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Joint Board Matter
Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Vice Chair Kathy L. Smith
Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr.

The Establishment of a Joint Task Force to Address Pedestrian and Traffic Safety in Fairfax County School Zones

September 15, 2026

Later this morning the Board of Supervisors will be considering the Carryover Package for Fiscal Year 2026. As part of that package there will be the consideration to fund crossing guards at high schools that were a reduction as part of our current fiscal year's budget. High school crossing guards are unique to Fairfax County in that no other high schools in our area have them assigned to these locations.

The start of the 2026-2027 School Year, however, has brought to light gaps in coordination, information, and infrastructure. The Fairfax County Police Department conducted site reviews in coordination with the Office of School Security to identify challenges around school zones and to provide recommendations on safety improvements. As this review was taking place Fairfax County Public Schools' Safe Routes to Schools presented an assessment to leadership that identified "kiss and ride" areas as overextended to the point of becoming one of the school system's "most significant operational concern district wide."[1] This finding was part of a 68-page comprehensive report that provided a list of recommendations that included the promotion of increased utilization of

[1] https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/pfiles/DXHMM95BE062/$file/SRTS-School-Board-Report-2026.pdf

buses, expanding active transportation programs, improving traffic circulation patterns, reviewing illegal drop-off and pick-up locations, enhancing parent education and communication, evaluating infrastructure improvements and partnering with both the Virginia and Fairfax County Departments of Transportation. The Fairfax County Police Department also found many of the same issues through their evaluations.

It is clear more collaboration and coordination are needed towards the shared priority and responsibility of the Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Public Schools in keeping our students safe.

Toward that end, I propose the creation of a joint School Board and Board of Supervisors task force, consistent with other joint committees, to review and strategize pedestrian, bicycle, scooter, and traffic safety in school zones. This task force should work expeditiously to provide both governing bodies with long-term solutions. Moreover, the review should include but not be limited to the recommendations provided by the Fairfax County Police Department through their site evaluations, the Office of School Security, and Safe Routes to Schools staff based on the recent report previously referenced and cited.

Further, this joint task force should also seek to engage other key stakeholders, including the Virginia Department of Transportation who own and maintain the vast majority of roads in Fairfax County. In addition, the task force's engagement should include the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, members of the Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation, and given the latitude to consult with any other stakeholder group(s) the task force deems appropriate, as has always been the case with these types of efforts.

Strategies and solutions proposed by and topics deliberated on by this joint task force may include, among other things, (1) approaches to public safety personnel deployments, (2) funding and cost-sharing ideas, (3) road design concepts and execution, (4) piloting of new safety-related General Assembly authorizations, (5) development of safety-related criteria and assessments, (6) public awareness and education campaigns, and/or (7) ideas concerning necessary enabling legislation.

Therefore, I move that the Board of Supervisors establish a task force with the School Board to address pedestrian and traffic safety in Fairfax County school zones and nominate Vice Chair Kathy Smith and Supervisor James Bierman to represent the Board of Supervisors. Upon passage of this Board Matter, I will

request School Board Chair Robyn Lady to select two School Board Members to serve on this task force.