

Aimee Pope
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Local Transportation Facilities Section
VT Agency of Transportation
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Dear Ms. Pope,

As the chair of the Waitsfield Elementary School Board of Directors, I am writing to extend my full support for the Safe Routes to School program and the upcoming application for infrastructure funding. Our school has benefitted greatly from the initial Safe Routes to School support for awareness and education, and we appreciate the opportunity to address some of the significant structural issues that keep kids from walking and biking to school safely.

During the last year, we have seen our school community engaged in many aspects of the Safe Routes to School program, from classroom instruction, to a challenge week to get everyone out on foot or pedal, to a thorough assessment of the issues and opportunities around our physical plant and local community. A team of parents, teachers, town administrators, and local non-profit leaders have worked together to maximize the impact and sustainability of this concept and to design a school travel plan that will bring us forward.

We are so appreciative of the efforts of that team, and of the insights and plans that will improve conditions and access to a safe route to school for our student body.

The fact that our school is located on Route 100 is both a blessing and a curse. With the addition of radar speed feedback signs, a school zone crosswalk to be staffed with a crossing guard, and the alignment of a key intersection near the school, we will see a significant improvement in the safety of traffic management around our school, and fully expect more families to feel comfortable sending their students off to school by foot or bike.

Thank you again for the opportunity to apply for these resources. We are confident that they will be put to good use in our community.

Sincerely,

Rob Williams, Ph. D.
Board chair, Waitsfield Elementary School