

**Safe Routes to School
Task Force Meeting
September 10, 2012**

Present: Julia Griffin (Hanover Town Manager), Jonathan Brush (SAU Facilities Chief representing Frank Bass), Jonathan Edwards (Planning and Zoning), Peter Kulbacki (Hanover DPW), Vicki Smith (Planning and Zoning), Joanna Whitcomb (Dartmouth College, Hanover Ped/Bike), Sloane Mayor (Hanover Ped/Bike), Russ Muirhead (Community member), Melanie Golder (Community member), Evelyn Chambers (Student rep), Izzy LaBombard (Hanover High School Civitas student), Carolyn Radisch (consultant), Catherine Patch (Richmond Middle School PE instructor)

Everyone introduced themselves and described their interest in the safe routes to school program.

Carolyn Radisch presented an overview of the Safe Routes to School project and explained the 5 "E"s- engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation. Funding for implementation projects comes from grants, capital improvement funds, and DPW regular maintenance (when improvements can be planned in advance and incorporated into routine maintenance). Community engagement is necessary to make the project a success. Hopefully our work can mesh with October 3, National Walk/Bike to School Day.

Comments/suggestions made:

Buses

Bus routes and stops should be evaluated. There is a conflict between the convenience of stopping at every home and the length of time it takes to complete the bus route.

There are financial tradeoffs to be considered between more/less bus routes and stops and other infrastructure improvements to get students to school safely and reduce congestion.

With 40% of the High School students involved in after school sports, commuting habits in the afternoon are very different than in the morning.

Greensboro Road

It is dangerous for pedestrians because there is no sidewalk. Student bus riders have to walk on the road in the winter unless the bus stops at their driveways.

Parent Survey

A copy of the national survey form that the State wants used was distributed.

Call it a "family" survey, not "parent" survey and use "caregiver" instead of "parent" if "parent" is used.

Middle school students could fill out the survey instead of parents as part of a PE class.

The family survey could be completed in the iMac Lab or the Comp Lit Lab at the 9-20-12 RMS Open House.

Maybe the survey could be completed by families at the Ray School Open House.

It is important to customize the gateway to the survey and have that letter signed by the Town (Julia) and Ray and Richmond principals.

Encouragement

The amount of stuff- text books, athletic uniforms and accessories, musical instruments- that a student must transport makes bus riding, walking and bike riding impossible for many students.

A workshop to modify a bike to accommodate a "milk crate" carrier might be held.

The anatomy of a bike with information about basic bike maintenance could be incorporated into a PE class.

Proper attire for bike riding could be incorporated into a PE class.

Route audit

RMS PE classes could walk and collect data about nearby routes. The student reports could be the centerpiece of the Community Workshop.

There are basically three routes to the schools: Lyme Road, Rip Road, Grasse Road/Strong Trail.

The Girl Brook option should be evaluated by Task Force members. A visit should be planned.

Safety

Driver education is needed to make our roads more bike- friendly.

Girl Brook

As a route, this may be too far for student audit.

Task Force may want to visit the route together.

There should be markers/more informative markers at Verona and Route 10 trailheads to announce the existence of trail heads, and along the route to confirm directions and destinations.

To avoid the wetlands, the route may need to be located by the Rugby Field House.

Advertising SRTS

At the RMS and Ray School Open Houses.

Use ice cream after school to entice people to come and fill out the family surveys.

Transaction ads can be placed in the Valley News and the Friday letters that go to families from the schools can contain SRTS information.

Community Workshop

The student audits of the routes to school could be the centerpiece of the Community Workshop.

Youth in Action could help with the Workshop. Chris Lord is the contact.

Pizza will be served.

The Community Workshop should be postponed until October 20th.

Carolyn will prepare a poster for the RMS open house and work with Catherine to get the survey in the iMac lab so parents can fill it out at the Open House. Carolyn and Catherine will work out an audit form for students.

**The next meeting will be held on September 24 at 4:00 at the Training Room at the Hanover Police Department.
The Community Workshop will be held on October 20 at 10 AM at the Richmond Middle School.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.

Submitted by Vicki Smith, Scribe