



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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RE: Noticed Mtg. with CM Carlucci and CM Cumber Meeting RE Landon Middle School Traffic Study
Monday, May 2, 2022
4:00 P.M.

Location: Don Davis Room

Attendees:

CM Matt Carlucci	Paul Soares	Jennifer Sheffield	Lee Durban
CM LeAnna Cumber	Principal Bledsoe	Eric Bersenyi	Amber Lehman
CM Nick Howland	John Pappas	Detective Tranquille	Paige Johnston
Cindy Pearson	Chris LeDew	Dana Hawes	Sheri Webber

Audio Link: <https://jaxcityc.granicus.com/player/clip/4162>

Meeting Convened: 4:02 PM

CM CARLUCCI

So, we'll go around this part of the room and introduce ourselves, and then and then I'll do a little welcome and some comments. And then I will turn it over to the District Council person. Is the School Board Member here. Cindy? Have you got a seat up here? Okay, all right. Okay, why don't you go ahead and start, Chris.

LEDEW

I'm Chris Ledew. I'm the city traffic engineer.

CM CUMBER

Leanna Cumber, District Five.

CM CARLUCCI

And I'm Matt Carlucci, At-Large, Group 4.

CM HOWLAND

I'm Nick Howland, District Three, also a Landon dad.

PEARSON

Cindy Pearson, School Board District Three which is comprised of City Council Four and Five.



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CM CARLUCCI

And just to let some folks know, we have Paul Soares with the School Board out there. Anybody else with the School Board here? Raise your hand. And then we got John Pappas here. So, we're sure to find a solution. I mean, it's easy like falling off the log when John's here, and Chris at his side. And then we have Mrs. Sheffield here, Jennifer Sheffield, and we're gonna give you an opportunity to speak, but I just want to thank you all for taking your time at four o'clock in the afternoon on a Monday to come in. And we want to help. We want to try to look at the big picture. And we also want to know what happened with your son, who thankfully was okay. So, at this point, I'm going to turn the meeting over to the direction of the District Council Member LeAnna Cumber.

CM CUMBER

Thank you. Thank you all for being here. So, I will be quick so we can get down to business. We do have the traffic engineer and the Public Works Director here to kind of talk through all of the traffic issues in that area. And you know, we know well. We were just there last... feels like, oh, it was a year ago, almost a year ago. Yeah. And you know, and I know that. Cindy will you know can kind of speak to this but middle schools, as I understand, don't have cross crossing guards and so we were able to get JSO to get a crossing guard there and, and also as part of the negotiated PUD for the Publix, we got an additional crosswalk that will be put in so we have a couple of crosswalks there and then we did have the additional JSO representatives there, too, as well. So, look forward to hearing from you all and hearing from everyone else and we'll I will pass it on.

CM CARLUCCI

Mrs. Sheffield? Jennifer Sheffield. You can go up to that mic if you don't mind. That way, we can make sure everything... I guess we're being recorded. But that's the official way to do it. Why don't you just explain to us the experience that you had and the observations as a parent, along with Nick, who has a son that goes there.

SHEFFIELD

So, kind of the details of the event?

CM CARLUCCI

The details of the event and then kind of the big picture of what you'd like to see and what you think, specifically, might help, you know?

SHEFFIELD

Sure. So just a brief... we don't have to spend a lot of time on the accident, but really just the catalyst of why my husband and I kind of got a passion around this. So, Shane and myself, we have three children.



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This is my first one to go to Landon. My other two did not go to Landon, but they are older. And we love Landon.

But what happened a couple of weeks ago is that he went out to PE class and if you're familiar with the layout of Landon, to go to PE class, he actually had to cross over one street that there's no signage on. I believe that's Minerva, between the school and the basketball court. And then to get out to the track, you leave the basketball area, you cross another working street, and you get to the track. And so, he had proceeded all the way to the track. And when they were coming in... when the class was over and they were coming in, one of the teachers did function as like a crossing person between the track and the basketball court. So now we're coming back towards the school, and then when he crossed from the basketball court area to Landon, that's where the accident occurred. He got hit by a car there.

Fortunately, he is okay but it's extremely unnerving to send your child to school, and they called me at like 11:45 and said, "Your son has been hit by a car." I said, "Hit by a car? He's at school!" And they said yes, coming in from PE class. So, you know, from there, again, he's been okay, but it has really become a mission of Shane and myself for that not to happen again. That is a parent's worst nightmare. And it ended okay, but I think there are a lot of things that can be done around that school to improve, you know, I mean, what's happened. I mean, not to improve what's happened but to improve going forward, you know, how the kids run and travel through the campus.

CM CARLUCCI

Mrs. Sheffield, can I just introduced one person here, and that's Ms. Bledsoe. She is the principal of Landon Middle School. My wife is a graduate of Landon, when it was a junior high. And Paul and Ms. Bledsoe, if y'all would like to join us up here, you're more than welcome to. We have plenty of seating. Got two over there. And so, excuse me. I just felt like I should do that. Thank you for explaining that. And then why don't you continue. Thank God your son was okay, but...

SHEFFIELD

I think, as I've heard and taught to different people in the community, this has been a long-standing problem at Landon. And I don't know if there have been other incidences. It doesn't really matter, but going forward, we don't want that to happen again. Because we got fortunate this time that he was okay with just some scratches and bruises and is mentally fine, but we need to, I think, make some changes. And so, I think a lot of it, and Shane, I apologize that he's not here. He has a terrible back problem today. But he's done a lot of research on it, I think taken a lot of pictures, probably, that most of you all have seen. But the signage, or the lack of signage, around Landon, that you're even in a school zone when you're in the middle of the campus, is lacking. For lack of a better word. There's no indication that you're in the middle of a school when you drive down Minerva or Acadia, coupled with the fact that



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cars are allowed to park along those roads. And so, the visibility is nil when you're crossing from the track to the basketball court, and then again from the basketball court to Landon. So, there's just... I think it's incumbent upon us to not only let the drivers know that there's a school... because, my gosh, that driver that hit my son was as shaken up as probably anybody. And there's no signage to indicate to him that he should even be looking for a kid.

CM CARLUCCI
What road was he on?

SHEFFIELD
He was on Minerva, and that's the one that's runs between Landon and the basketball court. So, the one closest to Landon.

CM CARLUCCI
But on the Landon side of Atlantic Boulevard, correct?

SHEFFIELD
Yeah. They do not cross over Atlantic when they're on campus. They cross over Minerva and Acadia. Right. That's correct. So, I feel you know, again, just from the thought process of a driver, it's incumbent upon us to let them know because they have to live with that if they hit someone, right? And then, too, it's just really, really difficult to see anything as you're crossing over these roads. So, the visibility, in terms of parking, is just not sufficient for these.

CM CARLUCCI
Okay, before we go to Ms. Pearson, is there anything else you'd like to say? And then if there is, as we go through the meeting, just do your hand like that, and I'll find a way to get you back up there.

SHEFFIELD
Yeah, that's good. All right, I think that's great. Yes, thank you.

CM CARLUCCI
Okay, thank you for being here. I hope Shane gets to feeling better. I just sent him a text all and said we were going to roll the red carpet out for you. So, next is the School Board member, Cindy Pearson. So, thank you for being here.

PEARSON
You're welcome.



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CM CARLUCCI

I tell you, trying to get District Council member's and a District School Board member's calendars together is not easy.

PEARSON

Well, everyone says May is the new December. At least it is in school world. I'm just going to briefly kind of rehearse my part in this and then I'm going to hand it over to Mr. Soares, to talk about what DCPS has done to engage with the situation, and I will say I did not say in my introduction, but I am also a Landon parent for at least seven years. My senior was my first [Landon] student, so three years that landed four years of high school, so I've been on this campus actively daily, before school during school after school for seven years now I'm pretty familiar with it. I will also for a bit of history say that there was an issue with students trying to get to Landon, the biker/walker situation, last year with the Publix development, when the sidewalk was eliminated, and the crossing situation. And Council Member Cumber convened a meeting and brought everyone together. You may or may not have been there but brought everyone together and came up with some solutions for that issue.

So, we need to realize that Landon is, while you don't think of it as an urban campus in the terms of what we think of as urban, it is probably one of the more urban campuses that we have in Duval County Schools. It is at the intersection, a block off the intersection, of two very busy roads in an area that is growing and growing and in San Marco with development, and we have students who need to cross some very busy roads to get to school, to get away from school, and then, now we realize, on campus. I will say that for the first six years my students were Atlantian I didn't think much about traffic on Minerva and Arcadia. I really didn't give it much thought. But in January when I was coming to pick up my daughter from soccer practice, I noticed that there were a lot of cars parked on... is it Acadia or Arcadia? Arcadia and asked the athletic director and she said, we know we've been working on this, we asked about it and we were told they have a right to park there. And I took my own pictures and noticed there was no school crossing sign at the Atlantic end of Arcadia. I noticed there was no speed limit sign on Arcadia. There was no crosswalk where the students cross over to go to PE but also for sports for three seasons. Also noticing that there were no "no parking" signs on the gate, the double gate, which would be the access for an emergency vehicle or for our maintenance to cut the field. And there were cars parked in front of that.

So, I took those pictures and put them in an email and sent it to Mr. Soares for our Facilities and Operations with the knowledge of our principal and permission of our principal to get engaged because it's really, you know, I try to stay in my lane. But for an extra layer of support for the school, handed it over to Mr. Soares and this is where I'm going to hand it over to him so he can tell what happened next.



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CM CARLUCCI

And let me just say we have a 4:45 hard cut off time. So that's... we've got 30 minutes to continue the engagement. Go ahead, Paul.

SOARES

Well, let me let me try not to repeat some things but following on Board Member Pearson, we met then with John and Chris, Chris LeDew, virtually February 2, and we went over the same concerns and came up with a plan to do the crosswalk, to do the pedestrian crossing, to put up the signs, to visit the speed limit issue. Because in order to go from 30 to 25 they have to go through a process and also placed "no parking" signs. So essentially what Ms. Pearson just shared a plan that basically did that on the second of February and then think Public Works was in the process of implementing that plan when this other incident occurred on around the April 6, I think we reengaged with them because that plan was really focused on Arcadia more than Minerva. And then we talked about what else can we do to improve and Nerva as well. The global picture is that if you look at the school, and then the property in the middle and then the property the other side of Arcadia, that school district property, ultimately, we would just do a right of way request and close those routes. And that would stop any traffic, but the problem is the impact on the community would be pretty drastic to close those roads. So, we came down to an issue of traffic calming on that second round. But what can we do with speed bumps? What can we do with speed limits to try to slow the traffic down because the right of ways already exist and they do go through the campus?

CM CARLUCCI

Can I ask a question please? Did the shutting down of, or the closure of, Landon Avenue going through to Kings Road, did that increase cut through traffic on some of those roads?

SOARES

And making that one way? It likely did. I don't have official stats. I mean, Chris or John might, but obviously when it becomes one way that does encourage use of the other roads. So, that could have had an impact.

CM CARLUCCI

Okay, go ahead.

SOARES

Yeah, but that's so that's really the solution for Minerva. So, it was really a two-phase plan. One focused on Arcadia, going back to beginning of February was in process. And then the second part came up in



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April, which was a follow on for doing the additional traffic calming, traffic slowing, since we don't reasonably think that closing the roads is a viable solution, but under a normal school campus, that's about what happened. And that's what we've done at other campuses. So that's really my point.

CM CARLUCCI
Council Member, Cumber?

CM CUMBER
Great, thanks. Um, so and this is probably for Chris. So, I'm looking at the map and it says... Well, one question I have is: does the School Board own the entire block? Because there's a bunch of houses...

SOARES
No, we do not okay.

CM CUMBER
Um, yeah, so it'd be hard to close this. So, Chris, is there a reason why we can't do, on both Minerva and Arcadia, speed humps and then do, where we do the crosswalks, painted crosswalk so they're more vibrant and so people understand that its they can be tied to the school schools do them all over. And I know one thing schools do as well. So, I would think that short of closing these, the best solution would be to do speed humps, bumps, speed humps, which I'm sure the city could sense it. We could probably show that it's a safety issue. I could probably take responsibility financial responsibility for those and then where are the crosswalks are I would recommend doing painted crosswalks that the school you know; Landon could choose what it kind of looks like because it makes them pop more. And then I know another thing that schools are doing that are in urban settings are putting out delineators. And so, to slow traffic and to give kids more of a buffer when they walk off the curb. And so maybe looking at is there a way to put delineators there, or even, I don't know, talking to the land and parents I don't know if you would need as much right of way in the street itself. But maybe during I know that what D.C. schools are doing is they're putting delineators off the curb into the street. So, to make the streets slower, and so you have to actually not only do have the speed bumps, but you're on a one-way and so you have to go much slower down through and that way during the school day. And then you can you know, they kind of put the delineators up and then they you know, they kind of fluctuate them, but that's worked really well on curbs.

PEARSON
I may be the only one in the room who doesn't know what delineators are.



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CM CUMBER

Sorry, delineators are those rather ugly things that stick up out of the street, but they make you not cross.

PEARSONS

Like candle sticks?

CM CUMBER

Yeah, yeah. And they're not attractive, but they work and because I know D.C. was having a big problem with kids. Stepping off the curb and not having sightlines because of the parking and so the way the D.C. public school district in the city of D.C. resolved it was to on those high incident areas on the corners, they put delineators out so the kids have, it actually gave the kids, enough room so they could go out into the street pass a car because the delineators stopped cars from going so I would think those three things could really because you'll also by its very nature discourage people to go down there. If you have the speed humps and you have some delineators and so forth.

LEDEW

So, sorry to interrupt.

CM CUMBER

No, that was a lot.

LEDEW

Concerning the crosswalks and delineators: yes, we already have crosswalks planned to be put in at those locations on Minerva and Arcadia. And delineators? That's a great idea. We weren't considering that. But that's something we can consider. There is a device called an in-street sign that reminds people that there's a crossing. It goes right on the double yellow in the middle of the crossing. So, it's visible in both directions. It's down near the down low, where you would find pedestrians. So the driver's eye would be aimed towards there instead of up at a sign that's eight-foot in the air on the side of the road.

CM CARLUCCI

And depending on what the Principal thinks about painting the crosswalks, apparently there's some flexibility on the color, and I would go with Landon orange! [laughter]

CM CUMBER

You could do... Chris knows, Chris and Pappas know, how much I love my painted crosswalks, but if you haven't seen them, if you just Google painted crosswalks, they really are have become a proven method



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to catch people's eye because we just naturally ignore zebra stripes because we see them all the time. And it's also fun for schools because then you can get a little school spirit. You can do those, but it really pops. I also think that I'm a big fan of them. But it would also indicate to drivers that you're on a campus and I think people would if you see the Landon... even if it's spelled out or whatever we want to do. I think that it indicates to people you're actually on a campus and you're not. You're on a city road but you're on a campus.

LEDEW

Well, right now we're planning on putting in high-emphasis crossings and that is the zebra crossings or the piano keys. That is the standard. We're open to ideas. I'm going to hand my business card over this way.

CM CARLUCCI

Smart man. I was just fixing to suggest that. Go ahead.

LEDEW

There are limitations on the colors that are allowed to be used in traffic control. So, we could talk about that. And regarding speed humps, our current policy is we install them in residential areas. When neighbors sign a petition and 75% of homeowners agree to put speed humps on the road or when there is a safety problem. When our crash data, speed study, and analysis show that there's a speed-related crash problem on a road that we can document. We have been successful in installing speed humps on places like Peach and Forest over in the Southside Estates area, and they've been effective in slowing the actual speeds down from about 40 to less than 30 miles per hour. Now, the other way is through a CIP project. We currently do not have a standard that addresses school zones or school properties, so we would be breaking new ground. So, I'd be willing to discuss that but at the current moment, it is not part of our policy.

CM CARLUCCI

I'm going to go to School Board member Pearson, but I would like to invite up the officer from the JSO. I couldn't see you. Why don't you come up and join us? Because you're gonna be the next up, after School Board Member Pearson, to make a few remarks, if you don't mind. And then we're gonna see what we've concluded into a plan. I want to hear actually from Mrs. Sheffield, as well. After you've listened to all this and see what you think. And then if we got a plan that we think we can execute, and we'll call it today.

PEARSON



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So, thank you for those suggestions. I always want to be careful not to create a problem when we try to solve a problem. And so, if you are not familiar with the traffic backup at Landon, on Atlantic Boulevard in the morning for drop off and in the afternoon for pickup. I'm envisioning delineators. I would not want to interfere with the carpool turns and they turn on to Thacker from Atlantic, and the traffic will backup no joke all the way past the railroad tracks, especially at the beginning of school. And so, I just want to make sure that y'all are aware that the parallel parking lane becomes the de facto carpool lane. And so, if anything is coming off the sidewalk that it would not interfere with the carpool lineup because that's the only place parents have, and the traffic is already bad enough with Bishop Kenny and Episcopal coming west on Atlantic and the Landon parents lining up on Atlantic and it's quite bad.

CM CUMBER

It would not be on Atlantic but Minerva. Yeah, so the delineators wouldn't be on Atlantic.

PEARSON

Okay, great.

CM

No, no because you would you want it you want to use them to control traffic. You know, potholes control, slow down traffic, too, according to certain people, but um, but they control traffic, and they slow traffic, and so you want to put them, you know, you want to put them to where they're it's like a permanent you know, during the school year type thing. So, if we use them, I think it would be smart to put them on Minerva and in Arcadia kind of control that especially since kids are going back and forth.

CM CARLUCCI

Okay, and what, I'm sorry, what's your name, Officer?

TRANQUILLE

Detective Tranquille.

CM CARLUCCI

Okay, Detective Tranquille. Would you like to make a few remarks of what you've heard today and any suggestions or cautions that you might want to recommend or suggest?

TRANQUILLE

[off-mic] So, my only involvement was when [indecipherable] crossing guard last year at the intersection of [indecipherable] and Atlantic. And there was an SPO (school police officer) there. I'm not sure if he's still at the school, but there at Thacker and Atlantic. Pretty much, my crossing guard really didn't have a



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position there [indecipherable], she sort of, as kids came up, she referred them to Officer Jackson and she [indecipherable]. So, because they had a system already set up, we didn't want to [indecipherable]. But there was a lot of traffic. That I saw.

CM CARLUCCI

And the traffic's coming from Atlantic?

TRANQUILLE

Everywhere.

CM CARLUCCI

You know, when I was the District Council person years ago, they had bomb threats over at Landon and I had a group of people wanting to close up Landon Avenue, and I wouldn't do it because I felt like you needed as many ways to get out as possible. But eventually, the next Council person got in and closed it up. And so, I was always curious, if that created more people coming down Landon and then cutting through on those different streets. Anyway, so our next speaker, we've heard from the JSO. Mrs. Sheffield, do you have anything you'd like to add in since we've been talking about different solutions and ideas? I need to go up yonder to the [mic]. There you go. And then we got to have, we're gonna try to have some public comment as well.

SHEFFIELD

So, my one thought would be, if you are traveling west on University, this is just a sample. If you're traveling from San Jose Boulevard and you make a left on University, and you get not too far up, there are some very fluorescent signs that are pedestrian crossing signs that then turn into some blinking lights. Like it's almost, I would think, impossible to miss. I'm wondering if something like that is feasible. Because, again, I feel like we're talking about middle school children, you know. So, my son happens to be in seventh. He's 13. There are some as young as 11 that arrive at the school. Delineators, I'm not super familiar with them. I, like you, Cindy, needed a definition. Even so, I'd have to see them. But again, I feel like the crux of the problem is just signage and visibility and to what is the best chance of preventing this again, and I just... you know? I don't know.

CM CARLUCCI

Let's ask Mr. LeDew.

SHEFFIELD

Mr. LeDew, is that an option?



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LEDEW

Yes. As a matter of fact, we've already agreed to several of the things that you've mentioned. And the flashing yellow lights... the jargon is our RRFB, rapid rectangular flashing beacon, and it's a push button-activated flashing light used for pedestrian safety. And we have issued a work order to our contractor to install RRFBs on Atlantic Boulevard at Mango and also at Arcadia. So, there'll be two additional pedestrian crossings across Atlantic. The reason for the one at Arcadia is it lines up with sidewalk to the South that was part of an old *Safe Routes to School* project put in over 10 years ago. So, we have an opportunity, and that sidewalk goes all the way down to Mitchell Avenue. And so that's in the works. Right now, we're experiencing some delays with concrete work.

SHEFFIELD

And that's to cross Atlantic?

LEDEW

That's to cross Atlantic. And then in addition to that, we've agreed to the school warning signs approaching the campus on all three roads: Thacker, Minerva, and Arcadia, in both directions. And also, the crossing, at the request of Mr. Soares, we're putting in what we call a "mid-block ped crossing" between, I guess, the basketball area and the track area. And I just found out today that the concrete was put in last week. So, we're going to put our sign crew and thermoplastic pavement marking crew to work that should be done in the next two to three weeks. While we're there, we noticed that the existing crossing on Minerva was damaged by some utility work. It was dug up and then they repaved it, but they didn't put the crossing back. So, we're gonna go ahead and repair that crossing. So, if you want a special crossing, not the standard kind, let me know real quick because we're going to get our crews on that.

So, the speed limit signs—right now, the default speed limit in residential areas is 30 miles per hour. You don't need a sign for it to be enforceable, but we agreed to put up 30 mile per hour signs. I will tell you our recent speed study showed that the volume is very low, volume of cars, during non-school time. It gets really busy during pickup and drop off. But the other times, the average speed was between 21 and 25 mph. So, our study did not indicate a big speeding problem. [off mic question from audience] It is on Thacker, Arcadia, and Minerva. So, we gathered the data and basically, we tried to get 100 vehicles, to get a valid sample. But you can't wait there all day. So, we cut it off at two hours. After two hours. The busiest road had 31 vehicles.

CM CARLUCCI

So, just to try and move the meeting along, if you don't have any more questions? Sorry to interrupt you but can we kind of get an idea of what our expectations are in the short run and then in the long run,



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and then I will recommend—and I can have Sheri work with Debbie, Councilmember Cumber’s ECA—to do a follow up meeting about mid-July before school starts. So that we can see what has actually been executed, and the parents will have an idea, and the Principal, of where we're at. So that we get ahead of the game before school starts. Can we do that? So, if you just kind of give us a short run to long run and approximately what dates, weeks, or whatever, of paintings, signs, etc.

LEDEW

I would say, in two to three weeks, we should have the crosswalks on Minerva and Arcadia and all the signs on Thacker, Minerva, and Arcadia installed. The RRFB—the mid-block ped crossings on Atlantic—will take longer, and I don't want to hazard a guess right now. It's kind of out of my control when the concrete work will be done. The other thing that's a challenge is the apartment complex that's being built off of Arcadia. It's kind of conflicting with our construction zone. There'll be overlapping so we might not be able to do that one for a while. But it looks like we'll be able to get the crossing in at Mango, next to the Publix, in a little bit earlier. That's what we're hoping anyway. And I think that's going to help the kids get to school and it'll assist the crossing guard as well.

CM CARLUCCI

Okay, alright. Why don't we go to public hearing, and you can start off, sir, and anybody else who wants to speak. Is that okay with you, CM Cumber? Go ahead, sir. You got three seconds to state your name. No, just kidding, give us your name and your address.

BERSENYI

I'm Eric Bersenyi and my son Max was actually with Benjamin. And so, if Benjamin had not gotten hit, that would have been my son Max. So, he was directly behind him. And, you know, I do appreciate everybody getting here, by the way. This is a big thing. This is our fifth year at Landon. Love the school, love everything about it. Love the fact that it's urban and it can be where it is. I do feel as everybody here... 30 miles an hour, I understand all the things that you have to do to get that done into the studies and all those other things. But you know, I think, if I just go straight to solutions, the RRFB. It's great that we're doing the cross Atlantic. But if we look at the number of kids that we have crossing every day that goes from a PE class into the basketball [court]. And then I've been there for soccer games, when we've had cars going through 50 miles an hour and us yelling at them. I think, you know, you've been there as well. I think the real concern that we have to just address is the fact that if we could put some sort of RRFB, as you call it, on the two spots there on Minerva and Arcadia, that a teacher or PE coach can press and then the kids can walk. Because it's really [about] what happens just in the middle of the day and when you have athletic events. So, all those other things across Atlantic is great. But I think we just have to address it. And I don't know, from the Principal, from your perspective? Signage is great, but until you have a flashing light and you have some way to just say, 'Hey, we got to stop.' I think a kid can do it, a



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teacher can do it, but I think if there's any way to do it from a cost perspective or anything else, that's our best solutions.

CM CARLUCCI

Those inter-campus roads are what you're talking about?

BERSENYI

It's just the inner campus. That's we have to address right now. We have so many kids that go back and forth. And like it or not, my son could have been in the wrong, right? Running across when he shouldn't have run and all those other things.

CM CARLUCCI

Is there any signage, Mr. LeDew, that you're proposing for those inter-campus roads? Or maybe Ms. Cumber knows the answer to that?

LEDEW

The crossings on Minerva and Arcadia will be brought up to standard. They will have standard pedestrian crossing signs. An advance sign and the crossing sign at the crossing. And also, no parking on either side, 20 feet away from the crossing, to give a little more visibility to the pedestrian. So, pedestrians can see oncoming cars. So that's the standard signage.

CM CUMBER

Let me just ask, Chris, when you... because I feel like you and I have been in countless traffic calming meetings together. What's your favorite traffic calming solution? To make people slow down?

LEDEW

It's hard to say.

CM CUMBER

What is the one you always tell us?

LEDEW

I think the speed humps are very effective and slowing down the actual speeds of traffic.

CM CUMBER

Yeah, that's what I was just gonna say. I think, I mean, because if anyone goes on Kings Avenue right now, the problem with relying solely on the crosswalks, the blinking crosswalks, is drivers don't know



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what to do and people don't know what to do. So, they press it and then people... and you can see it outside of the old Bearded Pig there's one, and everyone just kind of freezes and then people kind of step out a little bit and because everyone's confused as to what everyone's waiting for someone else to do something so people are waiting for the drivers are waiting for the people to walk. People are waiting for the drivers to stop. I think those are good, but I think if not combined with speed humps on those blocks, you're really going to end up with the same problem because, as Chris will tell you, you can lower the speed limit but it's only as good as people are gonna pay attention to it. So, people have to pay attention to speed bumps, humps, excuse me. So, I think that doing that, combined with, you know, having a crosswalk, and I think it's just going to take some training for the teachers and for the kids because they're not as effective as...

BERSENYI

So, let me ask: are you are you recommending not doing an RRFB? Or in combination? The crosswalks are great but...

CM CUMBER

The crosswalks we do now are the RRFB.

BERSENYI

That is the only type we do now?

CM CUMBER

It's the ones we're installing. Now. We don't only do those, but if...

BERSENYI

Ok, I just want to make sure, for record, if we would actually, very specifically, specify that. Because I think, and anyone has been in schools or other things, for a teacher to be able to hit a button, to actually get one more added feature, and I'd love the Principal to say something, or Nick? You've been to the soccer games. And I just want to be really clear on what our solutions are. I think a crosswalk is great but if it's a crosswalk only with the speed hump, great. But I think we've got to go to that extra step because—even 20 miles an hour, which this car was probably going only on 20—that'll kill a kid.

CM CUMBER

Sure. Yeah, I just wanted to make sure that like the blinking crosswalks alone have not shown to have much effectiveness because people don't... it's just not. So, if you combine it, if you combine any sort of crosswalk, with speed humps, that's when you get people to physically slow up. What you have to do is have people physically slow down and force them to physically slow down because, you know, you can



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have even, I mean, the one on University has been hit by cars. So, I just want to make sure that whatever we do actually solves the problem, you know, once and for all, and short of closing the streets,

CM CARLUCCI

Why don't you get back to us on speed humps, what can be done on the appropriate roads, how much, who would pay for what, and if you can send that information to CM Cumber and myself, we'll take it from there. Okay, I'm sorry, CM Howland and Ms. Pearson and everybody I forgot. Ms. Sheffield has a question, but go ahead, Councilman.

CM HOWLAND

[off mic] The speed limit is 30 on both Minerva and Arcadia?

LEDEW

Yes.

CM HOWLAND

Is there any, I don't know what our ability is to drop that? Are there ways to drop it?

LEDEW

Yes, there are different ways to drop it. The city has an ordinance which allows lowering speed limits in residential areas to 25 or 20 with 75% of homeowners agreeing, and it depends on the width of the pavement. If it's really, if 25 or 20 is conducive with that. I have to tell you and volunteer, based on the speed study that we've just done, we could probably lower it to 25, but like CM Cumber just said, that's not going to change the actual speeds. They're already, at least the sample that we got during the time of day when we collected our sample. They were already traveling below 25.

CM CARLUCCI

If we do all the combination things, and do 25, and if we can do that immediately, I would suggest we do that immediately without having to go get signatures. They own the whole freaking campus. So, you know, I'm sure she's for it [gesturing to Principal Bledsoe]. So, you got 100%. [laughter]

LEDEW

Okay, I'll agree to that right now.

CM CARLUCCI

Oh, beautiful. Okay, Mrs. Sheffield and then I want to go to whoever else wants to speak, and then we're gonna close the meeting because I'm pushing it close.



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SHEFFIELD

I just had one final thought that I just wanted to reiterate, for everyone to think. Because, you know, I appreciate again, like Eric said, everybody coming together and being willing to talk about it. And I know and understand 100% that the city has rules and that there are boundaries and all that, but I'd love for all of us to keep in mind this is a middle school campus that I'm talking about. This is Minerva in the middle of the school campus. Arcadia is in the middle of the school campus. And I just want you to put yourself in the shoes of a mom or a dad getting a call in the middle of the day that your child has been hit by a car.

CM CARLUCCI

Thank you. Thank you. Oh, yes ma'am. Principal.

BLEDSON

So, while we're on the topic of this, I've seen, I mean, the parents will know from my call outs in the beginning of the school year for at least, I don't know, eight weeks. I harp on our traffic patterns, especially in the morning and the afternoon because that's where I've seen the most close calls. And I think that, you know, I do think we're almost 75% of the residents if you look at how many houses are around the campus.

But one of the other things that we've seen, there is no crosswalk on Landon at Thacker, on the other side of the school, which is where a lot of our students will walk up because we do have lots of kids that live right behind the school on Landon, Arcadia, and Minerva. And so, we have a lot of kids that will cross this way. We also have a lot of parents that will drop their kids off at Tropical Smoothie in the morning or another local business and they get Tropical Smoothie and then they walk to school. And so, we do have quite the traffic coming, foot traffic anyway, coming from that direction. We don't have the manpower. I was trying. I had a teacher volunteer for a long time at the beginning of the school year that we'd go out there with a stop sign. I even had some students that I trained as crossing guards themselves like fifth grade safety patrols. And they would be out there, with an adult, crossing kids back and forth because we probably have about 50 kids walk up that way in the morning. We're a school of 881 and the mass number are... I mean, maybe 150 get off of buses on the morning. The rest are car riders minus the 50 that walk in, and maybe the 20 that are bike riders. So, if that can even be looked at, the crosswalk just right there. Just so there is one. Because I will say, if you did a traffic study of Landon right there, people go, I would say they go, the fastest down Landon Avenue right behind the school when kids are walking up in the morning and it's very hard to see when parents are turning out from Thacker and cars are coming through and kids are coming through. Because there's a lot of bushes right



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there but it's on the person's property. It's not like anybody's fault. It just is hard to see, especially with the sun in the morning too. It gets very, very difficult.

And the other one that there are a lot of 'no parking' signs around the campus, but no one adheres to them, the neighborhood at least. We call Code Enforcement at least twice to three times a month just to have them come out. Even though we could call probably every single day. Because there are people parking on Thacker, there are people parking on Arcadia, and people parking on Minerva where they park outside their residence, and it blocks our car rider, it blocks our buses from getting through, like without any traffic jam, and so that creates an issue for us as well.

I do think that the two crosswalks on Atlantic will be fabulous. I would echo the sentiments that, if it had flashing lights or any kind of crosswalk with a speed hump, would be much more beneficial. Especially if there was, maybe, two speed humps. One at the beginning of the road and one that's closer down to where we are crossing our students. That would be extraordinarily beneficial because what we do have right now, and we have added more things, we have the little yellow kiddies that you can put in the road. We put those out when they go out now from gym class. I bought two stop signs that say 'stop' on both sides. So, each coach is there walking out, isn't one of them is at least in the road with the stop sign as well. And I have gone, and so have all the Aps [Asst. Principals] have gone, to every class and said, "Do not cross if there is not an adult in the road." And we've had those conversations again, even though they've already taken place multiple times.

So those are just my thoughts and like what I see. I'm also not just the principal, I'm a Landon parent, too, of a seventh and eighth grader. So, that's one of the things that I try to put in my messaging is that, as a mom, I don't want to make that phone call ever. And we have had like I said we had a lot of close calls of parents who are dropping off in the wrong spot almost hitting kids and people trying to get to work almost hitting kids. And then the lunchtime. **I mean, 881 kids will cross the street** between 10:45 and 1:10 **because that's all the gym classes.** So, between... I'm sorry **between 8:15 and 1:15, they will cross.** Every one of them.

CM CARLUCCI

Well, I appreciate you being here, and I appreciate the job you do. I mean you like gotta be everything. I know that's a lot of pressure. But you're smiling. You got your Landon orange going on there.

BLEDSON

Always, always.

CM CARLUCCI



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Anybody from the public that would like to speak? Because we got to make it quick, but I don't want to not invite anybody from the public that would like to speak. Councilman, would you like to say... have anything else to say?

CM HOWLAND

[off mic] I'm so glad for Principal's and the parents' participation. [indecipherable] working together to address this critical issue, and we have tangible solutions now: crosswalks, cross signs, and dropping the miles per hour speed limit... [indecipherable]

CM CARLUCCI

Before I turn it back over to Councilmember Cumber, Ms. Pearson? Do you have anything that you would like to add?

PEARSON

Thank you [gesturing]. Thank you [gesturing]. Thank you [gesturing]. Thank you [gesturing]. Appreciate it.

CM CARLUCCI

You're welcome. Councilmember Cumber, I turn it over to you and anything you'd have to say.

CM CUMBER

No, just, thank you, everyone for working on this. And there's definitely solutions and we're in good hands with Chris and John. And there's a lot of different things now that you can do with traffic calming. So, I think that that's, you know, these are solutions that we can implement rather quickly. So, I like the idea of having a July meeting to see what we've done and see if there's any more steps to take.

CM CARLUCCI

John, do you have anything? The Director of Public Works, would you like to say something?

PAPPAS

[off mic] No, Councilman. Appreciate, obviously, us all getting together. Chris has got a good team and he's got some good plans to move forward, and for working with the school.

CM CARLUCCI

Okay, good. Well, I know Councilmember Cumber has been involved in this quite a bit and I'm there to help you any way that I can. And with that said, the meeting is adjourned.



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Meeting Adjourned: 4:52 PM

Minutes: Prepared by Sheri Webber, Executive Council Assistant – At-Large, Group 4, 904-255-5159,
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