

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MARCH 23, 2016

Six years ago the Bike Committee joined with Principal Ackerman (Job Lane) to initiate the school's participation in the State's new Safe Routes to School (**SRTS**) program. With help from parents and town officials, the program was eventually extended to Davis and JGMS, with twice-a-year walking and bicycling events.

As an incentive and reward for Bedford's award-winning program, the State will fund a much needed 'safe route' from Great Rd to JGMS. At the public hearing, the State will want to see town support for their proposal - please be there, even if only briefly, to voice your support for this project. It will double the existing bike lanes on Great Rd, provide a signalized crossing at Mudge Way, crosswalks for the playground and library, and an improved path from BHS to JGMS.

Principal Ackerman deserves the most credit for the success of the SRTS program. Even before the Town was officially enrolled, he was encouraging kids and their parents to participate in the International Walk/Bike Day event. When the Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway Committee approached him about adding a chaperoned bike ride from Marshall's parking lot, he immediately embraced the idea. Ackerman has inspired his students by jogging 14 miles from his home in Andover to school on the day of the event.

We started the bike to school program 6 years ago which means that some of the kids who participated in the earliest bike safety classes we taught in the phys ed classes at Job Lane are the same ones now biking to the High School and Middle School. Because so many kids are now biking to school, we asked the Community Preservation Committee to install bike shelters over the ever-expanding bike racks at the school.

The Mass DOT program is a perfect fit for our recently completed Bike/Ped Master Plan. It extends the existing bike lanes on Great Rd, provides better access to our Town campus, and provides a needed north/south link from the Reformatory Trail to the Great Rd.

Terry Gleason

[Read about the Safe Routes to School design hearing on February 11, 2016](#)

Bedford's next Walk Bike to School Day will take place on May 4