

**Safe Routes to School  
Task Force Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 30, 2012 4 PM  
Richmond Middle School**

**Present:**

**Community members** Sloane Mayor, Melanie Golder

**Students at Richmond Middle School** Evelyn Chambers, Helena Whitcomb

**Planning Board** Joan Garipay

**Dartmouth College** Joanna Whitcomb

**Town** Peter Kulbacki, Director Public Works Department; Jonathan Edwards, Director Planning and Zoning; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; Vicki Smith, Senior Planner

**State of NH Safe Routes to School** John Corrigan, Coordinator

**Consultants** Carolyn Radisch, ORW; Nik Fiore, Engineering Ventures

It should be noted that the Hanover Ped/Bike Committee was represented by members:

Joanna Whitcomb, Sloane Mayor and Peter Kulbacki. Parents Joanna Whitcomb, Sloane Mayor and Melanie Golder are members of the Task Force.

The members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

John Corrigan presented an overview of the Safe Routes to School Program which included construction of infrastructure. In order to be eligible for up to \$250,000 for construction, a community must have a Travel Plan. Without a Travel Plan, a community is only eligible for up to \$100,000. October is Walk to School Month. Escort programs are successful in other communities.

Carolyn Radisch distributed a map of the area of concern and an article about keeping kids safe from the wrong dangers. She identified potential and existing routes to the Richmond and Ray Schools. She referenced hot spot locations and remedial suggestions that are contained in the Hanover Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan. She also presented a profile for residents' mode share in commuting to work and results of previous surveys of students and parents regarding travel to school. John noted that those surveys would need to be updated since they were done in June, 2009.

Task Force members offered their observations about walking and biking to the Ray and Richmond Schools. The observations included:

- Lyme Road is designed to be and is perceived by motorists as a high speed road. Narrowing it to reduce speeds should be considered.
- Lyme Road is perceived to be unsafe for student pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Better separation should be provided between bicyclists and traffic on Route 10.
- There is not a consistent sidewalk in the southern round-about making it confusing for bicyclists when they transition from the sidewalk to the road.
- Difficulties exist for bicyclists on Lyme Road in front of the Middle School and at the gate between the school and Curtiss Road.
- More bike racks and possibly covered bike racks are needed at the Richmond School.
- Student drop off does occur on the east side of the gate between RMS and Curtiss Road which increases traffic volumes on this road which should be a prime pedestrian and bicyclist route to school.

- Sidewalks once provided "safe" biking routes to schools. Now, bike riding on sidewalks is against the law.
- The Rip/Reservoir intersection has been identified by the Ray School Principal as unsafe.
- North Park Street is dangerous for bikers. The bike lanes created along South Park are better.
- An off road alignment following Girl Brook could serve a lot of households south of Wheelock Street as well as households on Route 10 and Rip Road.
- There are concerns about the Girl Brook route not being direct enough, as being too screened and possibly dangerous, and possibly impacting Girl Brook negatively by exacerbating the run off problem near the Brook.
- ADA access to Girl Brook from Verona Avenue, Reservoir Road and Lyme Road will present engineering challenges.
- Rip Road has issues with traffic volume and speed.
- Previous efforts to calm traffic and make Rip Road more pedestrian and bike friendly were objected to by the residents because of the narrow road right of way.
- Some traffic calming methods suggested for Rip Road were interpreted to be creating a "gated neighborhood".
- Rip Road should be made safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Early dismissal for students who are being picked up in personal vehicles seems counter-productive to the effort to encourage walking, bike and bus riding.
- Advance Transit Routes could serve the school population better.

The Task Force meetings will be held on April 9, May 7 and June 4. The meetings will start at 3:15 PM and be held at the Emergency Service Building just south of and across the street from the Richmond School. March 3 was discussed as a date for the workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Smith, Scribe