

Safe Routes to School TRAVEL PLAN

DRAFT 2008



Bloomsbury School Bloomsbury, NJ

**Bloomsbury Elementary School
20 Main Street
Bloomsbury, NJ 08804
Grades: preK-8**

BLOOMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Community Profile: Borough of Bloomsbury

POPULATION: 886 (2000 census)

AREA: 1.0 square miles

POLICE: NJ State Police

Introduction

Bloomsbury Elementary School is located on the corner of Main Street, a municipal street, and County Route 579 in the Borough of Bloomsbury, NJ.

Bloomsbury is designated a walking district. Approximately 80% of the 135 students walk to school, the other 20% are dropped off by vehicle. This figure increases significantly during inclement weather. A crossing guard is present in the morning and afternoon hours.

Despite the fact that the posted speed limit is 25 mph, actual speeds during the morning hours, in particular, are perceived to be much higher.

Bloomsbury Elementary School has prepared this plan with several objectives.

Objectives of the Travel Plan

1. To make travel to and from Bloomsbury School safer and more efficient.
2. To reduce traffic congestion around the school.
3. To encourage travel to school by means other than the car.
4. To encourage students to walk to school as an environmental and health option.
5. To incorporate travel safety, health and environmental information into the school day.
6. To develop a Walking School Bus program.



Current School Policy/Existing Routes

Bloomsbury School students walk to school from three main areas of town. Students are not permitted to ride bicycles to school.

The school anticipates the following for the coming school year:

- 50 students traveling from the Fawn Run area (south)
- 50 students traveling from the Main Street area (east)
- 6 students traveling from the Willow Ave. area (southwest)

These areas will form the basis for the proposed walking school bus routes.

Currently, there is school zone pedestrian signage, including a blinking light located on Route 579. A crossing guard is stationed at the corner of Route 579 and Main Street in the morning and afternoon hours.

Vehicular drop offs are to occur in front of the school on Main Street only. Students must be dropped off on the school side of Main Street.

Current “Walk/Bike to School” Challenges

1. Sight distance- The crossing guards report that it is difficult to see students who are walking northbound on Route 579 from the Fawn Run area.
2. Motorist behavior- There has been an ongoing concern regarding the safety of the current drop off arrangement, as busy parents often appear unaware of the presence of children.
3. Speeding around the school- Although the posted speed limit is 25 mph, motorists regularly exceed that limit.
4. Disregard for crossing guard role and authority- motorists regularly disregard or become irritated by having to stop for crossings. Also, crossing guards have expressed concern about visibility to motorist, particularly in inclement weather.



Bloomsbury School is committed to improving the pedestrian environment for students. A “working group” has been meeting to discuss various issues and potential solutions, as illustrated in the “Action Items” table.

Members of the Working Group

Michael Slattery, Chief School Administrator
Kathy Jordan, Crossing guard/PTO President
Donna Vanya, Crossing guard
Cathy Foulk, Board of Education
Martha Tersigni, Town Council
Tara Shepherd, HART TMA

Proposed Actions

Education Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe	Cost
Classroom pedestrian and bicycle safety instruction	School	Fall 2008	Low
Printing of educational materials	School	Fall 2008	Low
Back to school night presentation	School	Fall 2008	Low
Student safety assemblies	School	Fall 2008	Low
Participate in countywide Public Awareness Campaign	School/TMA	Fall 2008	Low
Encouragement Actions			
Participate in International Walk to School Day 2008	School	Fall 2008	Low
Develop Walking School Bus	School	Fall 2008	Low
Enforcement Actions			
Speed enforcement	State Police	Fall 2008	Low
Yield to Pedestrians at crosswalks	State Police	Fall 2008	Low
Reflective clothing and stop signs for crossing guards	School/TMA	Fall 2008	Medium
Engineering Actions			
Maintenance and updating of speed signage, crosswalks	County Roads Dept, Borough Council and School	Ongoing	Low/Medium
Evaluation Actions			
Survey	School/TMA	Bi-Annually	Low