

Central NH Regional Planning Commission Safe Routes to School Program

Round 3 CNHRPC Staff Evaluation Report

February 26th, 2009

Allenstown

The proposal clearly shows that there is a lot of community support from the school, police, and community groups, and focuses well on the goal to improve walkability through sidewalk and crosswalk installation paired with educational and enforcement programs. Direct parental support is not clearly shown, outside of the PTO letter. Survey results could be presented more clearly, especially with regard to the number of students living within the two-mile radius. The order of projects is also a little bit unclear.

In summary, this would be a much stronger application if it was more organized. There is a lot of potential with this application since there is strong community support evident. It is also encouraging to see the police department committed to supporting students through its enforcement activities.

Boscawen

A solid all-around application that does a good job of using the survey data to show the need for improvements. The education and encouragement efforts may be too ambitious, but if planned out appropriately, could really capture a lot of new bicyclists and pedestrians. There is a good representation of the community on the task force.

The project appears to be well organized with solid survey and evaluation results already collected. The proposed enhancements will benefit a large proportion of the school population, and if the education and encouragement portions are well-executed, this could result in a significant increase in the number of students walking and biking to school. The travel plan will definitely be a great addition to the school's future educational support.

Concord

The plan clearly has solid support from the community and clear goals for the infrastructure updates to be made. The application could be more specific with regard to Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement (reported some good events already held, but could emphasize specific future events more). The middle school does not have as many students living within two miles, so the SRTS program may have a less significant impact on that school's population.

The grant focuses on engineering and the solutions it offers are strong and the task force represents a good cross section of stakeholders. The task force would be stronger if it could include more parents. The recommendations for enforcement were weak.

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Hillsborough

Hillsborough's Round 3 application is strong and will significantly improve walkability for school students through extensive crosswalk and signage improvements. The monthly walk-to-school day will provide continuous and ongoing encouragement to keep transportation consciousness high among the school community. More specific educational components could help strengthen the application, as could evidence of greater parental support.

The evaluation section does an excellent job of incorporating survey data and pulling in resources like the Pedestrian and Public Parking Signage Plan. The encouragement section is also excellent and the annual events sound exciting. The bonus section also does a good job of highlighting Hillsborough's financial need. The education section is vague and should come up with specifics.

Hillsborough has a 44.5% low-moderate income population town-wide, with a higher percentage in the village area. Bonus points should be awarded for “disadvantaged communities.”

Hopkinton

This application is well organized and easy to understand. It is clear the infrastructure improvements will make it safer to walk/bike to school. The encouragement activities will be a good reinforcement of the engineering improvements. There was no discussion of how many students will be affected, although this is included in the travel plan.

This is a clear application with a broad community base of support. The Walking School Bus program, coupled with sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements, will provide strong encouragement for alternative transportation methods to school. The application could be strengthened by more discussion of how many students would be affected by the improvements.

Hopkinton in particular should be recognized for the strong leadership role that parents have played in the program and in this grant application. Additional “lessons” from Hopkinton include a planned, phased approach and good evaluation of their efforts.

Warner

The proposal is straight forward and well organized, with strong support from Town officials and community organizations. The need for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements is clearly demonstrated. Additional evidence of parental support would strengthen the application. Compared to other towns' applications, perhaps a smaller

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number of students live within a two mile radius and would be affected by the proposal, although with a total enrollment of 175+/- students, it is a much smaller school than many of other applying.

The school does an excellent job incorporating walking into the curriculum as described in the encouragement section. There could be more parental support on the task force but it seems that they are working on that.