



For Immediate Release

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Fairhope Walking School Bus Idling Until Sept. 1 Delayed Start Date set for K-6 Walkers

Fairhope, Ala. Aug. 2, 2020 – As a safety precaution, the Walking School Bus will postpone its start date until September 1st.

After communicating with school officials, Walking School Bus organizers decided to give schools time to settle into new arrival protocols designed to minimize risk of Covid-19 exposure. Ultimately, the Walking School Bus will follow the schools' lead.

“Children’s health is the main reason we lead daily walks to school,” says Charlene Lee, director of the Fairhope Walking School Bus. “Before they walk, students enjoy free play because recreation is another contributor to good health. The Walking School Bus will resume as soon as we can safely balance those activities with virus protections.”

Last year, the daily train of students left from either Coastal Alabama Community College to Fairhope West Elementary or from Citizens Bank to Fairhope East Elementary. On an average day, more than 100 children walked to school, which meant far fewer parents sitting in a morning car line waiting to drop off students.

“Parents who opt to drive rather than put children on a bus this fall may see long car lines, so I urge anyone driving near schools to be alert and patient,” Lee says. “When the Walking School Bus gets back in gear in September, it will alleviate some congestion.”

The Walking School Bus, a program of the Baldwin County Trailblazers, is supported by local sponsors, grants, and the City of Fairhope. To learn more about the Fairhope Walking School Bus, the only daily walk to school program in

Alabama, visit <http://fairhopewalkingschoolbus.weebly.com>. Forms are available on the website for parents who wish to register a child to participate in 2020-21.

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