

**Safe Routes to School  
Task Force Meeting  
November 5, 2012**

**Present:** Julia Griffin (Hanover Town Manager), 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), Carolyn Radisch (consultant), Catherine Patch (Richmond Middle School PE instructor), Sarah Curtis (Ray School Assistant Principal), Roger Lohr (Dresden School Board), Grace Chambers (Student rep), Joan Garipay (Planning Board)

**Walk/Roll to School Summary**

Based on participation, the event was a success. Fifty percent of the students at RMS and 20% at Ray School participated. Many bus riders took the option to walk from Garipay Field. Skateboarders and unicyclists as well as students in wheel chairs participated. The Student Council made snacks. Banners were hung. Some students preferred to walk with their regular walking groups rather than walk with an adult escort.

The Committee discussed the Walk/Roll to School Day. Suggestions for making it better included:

- Making better plans for a rain date so that there was a planned rain date, system to announce the postponement (maybe use robo-call) and where to find information, and rain date plan with Lou's or other "incentive" provider.
- Planning for round trip bike/roll to school.

Catherine reported that the students liked and learned a lot from the curriculum she developed about walking and rolling to school. The students were very observant about the routes to school. They completed checklists to rate the routes. Bike maintenance was also a popular topic. Teachers are skeptical that increased walking and riding are possible in winter months.

The Ray School hosted a bike safety night. A suggestion from the Ray School for regular walk/roll was promoting once a week walking and bus drop walking and once a month biking to school.

Integrating walking and biking to school with the 2% Solution proposed by the Sustainable Hanover Committee was suggested. Bus dropping walkers at Garipay Field could be regularized or RMS students be allowed to walk from Ray to RMS.

Use of the Advance Transit for bikers and walkers was suggested as a way to return home after walking/biking to school.

**Summary of October 20<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting**

Carolyn presented an overview of the presentation from the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and prepared a handout with engineering, encouragement and enforcement ideas. Topics discussed included:

- Allowing students to ride on the sidewalk to commute to and from school.
- Redesigning the fence at Dresden/Curtiss Road to be less of a barrier and allow easier bicycle and pedestrian access between the neighborhood and school.
- Trial of advisory lane on Rip Road. Lyn Miller will take the idea to her neighbors.
- Improving the Girl Brook trail entry points.
- Use of advisory lanes on Valley and Valley Road Extension.

Carolyn will be working on the Travel Plan.

**The next meeting will be held on November 26 at 4:00 at the Training Room at the Hanover Police Department.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Submitted by Vicki Smith, Scribe