



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

100 EAST TEXAR DRIVE
PENSACOLA, FL 32503-2900
<http://www.escambiyellow.com>
ROBERT A. DOSS, DIRECTOR

August 4, 2017

The Honorable Larry B. Johnson
City Council Member
222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Re: Burgess Road

Council Member Johnson,

We have tallied the number of Escambia County School District students who, if they walked to and from school, would need to walk along the segment of Burgess Road that exists east of North Davis Highway and west of Lanier Drive to do so. The three schools in the area are Holm Elementary School, Workman Middle School, and Washington High School. Our records indicate that there are nine Holm Elementary School students, fourteen Workman Middle School students, and six Washington High School students who would likely utilize that segment of Burgess Road if they walked to and from school, a total of twenty-nine students.

The District provides school bus transportation for six of the nine Holm Elementary School students whose walking conditions satisfy the Florida hazardous walking conditions criteria described in Section 1006.23, Florida Statutes. The District transports one of the Holm Elementary School students due to the student's disability. The District also transports two of the Workman Middle School students as "courtesy" riders and transports none of the Washington High School students. The Florida hazardous walking conditions criteria does not include middle and high school students.

As I have said before, I support the installation of sidewalks along Burgess Road and along other roads on which Escambia County School District students are inclined to walk in order to avoid drainage ditches, sluiceways, swales, or channels as they travel by foot or bicycle between home and school. Their tendency to resort to walking on the roadway is dangerous and it discourages them from walking, bicycling, and exercising in neighborhoods where they should feel safe in doing so.

However, I also recognize that budget dollars are scarce so I believe sidewalk projects should be prioritized in the order of their hazard severity, in whatever district those proposed projects exist. In that context, the question is not whether the walkway along Burgess is hazardous. It is. The question is whether the walkway along that road segment is more hazardous and has a greater adverse impact on the safety of the community than other road segments do.

If I can provide additional information or provide any additional support or assistance in eliminating hazards to our citizen pedestrians and bicyclists, especially the children among them, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Doss, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert A. Doss, Jr.
Director of Transportation
The School District of Escambia County