

# **Malletts Bay School Travel Plan Safe Routes to School Program 2009-10**

## **Program Goals**

1. To increase safe walking and bicycling to school
2. To make improvements in the physical environment to encourage #1
3. To reduce car congestion around school
4. To reduce the amount of pollution from car drop off/idling

## **SR2S Team**

Barb Nason – School Principal

Brian Hunt – PE Teacher

Lisa Lagerquist – Parent SR2S Coordinator; PTO Secretary

Jill Nye-McKeown – Local Motion

## **Local Conditions and Issues**

- Most of MBS students live outside of 1 mile of school; Colchester draws students from up to 7 miles away and borders 3 towns (Burlington, Essex, Milton).
- Bike parking was increased in spring 2009. Bike parking is heavily used.
- The school is located in a suburban area with a lot of automobile traffic
- Colchester provides school buses to transport students to school
- Colchester does not provide crossing guards
- There is not a cross-walk across the driveway/parking lot at any point to help pedestrians get to the entrance into MBS and no connection between the path along Blakely Rd. to the school.
- MBS shares entrance/exit with Colchester Middle School
- Traffic congestion at MBS in the morning and afternoon has created traffic problems on Blakely Rd.
- The posted 25 mph speed limit in the school area is not strictly adhered to

## **Current Levels of Walking and Biking**

Student Tallies were done in the spring of 2009, however the data is not yet available. They are being done again in May 2010.

MBS has approximately 495 students. Only 40-50 live within 1-2 miles of school and with access to sidewalks or a bike path.

Enough students were biking to school that MBS's single bike rack was overflowing. Additional bike racks were procured last spring through a SR2S grant written by a previous SR2S team member and parent. The racks were installed at the beginning of the 2009 school year to support students who are biking.

## Attitudes Affecting Walking and Bicycling

Parent surveys were sent out in Fall 2008. The top reasons for not walking/biking to school were: distance, weather, heavy backpacks/projects; convenience of school buses; traffic concerns/ no crossing guards; personal safety (from traffic and strangers); driving is part of the household morning routines for getting to work; harsh and long duration of winter weather.

## Education and Encouragement Efforts

Planning is being done to encourage walking/biking to school during Way to Go week in May 2010. Efforts will be focused on students from the neighborhoods surrounding MBS who could reasonably walk or bike to school.

During May, the PE department has a Long Trail Walking program and includes walking/running during recess. This program will be tied into the Vtrans Way to Go School Challenge and reaches all students.

Educational programs are being planned for May as well, similar to events from last year. In 2008-09, the educational pieces were: announcements in the all-school newsletter; distribution of SR2S official literature and other literature about personal safety; a school-wide biking and pedestrian safety assembly; biking safety lessons ("Rules of the Road;" What to Wear/Helmet Usage and Fitting; "ABC Quick Check") provided during PE classes.

## The Routes

There are only a few basic routes to Malletts Bay School. Neighborhoods that can reach Malletts Bay School by sidewalk or bike path are limited. All of the routes end up on the Julie Drive bike path access, Blakely Road, Williams Rd. or S. Bay Circle/Old Sawmill Rd.

## Actions to Achieve the Goals

Education Actions	Who	Date
Factoids in school newsletters	Team	
Traffic Safety Magic Show		May 2010
Local Motion biking safety in PE classes		
Distribution of personal safety brochures		
Engineering Actions		
Sidewalk connecting Blakely Road to MBS	School district/ L. Lagerquist	Apply grant 5/14/10
Crosswalks across driveway/parking lot and signage	School district/ L. Lagerquist	Apply grant 5/14/10

<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Evaluation actions</b>		
Parent surveys	Team	Fall 2010
Student tallies	School	May 2010
<b>Encouragement actions</b>		
Walking programs	PE teachers/team	May 2010
Evaluate placement of bike racks & dismissal procedures	team/school	Aug/Sept. 2010

