



Office of
Chris Ford
1st District Councilman

MEMORANDUM

To: Vice Mayor Steve Kay
Council Member Bill Farmer, Committee Chairman
Urban County Council Members

From: Chris Ford 

Date: January 27, 2015

**RE: Motion for Refer | Safe Routes to School
Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee**

Please be advised of my intent to make a motion at today's Work Session to place in the Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee, the issue of partnering with Fayette County Public Schools regarding "Safe Routes to School".

Safe Routes to School is a proposed joint initiative with our local public schools and the LFUCG. In October 2014, the Fayette County School Board adopted a resolution of support & intent to partner with our local government on this initiative (please find copy attached).

Heretofore, the Division of Police has been a primary point of contact regarding this initiative, and has demonstrated both leadership & strong support. Preliminary plans evolve around designing pilot "Safe Routes" for East End schools, primarily William Wells Brown Elementary and Lexington Traditional Magnet School. However, FCPS envisions this policy to have opportunity to be implemented in applicable neighborhoods all across the entire school district.

To facilitate the interim planning & community engagement required for making this proposal a success, our Divisions of Traffic Engineering and Streets & Roads will both be required to play substantially contributive roles in this collaborative effort. As such, the EQPW Committee is perhaps a better venue for Council exploration, discussion and debate on this issue.

Thanks for your consideration of this motion to refer to committee. Please find me available in the interim and / or during today's Work Session if additional information is required.

Attachment

RESOLUTION REGARDING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the health and safety of pupils is a priority consideration in all Board decisions.

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect student health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting physical activity.

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes heart disease, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for two-thirds of deaths in the United States, and a major risk factor for those diseases is physical inactivity that is established in childhood.

WHEREAS, the Board supports schools to provide opportunities and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis as provided by school/council policy.

WHEREAS, schools provide and promote physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy physical activity.

WHEREAS, walking or biking to and from school is an excellent way for students to exercise and develop a healthy routine that can stay with them for life.

WHEREAS, the National Center for Safe Routes to School lists the five following health benefits of walking or biking to school:

1. Weight and blood pressure control
2. Bone, muscle, and joint health and maintenance
3. Reduction in the risk of diabetes
4. Improved psychological welfare
5. Better academic performance

WHEREAS, walking or biking to school does not interfere with instructional time.

WHEREAS, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government is a critical partner for establishing and maintaining routes for children to safely travel to and from school.


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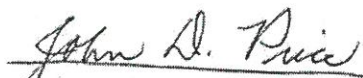
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Fayette County Board of Education hereby supports the Safe Routes to School program to encourage students to bike or walk to school and pledges to work with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for the establishment and maintenance of safe routes to school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread on the official minutes of the Board of Education and that a copy thereof be sent to Urban County Council of the Lexington-Fayette County Urban County Government.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion is in order to:

"adopt the Resolution regarding Safe Routes to School."




John Price, Chairman of the Board