

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 23, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLATION OF SCHOOL ZONE FLASHERS ON CAMERON STATION BOULEVARD AT TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a recommendation to install SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT 15MPH WHEN FLASHING signs on Cameron Station Boulevard between South Pickett Street and Ferdinand Day Drive for Samuel Tucker Elementary School.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council authorize installation of the school flashers on Cameron Station Blvd. pursuant to City Code Section 10-2-7. Following a public hearing the Traffic and Parking Board voted unanimously on October 26, 2009, to recommend installation of the flashers.

BACKGROUND: Due to ongoing construction at Samuel Tucker Elementary School, the Alexandria City Public School system has been providing busing to students living within a one-mile radius of the school. This busing policy created a situation that discouraged walking and bicycling to school.

However, in 2009 and with construction on Cameron Station largely complete, ACPS rescinded this policy and no longer provided unlimited school bus transportation to students living within one mile of the school. This has dramatically increased the number of students who walk or bicycle to Samuel Tucker Elementary School.

To address pedestrian and bicyclist safety, the City and ACPS administration on behalf of Samuel Tucker Elementary School propose to install standard "SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT 15 MPH WHEN FLASHING" (MUTCD standard S5-1 signs) on Cameron Station Boulevard between South Pickett Street and Ferdinand Day Drive. Staff also proposes to install "End School Zone" (S5-2) signs.

The Cameron Station Civic Association and Cameron Station Community Association support the installation of the school zone flashers.

Existing fixed signs related to the school zone speed limit would be removed once the flashers are installed. Pursuant to City Code §10-3-30, the City Manager on September 10, 2009 approved the reduction of the speed limit on Cameron Station Boulevard to 15 mph during school hours.

Further, this action forwards City Council's Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan that it allows for a more multi-modal community.

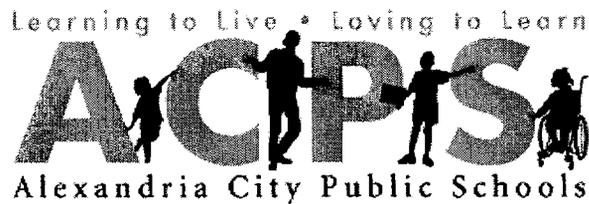
FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of installing the school zone flashers is estimated at approximately \$4,500 for assembly and installation of each solar-powered signal; approximately \$9,000 total. Capital funding for this installation is included in the department's FY 2010 budget. The annual operating cost for the signals is estimated to be \$500.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1. Letter from ACPS rescinding busing policy for Tucker Elementary School
- Attachment 2. Letter of support from Tucker Elementary School PTA president Janice McLaury
- Attachment 3. Letter of support from Cameron Station Civic Association
- Attachment 4. Letter of support from Cameron Station Community Association

STAFF:

- Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES
- Bob Garbacz, P.E. Acting Deputy Director, T&ES
- Yon Lambert, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner, T&ES



March 30, 2009

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To: Yon Lambert
Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator
Transportation and Environmental Services
City of Alexandria

From: John Porter
Assistant Superintendent

Re: Samuel Tucker School

Superintendent of Schools
Morton Sherman, Ed.D.

School Board
Chairman

Yvonne A. Folkerts

Vice Chairman

Sheryl Gorsuch

Members

Ronnie Campbell

Blanche D. Maness

Scott Newsham

Arthur E. Peabody, Jr.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera

Marc Williams

Charles H. Wilson

While the Alexandria City Public Schools has a policy limiting system provided bus transportation at the elementary level to students living outside a one mile radius, we have consistently provided transportation to students at Samuel Tucker Elementary School due to the area surrounding the school being under construction for most of the time since the school opened in 2000. With the completion of the Cameron Station project, we plan to limit system provided school bus transportation to those students eligible for such services when school reopens in July 2009. Most specifically this would impact students in the Cameron Station development itself.

As July is not far off, we need to immediately begin planning for this outcome. We would appreciate your and the City's assistance with this effort to insure students are able to get safely to and from school whether walking or riding a bike. In addition to the administrative team at Tucker, Mark Krause and I are available to assist as appropriate from the central office level.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and assistance.

cc: L. Scott
S. Kennard
M. Krause
D. Rose

Samuel Tucker Elementary PTA
435 Ferdinand Day Drive
Alexandria, VA 22304

September 17, 2009

Thomas "Jay" Johnson, Jr., Chairman
City of Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Johnson and Members of the Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Board and membership of the Tucker Elementary PTA. The PTA is encouraged that the City of Alexandria is installing 15 MPH speed limit signs in Tucker's school zone and feels this step will encourage drivers to use more caution when driving around Tucker.

There are many students walking and biking to Tucker this year, due to the Safe Routes to School program now in place. Students who live in Cameron Station, which has been designated as a "walkable" neighborhood, are no longer bused to school and are encouraged to walk. Slowing the neighborhood cars, as well as those who are dropping off their students at school, will create a safer environment for those students who walk and bike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to the signs being installed.

Sincerely,

Janice McLaury

Janice McLaury
President, Tucker PTA

Cameron Station Civic Association
Cameron Station
Alexandria, VA 22304

September 17, 2009

Thomas "Jay" Johnson, Jr., Chairman
City of Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board
301 King Street
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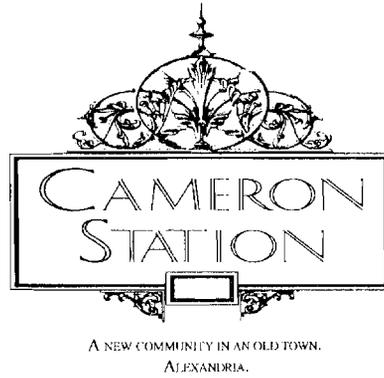
I am writing on behalf of the Cameron Station Civic Association membership and Board of Directors. The Civic Association supports the City placing 15 MPH School Zone signs near Tucker Elementary School. The current speed limit of 25 MPH around the school is too fast, considering there are more than 40 students from Cameron Station walking and biking to and from Tucker each morning and afternoon.

We look forward to the city placing these signs in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Mindy Lyle

Mindy Lyle
Interim President, Cameron Station Civic Association



September 25, 2009

Thomas "Jay" Johnson, Jr., Chairman
City of Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Johnson and Members of the Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Cameron Station Community Association. The CSCA Board of Directors strongly supports the City placing 15 MPH School Zone signs along Cameron Station Boulevard adjacent to Tucker Elementary School. The current speed limit of 25 MPH around the school is too fast, considering there are more than 40 students from Cameron Station walking and biking to and from Tucker each morning and afternoon.

We look forward to the city placing these signs in our neighborhood.

Regards,

John J Sullivan, Jr. P.E., M.ASCE
President, Cameron Station Community Association

CC: Cameron Station Civic Association
Members of City Council