

# Rye City's Complete Streets

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# Background: Complete Streets

2

- Complete streets refers to a holistic approach to transportation, taking into account the needs of all roadway users: pedestrians, bikes and cars
- In 2007, the County DOT sponsored the first Safe Routes to School Workshop
- In 2008, the Rye YMCA kicked off the Complete Streets process by starting the Safe Routes to School Committee
- The Safe Routes Committee developed programs and policies that supported the 2007 Traffic & Trailways infrastructure recommendations
- In 2009, Traffic & Trailways Recommendations received Federal Stimulus money

# Temporary Trailways and Safe Routes to School Commission Results

3

- In 2007, Rye created a commission (TTSRSC) to develop a trailways and traffic safety plan for consideration by the community
- They recommended 12 projects to the City
- Top projects are now complete given Federal stimulus money and the great work of the multi-talented Team
- Uncompleted recommendations needed to be re-analyzed and re-prioritized

# Rye Process in 2010

4

- Created “The Rye Shared Roadways Committee” in Sept 2010
  - 12 member committee separate from Standing Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee but with dotted line to experts
  - Joint Taskforce on Pedestrian Safety sub-committee
  - Passed Council resolution with clear goals and deliverables
  - Partnered with the YMCA and the County for “Safe Routes Part II/Complete Street’s Workshop” with Alta Planning in Oct 19, 2010. Sponsored by the County
    - Thanks to Naomi Klein of the County DOT and to the Rye YMCA for being visionaries!

# Shared Roadways Key Objectives

5

- To identify how Rye can be made to be a safer walking and biking community, providing a more sustainable quality of life for all citizens
  - ▣ To continue the planning of the former 2007 Temporary Trailways & Safe Schools Committee
  - ▣ To engage and empower the community in the process
- To provide on-going pedestrian safety education by partnering with the YMCA's Safe Routes to School Committee and the Board of Education (BOE)
- To evaluate Rye against the best practices of the "Complete Streets" planning processes, and compare with other towns
- To recommend the next round of engineering projects and grant funding so Rye can see results for its tax dollars

# Critical Milestones

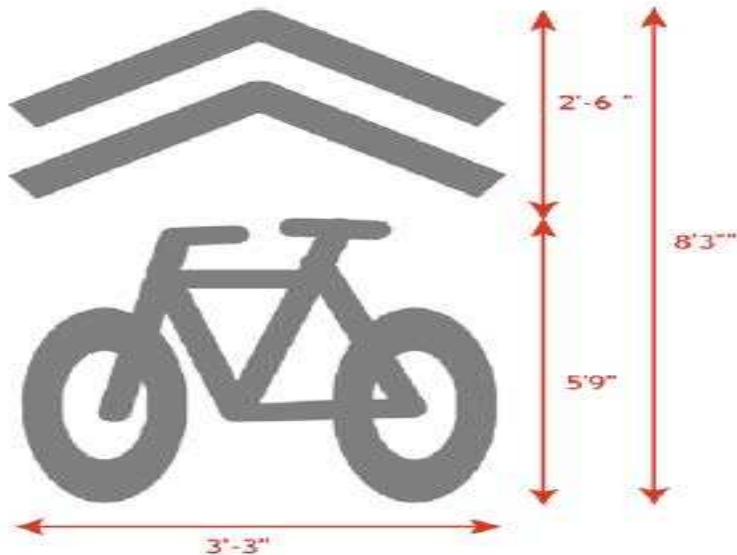
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- Boston Post Road Diet April/Sept 2008
- Boston Post Road Diet II and school improvements 8/10
- 5 Federal Stimulus improvements 8/10
- YMCA Safe Routes Video Contest: 1/11
- Safe Routes\* Distracted Walking Workshop 4/11
- Capstone Project I: Sharrows on Forest Ave 5/11
- Passed East Coast Greenway Resolution 5/11
- NY passed Complete Streets Legislation 6/11
- East Coast Greenway Kick-off with YMCA 6/11
- Rye Shared Roadways Reco & Workshop 6/11
- Downtown Stop Sign/Calming Engineering 7/11
- YMCA grant for \$20,000 for Forest ave 9/11

\* Also YMCA

- *What is a “sharrow”?*

- A “shared-lane marking arrow” or “sharrow” is a painted emblem on the roadway.
- It is intended to encourage the safe co-existence of motorists and cyclists.
- These road markers remind motorists that they are sharing the route with bicyclists.



- Sharrows indicate the preferred path of travel for cyclists (where they should ride in the roadway).
- Sharrows indicate to motorists the possible presence of bike traffic in the roadway.
- Shared lanes are different from bike lanes. Bike lanes are set aside for bicyclists and are marked by a solid white line and a different symbol.
- Sharrows are an effective, flexible and inexpensive alternative to striped bike lanes.

# Next Steps

8

- Safe Routes No Texting Pledge: Council & BOE: 4/21
- Capstone Project II: Manual on Complete streets: 4/23/12
- Rye Resolution for Complete Streets Policy: 5/12
- Sharrows test on Forest Avenue : 7/12
- Potential Public Safety Bond to include other pedestrian safety recommendations of RSR: 11/12

# Lesson Learned

9

- Can take baby steps with the Complete Streets Concept
- Start small with Safe Routes to School
- Incorporate the vision into your infrastructure projects
- Create citizen engagement and excitement via research committees
  - Thanks to the YMCA, RSR, Safe Routes, City Planner Christian Miller, & City Manager Scott Pickup for all their great work

# APPENDIX A: Federal Stimulus Projects

- On Oakland Beach Avenue, construction of a sidewalk and curb has started as of June 1 and is planned to end on July 20.
- On Boston Post Road construction of concrete walks and crosswalks has started as of June 2 and is planned to end on July 6.
- On Purchase Street, alterations in the current traffic signals and construction of concrete walks has started as of June 14 and is planned to end on August 25.
- On Midland Avenue, various improvements including but not limited to the construction of new curbs, road resurfacing, and road remarking have started as of June 4 and are planned to end on September 16.
- On Playland Parkway and Forest Avenue, various improvements including but not limited to the construction of new curbs, concrete walks, traffic signals, and new pavement markings have started as of June 8 and are planned to end on September 16.

# Planned Rye SRTS Educational Programs

- The previously mentioned “safety pledge” will be printed in all elementary school directories.
- Magnetic “I cross at crosswalk” decals will be distributed to elementary school students.
- AAA assembly on pedestrian safety scheduled for elementary schools.
- In class workshops where parents discuss pedestrian safety are planned for all three elementary schools.
- Packet of pedestrian-safety related games, etc. to be provided for elementary school teachers for use during rainy-day recesses.
- Maps of proper traffic procedures for all Rye schools will be provided to parents.
- Federal Highway Administration DVDs on traffic safety will be distributed to all elementary schools.
- SRTS posters, advertisements, and videos to be utilized in continuing, community-wide effort.
- SRTS multimedia pedestrian safety poster/music/video contest for Middle and Upper School students planned.
- Pedestrian safety learning session for 6<sup>th</sup> graders planned.
- Rye Youth Council Players to develop play around pedestrian safety for elementary school children.
- Bike rodeo to be held at each school.

# Key Objectives

10

- To identify both short term and long term how Rye can become a safer walking and biking community for a better and more sustainable quality of life for all user groups
- To provide immediate and on-going pedestrian safety and Safe Routes to School (YMCA)
  - Explore “complete streets” concepts and application to Rye
- To develop a planning process so that projects are analyzed, and ranked in the Capital Improvements Project List while shovel ready