



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass

From: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Recommendations for Phase 1A Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Peirce School

Date: 11 August 2008

Members of the Transportation Advisory Committee (Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Sue Doctrow) are participating in a working group with Principal Robert Penta, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator Carlene Hempel, and parents reviewing safety improvements around the Peirce School. In addition to the recommendations below, the principal and school coordinator will educate parents and students on the drop off procedures and the preferred routes to schools.

Phase 1A recommendations below include items that can be completed before the start of the 2008-2009 school year. These recommendations, voted unanimously by the TAC on 7/9/08, are discussed in the following report.

Phase 1a Recommendations

1. Make modifications to the School Zone so that it conforms to Mass Highways requirements.
2. Extend the School Zone south of the Blossom Street crosswalk and toward Summer Street with appropriate signs and markings.
3. Install standard school drop-off and parking restriction signs at the two drop-off areas.
4. Work with Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) Coordinator to establish parent volunteer assistance at drop-off areas.
5. Replace faded STOP sign(s) on Blossom Street at Newland Road intersection.
6. Work with School Principal and SRTS Coordinator to educate parents and students.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Carr-Jones – Member

Edward Starr - Chair

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Lt. Paul Conroy, Susan Doctrow, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, and Laura Wiener

Web site; www.tac.arlington.ma.us/

**Preliminary Report (Phase 1A) for the Peirce School
Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee
August 11, 2008**

Working Group

Elisabeth Carr-Jones (TAC group leader), Madeline Colety (Peirce Parent), Paul Conroy (TAC, Police), Sue Doctrow (TAC, neighbor), Eva Kennedy (Peirce Teacher), Carlene Hempel (Peirce Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator and Parent), Michael Natoli (Peirce Parent), Robert Penta (Peirce Principal), Martha Scott (Peirce Traffic Supervisor).

Process

The Working Group has completed the following preliminary tasks in preparation for this first set of transportation safety recommendations for the Peirce School.

- Assign Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator
- Observe school drop-off and pick-up
- Conduct preliminary pedestrian counts
- Conduct parent and neighbor surveys
- Choose locations to conduct traffic measurements
- Conduct a sidewalk inventory
- Propose updates to the School Zone and Drop-off areas

Phase 1A Recommendations

After reviewing the preliminary findings of the Peirce School Working Group, the following five recommendations were unanimously approved by the TAC at the July 9, 2008 meeting.

1. Make modifications to the School Zone so that it conforms to Mass Highways requirements.
2. Extend the School Zone south of the Blossom Street crosswalk and toward Summer Street with appropriate signs and markings.
3. Install standard school drop-off and parking restriction signs at the two drop-off areas.
4. Work with Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) Coordinator to establish parent volunteer assistance at drop-off areas.
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Next Steps

In order to complete the next phases of the project, including additional non-infrastructure and infrastructure changes, the Working Group will be concentrating on the following tasks for the Peirce School.

- Monitor school drop-off and pick-up after initial changes
- Conduct traffic measurements
- Map student distribution in district
- Establish walking zones and primary walking routes
- Identify safety improvements for primary walking routes



Figure 1 Existing School Zone at the Peirce School



Figure 2 Preliminary Recommended School Zone at the Peirce School