



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 5, 2013  
**To:** John Chadwick  
**Organization:** Arlington Public Schools  
**From:** Diane Lambert, MPH, Deputy Director of Planning  
Eric Mongelli, P.E., Director of Engineering  
**CC:**  
**Project:** McKinley Elementary School Baseline Data Collection for Multi-Modal Transportation Planning  
**Re:** Executive Summary

In March 2013, Toole Design Group, LLC (TDG) was tasked by Arlington Public Schools (APS) to gather to baseline data on existing school travel modes and traffic operations on streets adjacent to and near McKinley Elementary School. The findings from this baseline data collection is compiled and summarized in this portfolio, and may be used to assist with planning for a future expansion of the school.

In addition to general project management and administration, the scope of services detailed the following tasks for TDG:

**Task 2: Collect Self-Reported Travel Modes, Parking Patterns and Transportation Issues.** This task included organizing and facilitating input from a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) team comprised of key stakeholders, and collecting self-reported data on school travel modes and parking.

**Task 3: Collect Data - Transportation Counts and Observations.** This task included conducting transportation counts and observations on and around the existing school site to gain a clear understanding of existing transportation issues. TDG conducted two site visits to observe travel patterns and obtain travel mode, driveway and parking counts. Staff also observed traffic patterns and collected parking occupancy data during one school event. This task also included collection of data on vehicular turning movement counts and bicycle and pedestrian counts at five locations (intersections and school driveway entrances) during the AM and PM peak times on an average school day, as well as 7-days of Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) counts at four locations to collect speed and vehicular volume data. Finally, TDG collected and reviewed supplemental data as necessary to assist in assessing existing conditions.

**Task 4: Assess Existing Conditions – Motorized and Non-Motorized.** This task included identifying and assessing priority pedestrian and bicycle access routes within a one-mile radius of McKinley Elementary School, and to gain an understanding of existing congestion issues, TDG conducted vehicular Level of Service (LOS) analyses at four locations. TDG also assessed existing traffic calming and safety needs in the immediate vicinity of the school site.

While details are reported in the attached memos for each task, a summary of key findings is included below.

**Summary of Key Findings**  
**McKinley Elementary School, Baseline Data Collection for Multi-Modal Transportation Planning**

The following bullets summarize key takeaways from the baseline data collection at McKinley Elementary:

- Travel modes reported through student travel tallies and parent surveys, and those observed during school arrival and dismissal seem to be consistent, averaging in the mid to upper 20% of students walking or bicycling to school, and mid to upper 30% of students taking the bus. Survey response rates were notably high, with 100% of classrooms administering the student tally and 71% of parents returning the parent survey.
- According to the parent survey, a relatively good number of students (47%) living within 1 mile of the school either walk or ride their bike as their typical mode of travel to school.
- Staff travel to school is primarily via private car, with 93% of respondents reporting this as a primary travel mode. Four percent of respondents reported utilizing a carpool. Staff survey response rates were remarkably high, with 99% of school staff responding.
- Most students cross McKinley Road at the marked crosswalk with crossing guard directly in front of the school. Secondly, students cross at the intersection of Potomac Street and 11th Street.
- The marked crosswalk across McKinley Road in front of the school is problematic. One end empties into the school driveway, vehicles sometimes block the crosswalk or park too close, and the crossing guard reports problems with yielding.
- There is a potential speeding problem on McKinley Road/Ohio Street near McKinley Elementary School.
- The curbside kiss and ride process on McKinley Road appears to run smoothly; however, there are times with the queue backs up beyond the driveway loop exit.
- There is no established pick-up location for car riders at dismissal. Many parents pick up children near the 11th Street/Potomac Street intersection, where there is limited space for parking/standing vehicles. Vehicles sometimes block the crosswalk or park too close.
- There appears to be sufficient on-street parking within the vicinity of the school to accommodate staff and visitors.