

## Healthy Places by Design Community Forum Summary

<b>Summary for:</b>	Date: October 19, 2011	Time: 6-8 pm	Location: Davisville Elementary School
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<b>COMMUNITY FORUM TITLE</b>	Making Our Community More Walkable and Bikeable
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Mike Lydon, The Street Plans Collaborative
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Over 40 members of the community, ages 9 and up

### AGENDA TOPICS

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<b>PRESENTATION</b>	Mike Lydon presented an overview of the bike and walk assessment conducted in the community on October 1, 2011 and the scoring achieved in Wickford Village compared to Post Road. Then, he went on to demonstrate a variety of design elements that enhance a community's walk and bike experiences. A link to his presentation will be available on the project website: <a href="http://northkingstown.org/healthy-places-design">http://northkingstown.org/healthy-places-design</a> .
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mike Lydon started the presentation by asking where folks bike or walk in North Kingstown and whether or not they bike to work. Most persons do not bike or walk to work. Some people responded they would not bike here at all, some bike and walk throughout town and some use the Quonset and regional bike paths only.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	After the presentation, Mike Lydon presented a visual preference survey using two images side-by-side. He asked do you prefer "A" or "B"? Why? Why not? These images helped the audience consider the aspects of design that are favorable or unfavorable to them and why.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>After the visual preference survey, everybody got up and separated into 5 groups with one town map each. A facilitator used a red marker to trace routes or circle areas where residents felt biking and/or walking was unfavorable and a green marker where biking and/or walking was favorable. Each group was encouraged to make notes of the maps.</p> <p>After the conclusion of the forum, some people clapped in appreciation for the presentation. About half the attendess</p>

remained for another 30 minutes to continue working on the maps and to discuss their thoughts with each other.

A link to Mike's presentation will be available on the project website:  
<http://www.northkingstown.org/healthy-places-design>.

For more information about other ways you can be involved in the project, please contact Denise Kaplin, Healthy Places by Design YMCA Consultant, at [dkaplin@gpymca.org](mailto:dkaplin@gpymca.org). (401-295-6501) or Doug McLean, Town of North Kingstown, at [dmclean@northkingstown.org](mailto:dmclean@northkingstown.org). (401-294-3331).

*The mission of the Healthy Places by Design Project is to strengthen land use, transportation and urban design policies and ordinances that guide the decision making process for the built environment to be more supportive of health, particularly as it relates to physical activity and healthy eating.*

## Addendum:

Some residents could not attend but sent these emails:

### "Ideas about Biking and Walking in NK.

#### Biking

- 1) There is a brand new train station going in at Wickford Junction, a train tressle that is almost completely flat running from there to Wickford, where one of the only traditional seaside villages reachable from Boston can be found. There also seems to be town owned land proximate to both termini of the tressle. It should be simple to establish a bike, walking and disability transportation line given the ready assets and exceedingly reasonable arguments in favor of this investment.
- 2) Wickford is not connected to the bike path in the shore acres area or to recreation areas at and near Rome Point.
- 3) Once a bike path is established to go between Wickford Junction and Wickford, it may be possible to establish bike paths to the two destinations (and possibly other destinations) for recreational biking.
- 4) Disability vehicles are commonplace in Amsterdam. They are tiny vehicles that run on the side lane of the road for people with disabilities.  
<http://www.amsterdamlogue.com/the-worlds-smallest-car.html> These, as well as other alternative energy low speed/risk vehicles should be legal on the bike paths.
- 5) Access to regional bike routes such as those in South Kingstown could also be pursued.
- 6) Incentives for using bikes and storage should be supported by town and state infrastructure. This includes bike racks at key locations such as the train station and downtown.

#### Walking

- 1) There is no crosswalk between the east and west sides of town hall across route 1A.

- 2) Sidewalks at town installations rarely extend beyond direct areas adjacent to those installations.
- 3) Cars predominate on Brown Street and a parking lot predominates the area on the shorefront behind the stores."

"We live on Fishing Cove Road and I have been concerned about the lack of walkability or bikeability in our area since we moved there 4 years ago. I would love to see more accessibility to walkers, joggers and bicyclists on Camp Road. Housing in our area is wonderfully diverse and we have a number of people (including kids) who I see dangerously walking along Camp to get to Post Road. Given the demographics of the neighborhood and how close the bus line runs, it is a shame that people have to put their lives at risk when they walk on Camp.

Personally, I would love to be able to bicycle with my family to Wickford. Camp Ave. and Post Road make that impossible."

"Forgot to add that I don't like my son to bike to school as that is even more dangerous travelling in the same lane as hundreds of high school students are driving on Annaquatucket.

"Love it! Hope something can be done to make it safer to walk in NK.

I am unable to attend the meeting but one of the most dangerous areas for walkers in NK is near the high school on Annaquatucket. With no sidewalks, the students must brave the road along with the newly licensed drivers. My son and neighbor's children walk this road from school. And there are no guidelines painted on the side of the road as i was told by NK Highway Dept it was not in the budget to do that after the road was repaved.

In the winter the road becomes very treacherous for the students as they must walk on the road since snow is piled on the edge of the road. I have contacted the school department and have been told it is my responsibility to transport my son home from school at 2pm.

Anyway, it would be great if some attention to could paid to this very dangerous road as there is much traffic when high school is in session."

"I live on Annaquatucket Road, and have been thinking about contacting the Town to inquire about **extending sidewalks** all the way from Prospect St. to Rte 1, and from the high school to Rte 1A. I work from home, and see residents walking, running, biking at all hours of the day, with moderate to heavy traffic at times. In addition, the cross country teams at the high school jog by in the afternoon, and lots of NKHS students walk to Jitters for coffee at 2pm when the school gets out. I think this project would make NK more walkable!"