



Hunterdon County  
*Safe Routes to School*

# **Safe Routes to School Travel Plan 2011**



## **Reading-Fleming Intermediate School (RFIS)**

Reading Fleming Intermediate School  
50 Court Street  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
Grades: 5-6



## Introduction

Reading-Fleming Intermediate School (RFIS) educates all 5-6 Grade students in the Flemington-Raritan School District. The District includes both the Borough of Flemington (1.1 sq. miles) and the Township of Raritan (38 sq. miles). The school is located within the downtown area of Flemington Borough, NJ, just two blocks from the Central Business District on Main Street. Most of Flemington has sidewalks, and crosswalks are striped at most intersections. Main Street particularly has bold crosswalks and ample warning signage due to municipal efforts in recent years.

**Community Profile:** Borough of Flemington  
**Population:** 4,237 (2007 estimation)  
**Area:** 1.1 square miles  
**Police:** Flemington Police Department

**Community Profile:** Raritan Township  
**Population:** 22,720 (2006 estimation)  
**Area:** 37.9 square miles  
**Police:** Raritan Township Police Department

Currently, approximately 88% of the 810 students are bused to school. The remaining 12% (101) are labeled as “walkers.” Up to 12-15 students (2%) will bike on days with pleasant weather. Three to four students bike regardless of weather. The student population is projected to increase from 810 to 840 in the 2011-2012 school year.

Crossing Guards are stationed at:

- North Main Street & Allen Street
- Allen Street & Capner Street
- Court Street & Park Avenue
- Mine Street & Academy Street

No crossing guards are stationed on Main Street.

RFIS has three bike racks, one at the main entrance from Allen Street & Court Street, one at the northeast corner of the property near Court Street and one next to the Bonnell Street entrance. Each are 8 bike double sided racks. The rack by Bonnell Street is up against a wall so only one side can be used, but only approximately 20 students walk or bike to this entrance.



RFIS offers summer classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) which about 60-70 students in K-8 enroll in. Approximately 50 students take advantage of other summer programs. The classes last nearly the entire summer. Because bussing is not provided for these students, and the weather is generally more accommodating in the summer, a much greater percentage of these students bike or walk than during the regular school year.

Reading Fleming is a good candidate school for an organized walk to school/bike to school education and encouragement program. Reading Fleming Intermediate School has prepared this plan with several objectives.

## Objectives of the Travel Plan

1. To make travel to and from Reading Fleming Intermediate 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 build on the efforts of the Borough of Flemington to improve pedestrian safety in the community.

## Current School Policy

The District has provided courtesy bussing to students who live 1.5-2 miles from the school. Since New Jersey stopped providing state funding for this in 2010, the District is reevaluating this policy and their transportation budget. Several options were discussed at the Board of Education meeting on January 24, 2011. District-wide this policy could affect 1,190 students.

### Members of the Working Group

- Wanda Quinones, Vice Principal
- Laura Bruhn, Communication and Personnel Coordinator
- Chief George Becker, Flemington Police
- John Stevenson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, HART

## School Efforts to Date: Education and Encouragement

RFIS has had a frequent walker program in place since 2008. Upon entering school from either entrance, walkers and bikers have their frequent walker card punched. When they fill a card, the student is recognized on the morning announcements, and they receive an incentive (pencil, fluorescent shoe laces or a sling bag). For each successive card that they fill, the student receives a more substantial item.

In fall 2010, HART provided RFIS with 60 pedometers to use in classroom lessons. The pedometers have gone through one rotation with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade math class, and they will be incorporated into a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math class next. The math lesson plan is attached. Science is incorporated into the lesson by discussing avoided pollution and other "green" habits. Geography is incorporated by having the students map out a route from one part of the school to the other and use a map scale to convert inches to feet and miles.



Physical Education teachers discuss walking as part of a healthy lifestyle, and the District currently has a "green" actions contest underway, so the encouragement message of Safe Routes to School fits well with other messages that students are receiving from the school.

## **Municipal Efforts to Date: Enforcement and Engineering**

The Borough of Flemington has been working for several years to improve the pedestrian environment throughout the Borough, including the following efforts:

1. Borough-wide 25 mph speed limit (2003)
2. Installation of additional stop signs at numerous intersections
3. Increased police enforcement of vehicular speeding
4. Installation of in-street "Stop for Pedestrian" signage

The Borough has updated nearly all of the "Yield to Pedestrian" signs to read "Stop for Pedestrians" in accordance with the April 2010 law.

HART loaned a speed feedback sign to the Flemington Police in October 2010 and it was placed on Capner Street to collect speed data and test its effect on speeding. The speed limit on this street is 25 mph and the observed speeds are split neatly with approximately:

- 25% below 25 mph
- 25% between 25-30 mph
- 25% between 30-35 mph
- 25% above 35 mph



A 6.8% - 9.2% reduction in number of drivers speeding was observed with the sign and strobe light activated. HART analyzed the speed data and provided a report to the school administration and Borough Police.

## **Challenges**

Speeding near RFIS, as noted above, is an ongoing concern. The School, Police Department and HART will continue to work together on enforcement. The speed feedback sign will be loaned to Flemington Borough again in spring 2011.

Congestion is also an ongoing issue for morning drop-offs. The administration has encouraged carpooling, but has not seen many instances of it. A parent survey could verify concerns about walking/biking or carpooling and perhaps spark a serious consideration of those options.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety is particularly important in Flemington Borough and Raritan Township because they are among the top 3 municipalities in Hunterdon County for the number of both bicycle and pedestrian crashes. Flemington Borough also has a disproportionate share of bike crashes compared to its population. Due to this concentration of crashes, HART will give Flemington Borough preference in the ongoing loan program for the speed feedback sign.

## **Next Steps**

HART has planned to give a pedestrian safety presentation for RFIS students during lunch in March 2011. This will be followed by a bike safety presentation closer to the end of the school year. Similar presentations will likely be given to summer school students. The summer school programs are funding dependent.

RFIS will begin conducting Student Travel Tallies in spring 2010. A Parent Survey may be distributed to the summer school students, but Board of Education approval is required for surveys to be sent to parents. If this goes well and the information is useful then it would be sent to all regular students.

Part of the School's staff will take a tour of the adjacent streets in April or May 2011 to look at emergency escape routes and destinations. The school and HART plan on incorporating a Walkability Audit into this survey.

HART will work with the district and RFIS to help the school adapt to any changes in the courtesy bussing policy and the walking population.

Reading-Fleming Intermediate School would like to find sources of funding for continued promotional items and other encouragement and educational materials to build on the success of the program to date.

## Proposed Actions

<b>Education Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Presentations during Lunch	HART TMA/School	Spring 2011	Low
Printing of educational materials	School/TMA	Spring 2011	Low
Participate in countywide Public Awareness Campaign	School/TMA	Ongoing	Low
Classroom lessons based around pedometers	School	Fall 2010 and Ongoing	Low
<b>Encouragement Actions</b>			
Participate in International Walk to School Day	School	Annual	Low
Frequent Walker/Bicyclist Program	School	Ongoing	Low
<b>Enforcement Actions</b>			
Speed enforcement	Flemington Police	Ongoing	Low
Stop for Pedestrians at crosswalks	Flemington Police	Ongoing	Low
Speed feedback sign loan	Flemington Police/HART TMA	October 2010, Spring 2011 and ongoing	Medium
<b>Engineering Actions</b>			
Upgrading of curb cuts and crosswalks	Borough of Flemington	?	High
<b>Evaluation Actions</b>			
Survey	School/TMA	Summer 2011 tentative	Low
Student Travel Tally	School	Alternating Months	Low
Walkability Audit	School/HART TMA	April or May 2011	Low

# Reading-Fleming Intermediate School

## Legend



Crossing Guard



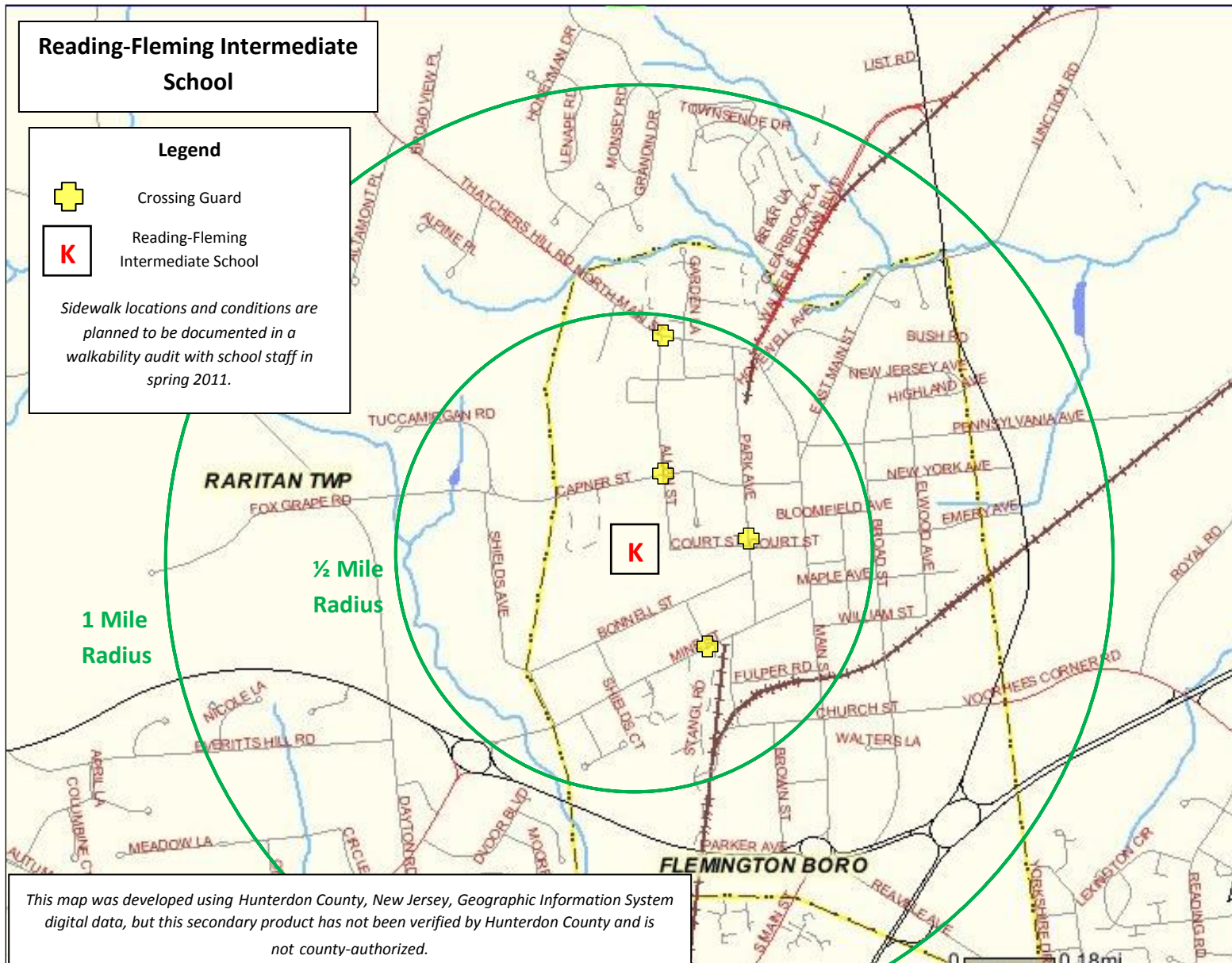
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School

*Sidewalk locations and conditions are planned to be documented in a walkability audit with school staff in spring 2011.*

1 Mile Radius

½ Mile Radius

*This map was developed using Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by Hunterdon County and is not county-authorized.*



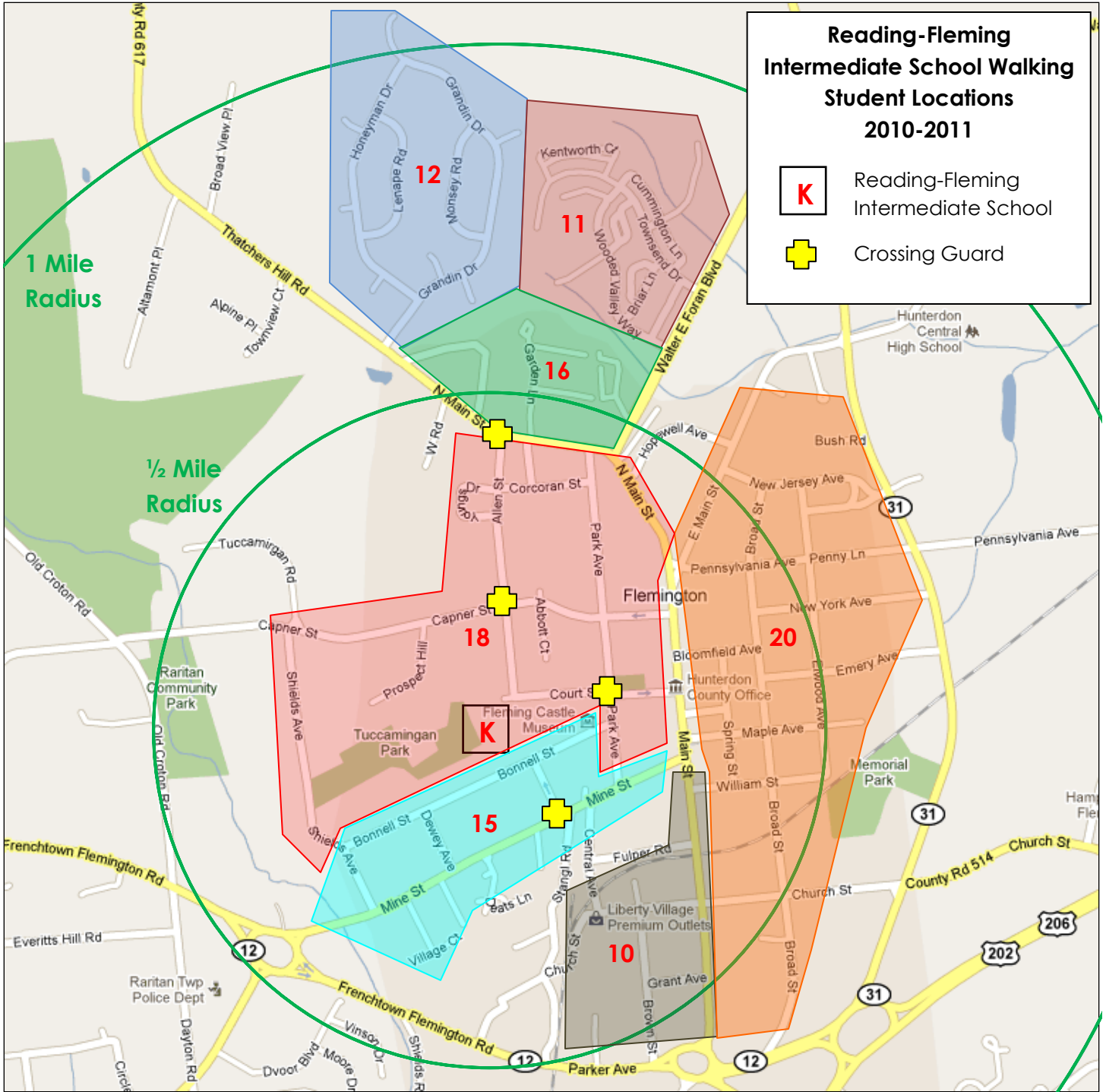
**Reading-Fleming  
Intermediate School  
Walking Student Locations  
2010-2011**

*One walker on Sand Hill Road  
not shown*



## Reading-Fleming Intermediate School Walking Student Locations 2010-2011

- K Reading-Fleming Intermediate School
- + Crossing Guard



## Math Lesson 2.1-Estimation Step Challenge

Obj: Students will develop strategies to estimate the time it would take to walk from school to a designated location.

- Find the median for a data set
- Estimate linear distance using a map scale
- Convert between inches, feet and miles
- Calculate travel times

Students will use various measuring strategies/techniques to determine step length, time and distance traveled.

- Measuring tape
- Pedometer
- Meter stick
- Ruler

Which will work best and why?

Each group of students will map out their route between our classroom and another classroom in the building. They will have to determine the distance from place to place. Give each group the various materials and have them explore.

Come back together as a group and discuss various methods used. Look at data collected and determine what works best.