

**TO:** Mayor Otis and Members of the Rye City Council

**FROM:** The Temporary Trailways & School Safety Committee

**DATE:** February 8, 2008

**RE:** Committee Project Priorities and Recommendations

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To follow-up on the council workshop conducted on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2008, attached please find a list of prioritized projects from the Temporary Trailways and Transportation Committee. The list includes 12 projects culled from the full TT&SSC report submitted January 4<sup>th</sup>.

By council resolution in early 2007, the Temporary Trailways & Traffic Safety Committee (TT&TSC) was established to develop a comprehensive plan that provides recommendations to increase pedestrian safety, school pedestrian and traffic safety, and recreational trailways as they relate to sidewalks, trailways and infrastructure. The group consists of a representative body of city staff, elected school and city officials, city commission members, other city organization personnel and volunteers.

Each committee member was asked to submit their priorities, and most if not all, based their analysis on the ease of implementation, low cost vs. high value, and impact to greatest number of users. These findings will be the basis of a presentation to the Council on February 13<sup>th</sup>, but in short, the leading recommendations are as follows:

- **Implement school safety projects and apply for safe routes to school funding**

- 1) The combination of the BPR pilot redesign from Osborn Home to RHS, BPR Crosswalks and Parson's Street crossings at the Rye HS/MS have the benefit of helping ease school traffic congestion and improving walking safety for large numbers of school children and the community. The redesign is relatively easy to implement and costs are modest. The City has the opportunity to act now to apply for Safe Routes to School grant funding (due April 1, 2008).
- 2) BPR sidewalk or trailway on west side from Hornridge Road to Johnson Place. There is strong interest from Johnson Place and Hannan Place residents to provide walking route to Rye Neck Schools. It requires more engineering and feasibility, and could be costly, but there is an opportunity to apply for Safe Routes to School grant funding.

- **Immediately redesign and repair areas with potential safety hazards**

- 3) Repair sidewalks along Oakland Beach Ave and create safer pedestrian space at the bridge area and Milton corner through City capital projects.

- **Leverage planned City Capital Projects**

- 4) Widen road and re-stripe Forest Avenue when City repaves to allow for safer route for walkers, runners and bikers 2010 time frame; Section from Rockridge to Manursing Way is also critical for Midland school children.
- 5) Purdy /Purchase Street sidewalk along west side along train tracks on Theodore Fremd to tie-in with City/intersection project. Could be of the Elm Street and Theodore Fremd road and wall restoration project allowing pathway for train station walkers.

- **Tie into County Playland Parkway and Theodore Fremd Projects**

- 6) Tie Midland Ave. into County Playland Parkway project by restriping Midland Ave. for defined bike lane from Parkway to Midland School and Rye Recreation Park -- given the width of the road as it is now.
- 7) Build sidewalks to fill major gaps west side along railway tracks at North St. to Playland Parkway and East side along Nature Center & gaps to Playland Parkway.  
Move Con Edison fence back and realign the road

After presentation and review by council, the next steps by the committee would be to work with City staff in project assessment and cost analysis, grant application process, community feedback and communication, and specific implementation planning.

## TT AND SSC SURVEY

Trails Section	Action Taken	Rating	Additional Comments
<b>Boston Post Road Median Pilot</b>	Institute a 3-lane test per engineer report the creates one lane in each direction and a center lane striped median with left-hand turn breaks. The section would run from Osborn home to Rye High School. Restriping of road would also define shoulder space for possible bike use.	1	This phase would improve safety around the campus-lowers vehicle speeds on BPR, allows for crosswalks to be installed at Nature Center trail head and Old Post Road and further seperates BPR walkers from road vehicles.
<b>Old Post Road Crosswalk</b>	Create a crosswalk at the bottom of Old Post Road and BPR to Rye High School	1	Crosswalk would be one of two* to service walkers from the west side of BPR
<b>Parsons Road Complex</b>	City and School create a safer walking and drop-off on Parsons	1	This is a restriping project.
<b>Nature Center Crosswalk on BPR</b>	Nature trail would enter and exit in snow field lot. Second crosswalk* from Nugent Stadium emergency vehicle entrance to snow field lot. Sight distance issues to be resolved.	1	
<b>Rye Neck Sidewalk</b>	Create a sidewalk on western side of BPR from Johnson Place to Hornridge Road.	2	Requires engineering design & Maintenance commitment from homeowners' associations. Coordinate with BPR road repaving in 2008 & road diet pending success of Rye HS pilot. Benefits Rye Neck school children.
<b>Oakland Beach Avenue Sidewalk Repair and Creation</b>	Repair sidewalks along Oakland Beach Ave and create safer pedestrian space at bridge area and Milton corner.	3	
<b>Forest Avenue</b>	Widen road and restripe when City repaves to allow for safer route for walkers, runners and bikers	4	2010 time frame; Section from Rockridge to Manursing Way is key for Midland school children
<b>Purdy/Purchase Street Intersection</b>	Create a sidewalk on western side of Theo Fremd and Purchase Street light. Extend as far as possible for walkers to town and train.	5	Would tie-in with City/intersection project. Could be of the Elm Street and Theodore Fremd road and wall restoration project allowing pathway for train station walkers
<b>Midland Avenue</b>	Tie Midland Ave. into County Playland Parkway project by restriping Midland Ave. for defined bike lane from Parkway to Midland School and Rye Recreation Park -- given the width of the road as it is now.	6	One-side of the street parking may need to be reviewed

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<b>Theodore Fremd</b>	Build sidewalks to fill major gaps on west side along railway tracks at North St. to Playland Parkway and East side along Nature Center & gaps to Playland Parkway. Move Con Edison fence back and realign the road	7	County project on Theo Fremd from Harrison to Rye has opportunities to tie-in RNC
<b>Wapponocca Ave and Purchase Street</b>	Repair sidewalks and cut back overbrush in Wapponocca and Purchase Street loop to allow for easier and safer access to town and train station.	9	Could be a property owner and enforcement issue
<b>Stuyvesant/Forest Loop</b>	Restripe Milton Point area to create a safer walking and running loop. Forrest Ave. project noted above would assist in this.	8	Milton Pt Assoc endorsement would be required. Potential to tie into "white rock" removal
<b>Boston Post Road Multi-use Path</b>	Convert the BPR side-walk on east side of road to a wider multi use path for walkers, runners and bikers for safer transport	10	This idea requires a feasibility study before this suggestion moves to a higher priority
<b>Nature Center /Hammond Trail</b>	Establish defined walking path from Theo. Fremd & Hammond through the Nature Center to BPR	11	
<b>Historic Signage Postings</b>	Place signs throughout City that connect historic routes and maps	12	Possible state grants