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To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Alison Gillespie](#); [Kristy Daphnis](#); [Christopher Or Melissa Regan](#); [Paul Carlson](#)
Subject: Public comment on 7/16/20 Dufief Elementary School, Mandatory Referral, MR2020034
Date: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:50:17 PM

On behalf of the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations Safe Routes Committee, I offer the following comments to the Montgomery County Planning Board on Dufief Elementary School, Mandatory Referral, MR2020034

1. The Safe Routes Committee has the goal of a systemic change, working with MCPS, the MCDOT Safe Routes To School program, and the Montgomery County Council to ensure that the school design process has safe routes best practices baked in. By the time an individual project reaches the stage of mandatory referral before the Planning Board, it's already too late.
2. In the staff report, staff recommend universal 5' widths for sidewalks. These are the *minimum* sidewalk widths. Because the capacity of the building will be 753 students, the sidewalks at the school and in front of the school should be at least 8' wide to accommodate everyone arriving/leaving at the same time. Pedestrian facilities at schools should be designed for peak usage, just like vehicle facilities.
3. The bus loop will accommodate 11 buses. Dufief ES had only 2 bus routes last year. Does MCPS expect the boundary changes to add 9 bus routes? Does the bus loop need to be that big? More impervious surface means more stormwater and bigger stormwater management facilities.
4. The design prioritizes bus circulation over pedestrian circulation. People walking from the street to the front of the school must take an indirect route around the bus loop, instead of a direct route.
5. The only planned pedestrian access to Dufief ES is from Dufief Dr. What about the pedestrian access to the school via Dufief Local Park?
6. The bike racks will be at the front of the school, which is good. (I couldn't find the exact location on the design diagram.) But are bike riders (students and staff) supposed reach the bike racks by riding with the pedestrians on the 5' sidewalks, or are by riding with the buses in the bus loop?

Thank you,

Miriam Schoenbaum
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