



Burbank PTA

Safe Routes to School Meeting Summary

On Thursday, Jan 19 the Burbank PTA hosted a meeting to discuss Safe Routes to School efforts in general and pedestrian safety on School Street in particular. The meeting was attended by Assistant Chief MacIssac and Sargent Mailhot from the Belmont Police Department, Glenn Clancy from Belmont Community Development Department, and Nicole Edward and Nikki Tishler from the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program. Dr. Clifford, Burbank parents, and School Street residents also participated. The meeting agenda and a summary of PTA Safe Routes initiatives are below.

Information was shared about the PTA's work to promote walking and safety on our routes to school. Attendees also heard accurate information about the incident at the School St. crosswalk last week. Glenn Clancy outlined the infrastructure improvements that have been made around Burbank lately, and explained the town process for street and sidewalk work. Clancy confirmed that he is requesting capital budget funds for FY2018 which, if approved, will provide for new sidewalk curbing on a section of School Street across from Burbank, and for two new speed display signs on School Street. Attendees concerned about safety on School Street called for further infrastructural measures to calm traffic and to make the crosswalks more visible. Police officers provided information on traffic conditions on School Street. Representatives from Mass Safe Routes to School outlined the State's Complete Streets program as a potential policy focus and funding source for longer term improvements town-wide.

The PTA is forming a **Safe Routes Committee** to continue to engage with town departments. To join or learn more about this working group contact Harriet Wong (hiwong@post.harvard.edu) or Katherine Poulin-Kerstien <kpoulinkerstien@gmail.com>.

To get involved in supporting a broader **pedestrian safety campaign** to raise awareness, organize events or petitions, display signs, etc. please contact Mary Lewis <marydewhurstlewis@earthlink.net>

If you live on School St or another busy street and would like a "**Slow Down!**" yard sign to display, please contact Heather Barr <heather_a_barr@hotmail.com>.



Burbank PTA

Safe Routes to School Informational Meeting

January 19, 2016

7 pm, Burbank Cafeteria

1. **Welcome and introductions** -- *Katherine Poulin-Kerstien, Burbank PTA Co-President*
2. **Meeting objectives** -- *Harriet Wong, Burbank Walks Committee*
3. **Recap of SRTS work** -- *Harriet Wong, Burbank Walks Committee*
4. **January 11 crosswalk incident and responses** -- *Dr. Tricia Clifford, Burbank Principal*
5. **School Street infrastructure** -- *Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development*
6. **School Street traffic situation** -- *Assistant Chief James MacIsaac, Belmont Police*
7. **Discussion of potential traffic calming and safety measures** -- *Heather Barr*
8. **Next steps? Proposed committee and community effort** - *Mary Lewis & Reed Bundy*
Ways to help:
 - a) volunteer for PTA Safe Routes Committee
 - b) join a Safe Routes initiative town-wide to promote pedestrian safety
 - c) display a yard sign.
9. **Closing remarks** - *Katherine Poulin-Kerstien & Harriet Wong*

For further information and to get involved, please contact:

For PTA Safe Routes Committee --- kpoulinkerstien@gmail.com

For town-wide pedestrian safety campaign -- marydewhurstlewis@earthlink.net

For yard signs -- heather_a_barr@hotmail.com

Summary of Safe Routes work by Burbank staff and PTA:

Ongoing programs:

- Partner with **Massachusetts Safe Routes to School** program, a division of Mass DOT: www.massdot.state.ma.us/saferoutestoschool/Home
- **Burbank Walks** programs include pedestrian safety training, Walk to School Days, Walking Wednesdays, and Walking School Buses. <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/burbank/pta/index.asp?pageID=19> Participation levels increased from 51% to 66% of students walking to school (2012 - 2015). Burbank received "Exemplary Program" award from Mass SRTS in June 2016.
- Participate in **Belmont Safe Routes to School Working Group** to combine efforts town-wide, see <http://www.sustainablebelmont.net/?p=448>

Safety initiatives:

- 2013 - Surveyed parents' attitudes toward walking/biking to school and student safety. Survey showed biggest safety concerns were traffic congestion around school entrances, traffic speed on School Street, and crosswalk visibility.
- April 2014 – Conducted Walkability Assessment with Mass Safe Routes to School and representatives from school and town departments. Mass SRTS produced report, which was shared with school and town representatives. Recommendations for School St included sidewalk improvements, traffic calming infrastructure, and improved crosswalk visibility.
- June 2014 - Applied for Mass SRTS Infrastructure Assessment to study School Street as pedestrian "corridor" route between four schools. Application not selected.
- 2014-16 - Designed "Getting to School Safely" pamphlet for families explaining safe drop off procedures and parking areas. Updated and distributed to families each school year.
- Traffic cones placed to show no parking areas and to make crosswalks more visible.
- 2015 - Crosswalk flags installed at Gale Rd/Watson Rd crosswalk, as part of town-wide SRTS Working Group pilot program in 2015.

Advocacy:

- 2011-12 - Requested sidewalks, curbing and signs for drop off area on Gale Road.
- Jan 2015 - Requested infrastructure changes to address safety concerns on School St (traffic calming signage, pedestrian-operated crosswalk signal, curbing and sidewalk repair). Also requested improvements to Sharpe Road, and Washington/Sharpe crosswalk.
- 2015 - Worked with planning department and Traffic Advisory Committee to alter traffic flow on Gale Rd and Sharpe Rd and create a second drop-off area on Sharpe Road. Consulted residents. Requested new signage. Drop off established Sept 2015.
- 2015 - Requested curbing on Sharpe Road. New sidewalks installed in 2016.
- 2015 - Advocated for crosswalk signs at Dalton Rd/Washington Street intersection. Signs installed in 2016.
- Fall 2015 - Requested police traffic study on School St.
- Jan 2016 - Met with Glenn Clancy regarding School Street concerns and need for sidewalks and traffic calming.