe Routes to School
* Safe Routes to School in TPB Weekly

**Were you looking for any information today that you did not hear discussed?**

* Role of kiss and ride/parent vehicle pick-up/drop-off in school transportation
	+ Operation and use on school grounds, roads around schools and use of teacher time
		- Parent vehicle traffic conflicts with neighborhood traffic as cars access the school
		- More cars creates more potential conflicts for walkers and bicyclists
	+ Number of kids using it who should be on a bus or could walk/bike
		- Cost issue: if students are assigned to a bus, their seat must remain open on the bus. If students are driven, they school district pays for the unused seat
	+ Air quality of safety patrols opening car doors and breathing in car exhaust
* How to involve local elected officials
* Standard for development
	+ New development should include walking and bicycling and access to school