



## **Results of Road Safety Survey**

As compiled by:  
The Norfolk Road Safety Committee  
**December 2002**

**Date:** Saturday, November 16, 2002  
**Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am  
**Place:** Freeman/Centennial School

**Attendees:** Linda Balfour, Principal H. Olive Day School  
Leo Fantini, Principal Freeman/Centennial School  
Marcia Lukon, Superintendent of Norfolk Schools  
David Kennedy, Norfolk School Committee  
Toby Lyons, Building and Grounds Supervisor  
Bob Markel, Norfolk Town Administrator  
Jack McFeeley, Norfolk Board of Selectmen  
Chief Kelley, Chief, Norfolk Fire  
Chief Stone, Chief, Norfolk Police  
Butch Vito, Norfolk Highway Superintendent  
Joe Sebastiano, Chairman-Norfolk Road Safety Committee  
Beth Strubeck, Norfolk Road Safety Committee  
Jim Leonard, Norfolk Road Safety Committee  
William Crump, Norfolk Road Safety Committee  
Mario Damiata, NHSTA (Norfolk Road Safety Committee liaison)

The Road Safety Committee would like to thank the above attendees who joined to discuss numerous topics concerning road safety at both Norfolk elementary schools. The attached survey was used as an agenda at the meeting then returned to the Road Safety Committee for compilation and analysis. This report combines both survey result summaries and meeting discussions. Included is an overall summary for each school with each survey segment listed in greater detail.

### **FREEMAN/CENTENNIAL SCHOOL-Summary**

All issues that were discussed for the Freeman/Centennial School need to be incorporated into the master plan for a new school. A School Zone does not currently exist and needs to be established for the school. By first identifying a school zone, street lights, signage, electronic signage, road markings, control fencing, road texturing, traffic calming and no parking zones can then be implemented. The town and/or school needs to evaluate a Rockwood Road entry point as part of the long term solution to traffic circulation problems. In addition, the town and/or school should assess using a new Rockwood Road entrance/exit as a short term solution. The group overwhelmingly agreed that some type of traffic signal is needed on Rockwood Road at Boardman Street. A signal that changes from “controlled” during school hours to “blinking” during non-school hours was recommended.

### **STREET LIGHTING**

- There is sufficient exterior lighting on school property for *school* activities.
- More lighting is needed to support extra-curricular events during non-school hours.
- There is insufficient street lighting on Boardman Street in front of the school.

### **TRAFFIC CONTROL/SIGNAGE/TRAFFIC CIRCULATION**

- Traffic circulation issues need to address improving directional signage, adding traffic calming pavement enhancements, repainting and/or installing new roadway markings, reposting and/or enforcing speed limits.
- Crosswalks need to be added to connect existing sidewalks (Juniper/Boardman intersection).
- The school needs to re-line existing parking spots and explore additional parking alternatives.
- Control fencing should be installed to create barriers delineating parking areas and playing fields.
- A stop sign must be installed at the exit of the Freeman/Centennial drive onto Boardman Street.
- A separate survey will be conducted by the Road Safety Committee to analyze why parents favor picking up their children over using the bus system which inherently causes traffic safety issues.
- Fire lanes need to be well marked and strictly enforced for no parking.

## SIDEWALKS

- Sidewalks would greatly improve pedestrian and bike access to the school and significantly improve school zone safety. The police department cautions, however, additional pedestrian traffic will require crossing guards which either the school or town will need to fund.

## **H. OLIVE DAY SCHOOL-Summary**

A variety of safety issues became more prevalent when H. Olive Day was selected as the town's polling location. The facility is already insufficient in accommodating special events at the school, so traffic patterns and parking became more critical when attempting to handle the additional traffic volume. The most critical problem at H. Olive Day, however, is circulation of traffic. Of particular concern is the fact that children are playing in the roadway in the direct path of arriving kindergarten buses.

## STREET LIGHTING

- Additional pole lighting is needed in the rear parking area.
- Additional lighting on the building needs to be repaired and/or improved.
- A street light (has been ordered) needs to be installed on Main Street at the school's entrance.

## TRAFFIC CONTROL/SIGNAGE/TRAFFIC CIRCULATION

- Roadway markings and/or road surface texturing is required.
- Speed enforcement is imperative.
- More parking is needed to accommodate special school events and voting; one option is to expand into conservation land and/or reevaluate existing space configuration and parking lot design.
- Parking lot and playground redesign is required.
- Children are playing in the roadway as buses arrive and depart at mid-day. The school needs to form a group consisting of parents, a member of the Road Safety Committee, the school, and the bus company, to examine alternatives for a safer environment for the kids.
- A short term solution is to experiment with staggering recess times or look at redirecting bus traffic to the back of the school or around the flagpole in the front.
- The long term solution would be to relocate the playground (or redesign the existing playground/parking plan) so that children don't cross paths with traffic.
- A separate survey will be conducted by the Road Safety Committee to analyze why parents favor picking up their children over using the bus system which inherently causes traffic volume issues.
- Fire lanes need to be well marked and strictly enforced for no parking.

## SIDEWALKS

- In contrast to the concerns at Freeman/Centennial, sidewalks are not as much of an issue at H. Olive Day because of the age of the children; there are no bikers or walkers.
- The overall use of the facility should be examined in the new town center design so that sidewalks offer continuity between the Town Center H. Olive Day facilities.

Again, we thank those who participated in our meeting and completed the survey. Your support and input is invaluable in determining weaknesses in road safety surrounding our elementary schools. Your suggestions for ways that might improve our children's safety are greatly appreciated. If you weren't able to complete your survey, we would still welcome your response.

Attachment