ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No. 12-04
May 8, 2012

SUBJECT: Springhill Lake Elementary School Safe Routes to School Road Improvements – Conceptual Plans

BACKGROUND: In 2009 the City applied for a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010/2011 grant for Maryland Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding for Springhill Drive in front of Springhill Lake Elementary School. The Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) awarded the City a funding commitment of $137,000. In late 2011, the City requested an extension, and MHSO extended the grant until December 31, 2012, with a commitment of $122,900. In March 2012, SHA presented draft conceptual plans to the Advisory Planning Board. Proposed improvements include curb bump outs, medians, new crosswalks, and upgraded crosswalk markings.

ANALYSIS: On March 14, 2012 the Advisory Planning Board reviewed draft conceptual SRTS plans for Springhill Drive at Springhill Elementary School. The Board discussed the width of curb extensions (curb bump outs) to better understand their impact on slowing automobile traffic. The Board also asked about additional educational components, particularly after implementation, and staff is investigating funding availability and potential partnerships.

The SHA representative present, Jared Paper-Evers, asked the Board if they had suggestions for the prioritization of the project elements to aid in decision making should the overall project become cost prohibitive. The Board felt strongly about keeping all elements, and did suggest curb extensions with exposed gutter to both save costs and not impede stormwater flow.

The Board also discussed bus stop placement (WMATA, The Bus, UMD Shuttle), but ultimately tabled the discussion because it is outside the scope of this particular project.

RECOMMENDATION: While the Board did not take an official vote on the plans, the Board voiced general support for the plans with the comments noted above.

Sincerely,

George Branyan
Chair