

Walter Black and Grace Rogers Elementary Schools



Hightstown, NJ School Travel Plan June, 2014

Prepared by Greater Mercer TMA



NEW JERSEY
Safe Routes to School



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School Descriptions

Walter C. Black Elementary School Description:

Walter C. Black Elementary School is located at 371 Stockton Street Hightstown, New Jersey. For the 2013-2014 school year it houses approximately 555 students in grades K-5. The school day runs from 8:50am to 3:25pm. There is also an extended day program that runs from 7am to 6pm.

Grace N. Rogers Elementary School Description:

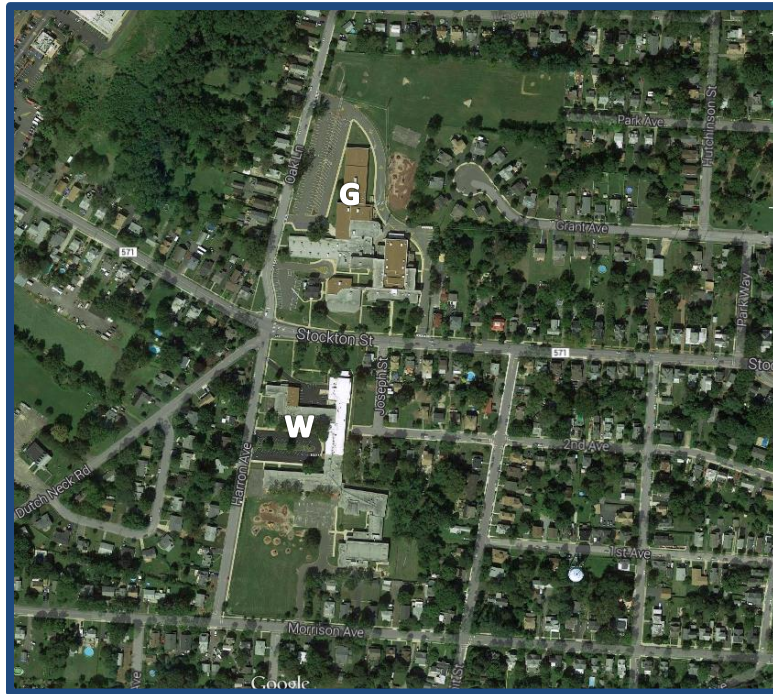
Grace N. Rogers Elementary School is located at 380 Stockton Street Hightstown, New Jersey. It is across the street from Black Elementary. For the 2013-2014 school year it houses approximately 500 students in grades K-5. The school day runs from 8:50am to 3:25pm. There is also an extended day program that runs from 7am to 6pm. Grace and Black Schools are two of four elementary schools in the East Windsor Regional School District.

Working Groups and Partnerships:

Organization	Role/ Responsibility	Contact
Voorhees Transportation Center	Key Partner	Sean Meehan Project Manager 848.932.2860 smeehan@ejb.rutgers.edu
East Windsor Regional School District	Community Partner	Ingrid Reitano Transportation Supervisor 609.443.7873 ireitano@ewrsd.k12.nj.us
Borough of Hightstown	Community Partner	Henry Underhill Borough Administrator 609.490.5100 x 701 administrator@hightstownborough.com
Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association	Key Partner	Jerry Foster Transportation Safety Educator 609.452.1491 extension 227 jfoster@gmtma.org

Schools Neighborhood:

Black and Rogers Schools are off of Stockton Street, Route 571. They are immediately surrounded by mainly residences and a few businesses and places of worship. The Schools are seen below, marked as W and G. The village setting, dense street network and small block sizes are the basis for a very walkable environment.



Walter Black School (W), Grace Rogers School (G) and surrounding neighborhood

Black Elementary:

Arrival and Dismissal

- Students should not arrive at school earlier than 8:40 AM. Supervision is not provided prior to that time.
- Upon arrival, walkers should report to their assigned area/door.
- Students arriving by car in grades 3-5 are to be dropped off at the Joseph Street side of the school and are to use the sidewalks to walk to class.
- Students arriving by car in grades K-2 are to be dropped off on the Harron Avenue side of the school. Harron Avenue is a one-way street during arrival and dismissal periods. If you have students in both K-2 and 3-5 follow 3-5 instructions. Older child should buddy with younger child.
- The horseshoe parking lot is for staff parking only with the exception of four designated visitor spots. Cars are not permitted to enter or to exit the lot during arrival and dismissal times.
- Students arriving at school after 8:50 AM are to report to the office with their parent to sign in and to obtain a late pass. Parents are asked to call the attendance hot line if their child is going to be tardy.
- At dismissal, students are to leave the building via assigned exits. Students are expected to leave the grounds immediately unless they are involved in an after-school supervised activity.
- Students should return to the office if their parent/guardian is late picking them up at the end of the school day.

Crossing Guards

Crossing guards are assigned by the Hightstown Police Department to cover intersections at least one-half hour before school starts and one-half hour after school ends. Crossing guards are located at Stockton Street and Harron Avenue,

Morrison Avenue and Harron Avenue and Summit Street and Morrison Avenue.

Parking

There are four visitor parking spots in the horseshoe parking lot. If filled, you may also park on Harron Avenue or Joseph Street.

Pupil Supervision- After School Dismissal

Parents/ Guardians may request that student walkers are not released until they are signed out by parent/ guardian or approved adult.

Grace Elementary:

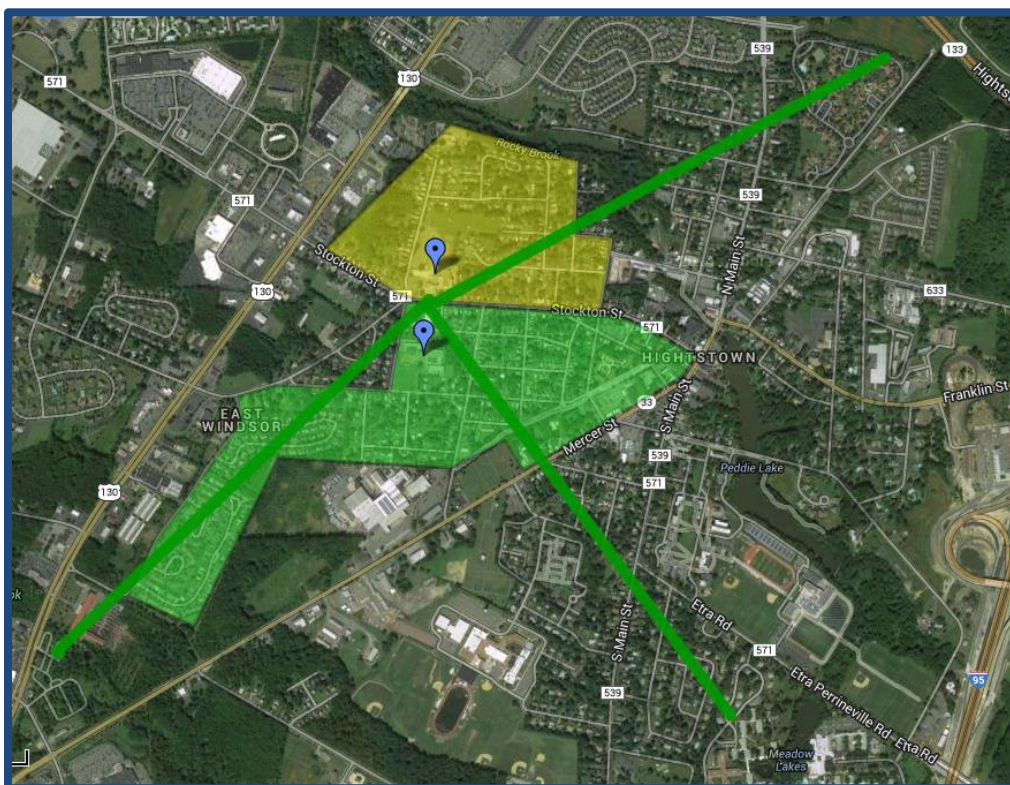
Arrival and Dismissal

- Students who ride the bus enter and exit the school through the rear entrance of the building via the school's cafeteria double doors.
- Student Walkers and Drop Offs enter and exit the building through the school's main entrance, next to the main office. A section of the school's front driveway has been designated to indicate precisely where students are to be dropped off. Please do not instruct your child/children to exit your vehicles prior to the designated drop off location on the driveway as this poses a safety hazard.
 - Colored cones will be positioned in the pick-up/drop-off drive in order to limit traffic to one lane. Please do not remove the colored cones or drive around them.
 - There is only one lane for student pick-up and drop-off. Please do not drive up or exit via the middle lanes (of the parking lot) containing parked cars.
 - Children are not permitted to walk through the parking lot without adult supervision.
 - Your child should exit from the passenger side of the car, closest to the curb and school.
- Staff members will be positioned near the main entrance and side driveway to ensure the safe and orderly procession of cars entering and exiting the school's premises.

Parking

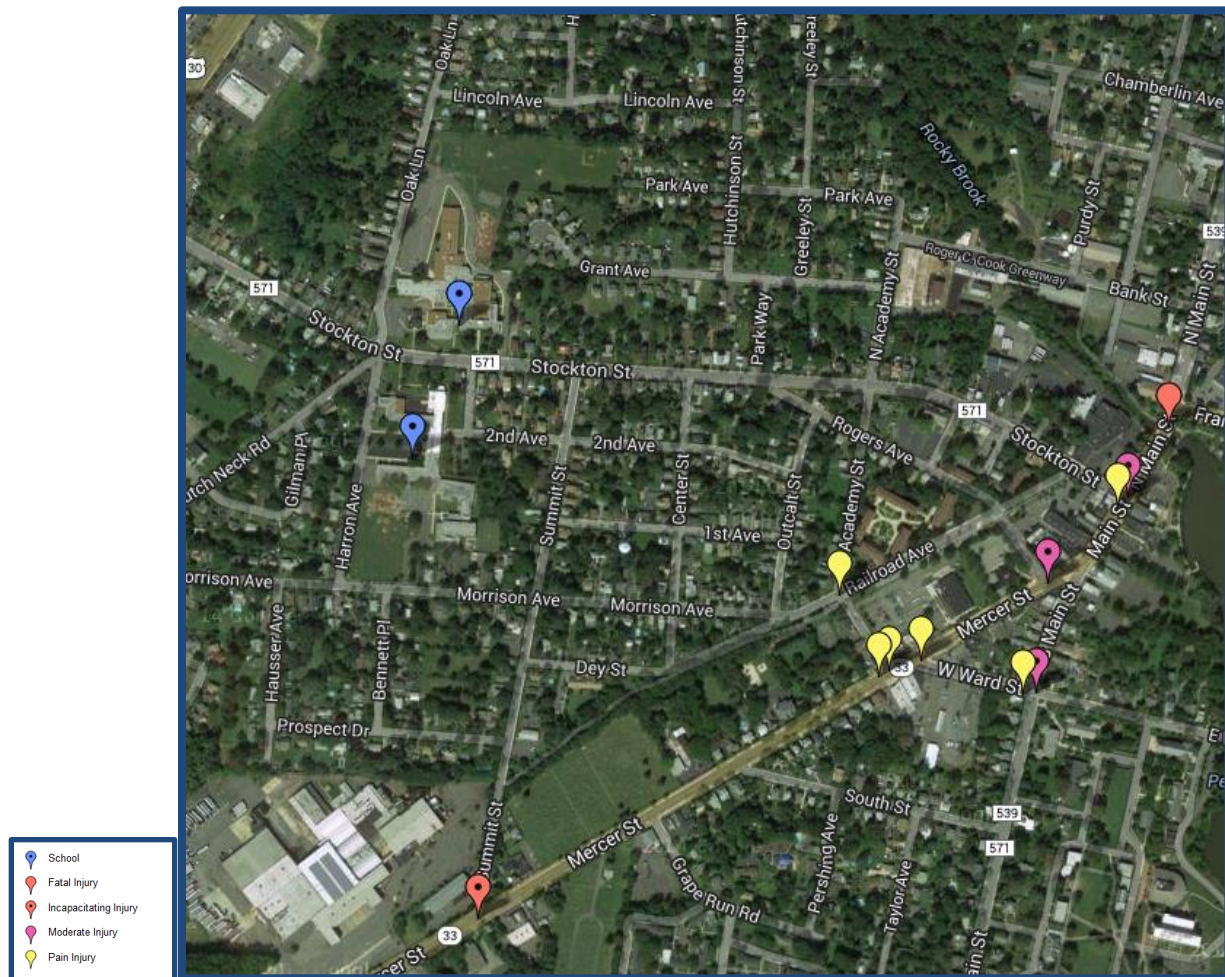
Parents should park in the assigned visitors section of the parking lot. If these spots are full, visitors should park in any unassigned slot. Parking along Oak Lane is prohibited and the local Police Department will issue citations for cars parked there.

Walking Area:



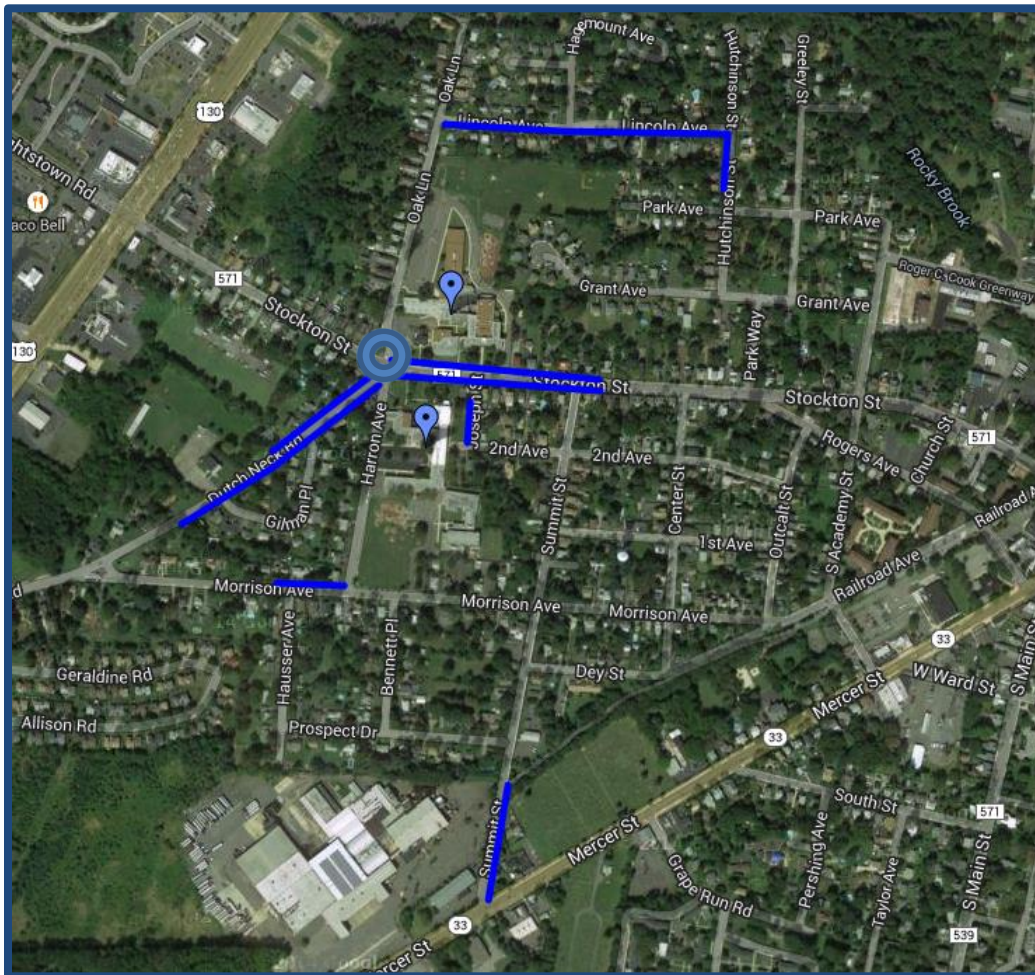
Walter Black and Grace Rogers Elementary Schools are marked by the blue dot bubble icons. Grace Rogers' walking area is yellow, Walter Black's area is green. The green lines are 1 mile long, for reference.

Pedestrian Crash History from Plan4Safety database (2003-2014)



Pedestrian crashes are concentrated on the arterials, US 130 and SR 33 (Mercer Street), with the exception of a pain level injury at the crash site at Academy St and Railroad Ave. See Appendix A for details.

Recommended Infrastructure Improvements



See the purple lines on the map for recommended sidewalk improvements. Two goals drive improvements to biking and walking to the schools – (1) improve safety for existing walkers and (2) create new safe walking areas within one mile of the school, by eliminating hazardous conditions.

For Walter Black Elementary, Goal 1 - Improve Safety for Existing Walkers, consider replacing deteriorated sidewalks on the south side of Stockton Street (CR571), plus add a new sidewalk on the west side of Joseph Street.

For Walter Black Elementary, Goal 2 - Create New Safe Walking Areas, consider a sidewalk connecting the greenway trail to Mercer Street along the east side of Summit Street, which would support walking from a few more houses. In addition, consider connecting missing sidewalks on both sides of Dutch Neck Road, and on the north side of Morrison Avenue. Students are bused from these locations currently. To complete the safe walking route, consider a roundabout (see Appendix B for examples) to improve safe crossing at the intersection of Dutch Neck Rd, Stockton St, Oak Ln and Haddon Ave.

For Grace Rogers Elementary, Goal 1 - Improve Safety for Existing Walkers, consider replacing deteriorated sidewalks on the north side of Stockton Street.

For Grace Rogers Elementary, , Goal 2 - Create New Safe Walking Areas, consider adding a sidewalk connection on Lincoln Avenue and Hutchinson Street to complete the network for houses adjacent to the school grounds, for which a bus is currently provided.

Walter Black Elementary School Proposals – Goal 1 - Improve Safety for Existing Walkers



Consider a roundabout for the intersection of Stockton St (CR571), Oak Ln (right), Harron Ave and Dutch Neck Rd (left).



Missing sidewalk connection on west side of Joseph Street.

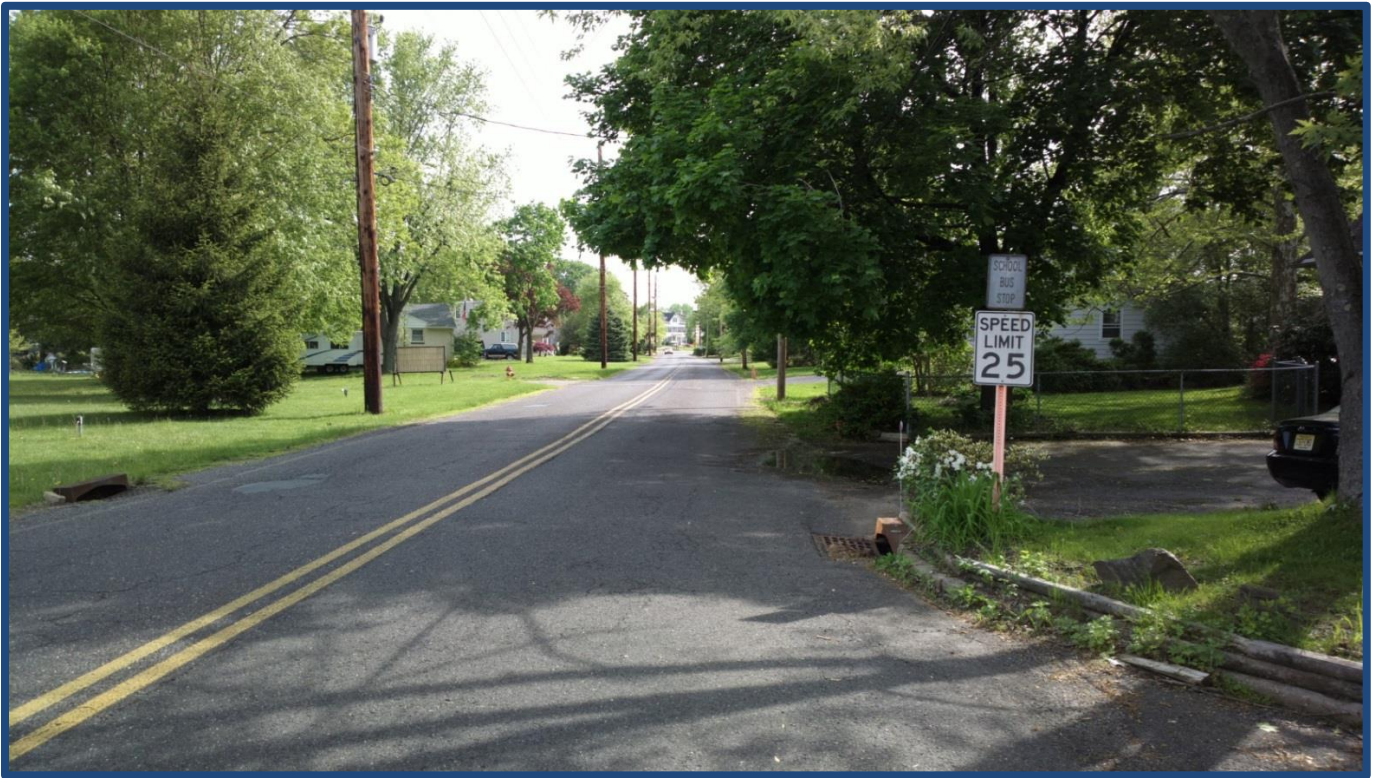
Walter Black Elementary School Proposals – Goal 2 - Create New Safe Walking Areas



Summit Street missing sidewalk connection to Mercer St (car in picture is turning left onto Mercer). Students from the houses on the left might walk to Walter Back Elementary.



Morrison Avenue's missing sidewalks on right, school is immediately on the right.



Dutch Neck Road looking east from Gilman Place – students here are within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the school, note bus stop sign.

Grace Rogers Elementary School Proposals – Goal 1 - Improve Safety for Existing Walkers

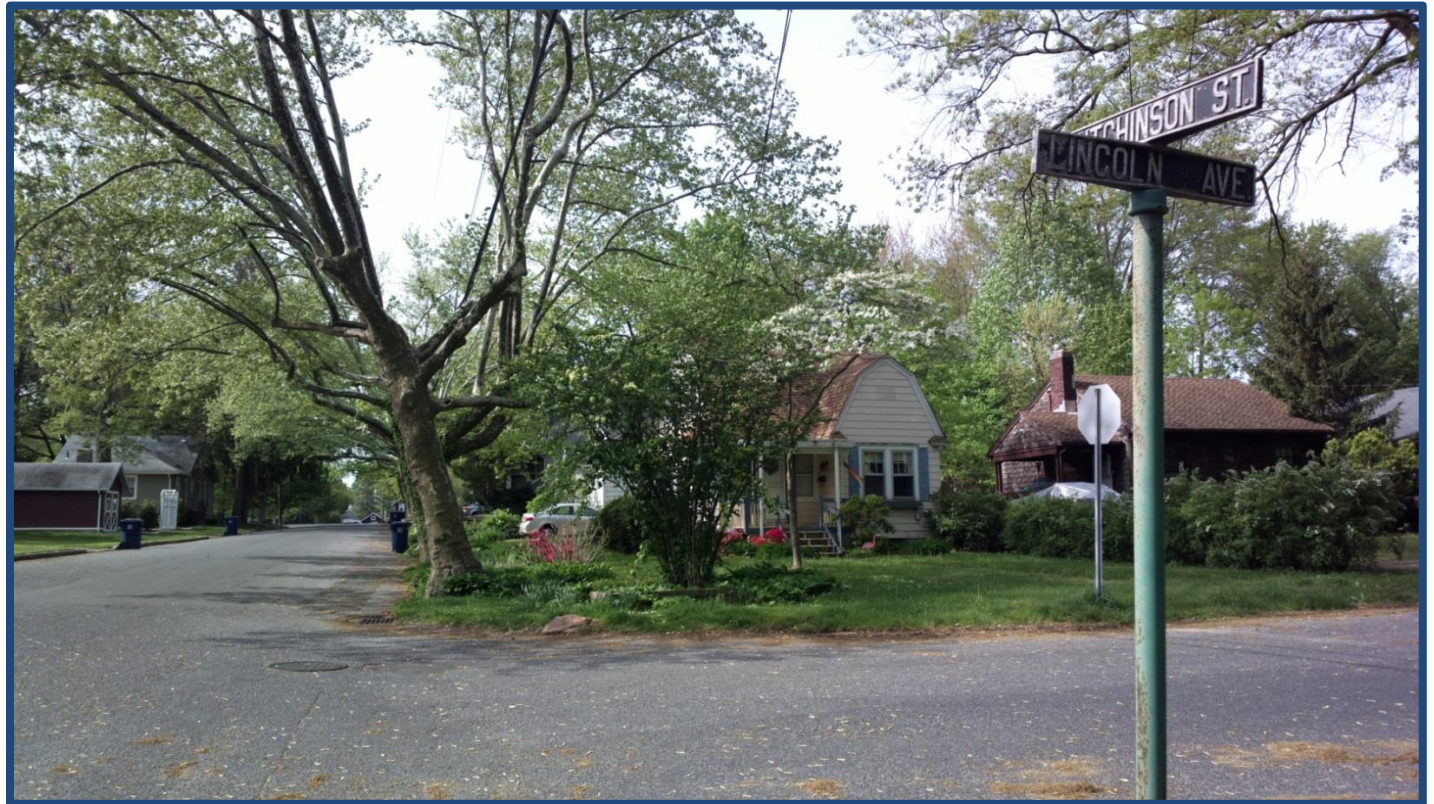


Consider replacing deteriorated sidewalks and curbs along Stockton Street.

Grace Rogers Elementary School Proposals – Goal 2 - Create New Safe Walking Areas



Lincoln Avenue missing sidewalks – left side of Lincoln backs to school property , but students are provided a bus.



Hutchinson Street's missing sidewalks on right side should be implemented in the paved space, to preserve the shade trees.

Evaluation/ Action Plan:

This plan of action is intended to increase safety for students on their walk to and from school and when appropriate, encourage more students to walk. The table below identifies those actions, a responsible party for implementing them, a time frame, and a level of cost. Many actions identified as “short-term” and “low cost” can make a big difference in a short time and can be accomplished with the help of local partners.

Cost estimates are for planning purposes only – a professional engineer should prepare the actual estimates used for a grant application. These estimates were prepared using the SRTS Implementation Cost sheet prepared in 2014 to support the grant application process.¹

Engineering			
Action	Responsibility	Time Frame	Cost
Walter Black sidewalk proposals to improve safety for existing walkers: 5 ft sidewalk south side Stockton St - \$60/ft * 900ft = \$54,000 5 ft sidewalk west side Joseph St - \$60/ft * 200 ft = \$12,000	Borough of Hightstown	Medium Term	est. \$66K
Walter Black sidewalk proposals to create new safe walking areas: 5 ft sidewalk north side Dutch Neck Rd - \$60/ft * 600ft = \$36,000 5 ft sidewalk south side Dutch Neck Rd - \$60/ft * 1050ft = \$63,000 5 ft sidewalk north side Morrison Ave - \$60/ft * 300ft = \$18,000 5 ft sidewalk east side Summit St - \$60/ft * 500ft = \$30,000	Borough of Hightstown	Medium Term	est. \$147K
Roundabout at intersection of Stockton (CR571), Dutch Neck Rd, Harron Ave and Oak Ln – Neighborhood roundabout (\$75K) plus 5 raised splitter islands (\$30K ea)	Mercer County	Long Term	est. \$225K
Grace Rogers sidewalk proposals to improve safety for existing walkers: 5 ft sidewalk north side Stockton St - \$60/ft * 900ft = \$54,000	Borough of Hightstown	Medium Term	est. \$54K
Grace Rogers sidewalk proposals to create new safe walking areas: 5 ft sidewalk east side Summit St - \$60/ft * 1450ft = \$87,000	Borough of Hightstown	Medium Term	est. \$87K

¹ http://www.saferoutesnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/srts_costs_NEW-FORMAT_FINAL.pdf

Education			
Action	Responsibility	Time Frame	Cost
Educate students, family members, bus drivers and school employees about drop-off/ pick up zones. Make sure everyone knows the best way to keep students safe and to quickly dismiss students from school.	School, School District	Short Term / Ongoing	Low
Increase community outreach about the health benefits of walking and biking to school.	School, PTO	Short Term	Low
Conduct community wide outreach about Safe Routes to School actions such as walking and biking safety.	School, GMTMA	Short Term/ Ongoing	Low
Establish a program to encourage students to walk and/or bike to school. Examples: Golden Sneaker Award, Walking Wednesday, Walking School Bus	School, GMTMA	Short Term/ Ongoing	Low
Educate community and responsible parties about snow removal on sidewalks near schools.	Public Works	Short Term/ Ongoing	Low

Encouragement			
Action	Responsibility	Time Frame	Cost
Establish main walking routes, safety corridors, walking school buses – safety in numbers.	School, PTO, GMTMA, Community Groups	Ongoing	Low
Conduct Student and Parent survey to see what actions and rewards could encourage them to walk to school more – and feel safer walking to school.	School, PTO, GMTMA	Short Term	Low

Enforcement			
Action	Responsibility	Time Frame	Cost
Enforce speed limits (in general and specifically in school zones), pedestrians walking safely, drivers watching for pedestrians especially at times when students are going to/ from school.	Police	Ongoing	Low / Medium
Enforce motorist compliance with crossing guard instructions.	Police	Ongoing	Low / Medium
Enforce parking laws.	Police	Ongoing	Low / Medium
Conduct structured crosswalk enforcement campaign.	Police	Ongoing	Low / Medium

Increase law enforcement presence seen in the vicinity of Black and Rogers Elementary Schools.	Police	Ongoing	Low / Medium
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Evaluation			
Action	Responsibility	Time Frame	Cost
Conduct periodic travel mode choice surveys (teacher tallies)	School	Annual	Low
Conduct bikeability audit of walking area	School, Borough, GMTMA	Short Term	Low
Tour the areas with school, township and TMA personnel to identify areas for improvement	School, Borough, GMTMA	Short Term	Low

*Explanation of funding- Greater Mercer TMA is funded through the New Jersey department of Transportation to offer advice and assistance in starting safe Routes to School programs and projects. Greater Mercer TMA can help with walk and bike to school events, walking school bus programs, youth bicycle and pedestrian education, school travel plans, and surveys that provide evaluation and feedback on local programs.

Appendix A: Plan4Safety Crash Details

ID	Location	Year	Cross Street	Severity
484229	WARD ST	2004		Moderate Injury
802384	NJ 33	2005	ACADEMY STREET	Pain
802408	NJ 33	2005	CR 639 - 539 or 633?	Fatal
1105749	NJ 33	2006	ACADEMY STREET	Pain
1105762	NJ 33	2006	SUMMIT STREET	Incapacitating Injury
1405335	NJ 33	2007	WARD STREET	Pain
1405337	PEDDIE CAMPUS PRKING LOT	2007		PDO
1405365	WESTERLEA AVENUE	2007	SPRINGCREST DR	Moderate Injury
1405433	ROUTE 539	2007	WEST WARD STREET	Pain
2231103	ACADEMY STREET	2009	RAILROAD AVE	Pain
2676349	NJ 33	2010	ROUTE 571 / STOCKTON ST	Moderate Injury
2676358	HIGHTSTOWN HS PARKING LOT	2010	LESHIN LANE	Pain
2676364	ROUTE 539	2010	EAST WARD STREET	PDO
3044799	ACADEMY ST	2011	ROGERS AVE	PDO
3121926	NJ HIGHWAY 33	2011	ROGERS AVE	Moderate Injury
3271979	WESTERLEA AVE	2011	SPRINGCREST DR	PDO
3322328	NJ HIGHWAY 33	2012	STOCKTON ST RTE 571	Pain
484229	WARD ST	2004		Moderate Injury
802384	NJ 33	2005	ACADEMY STREET	Pain
802408	NJ 33	2005	CR 639 - 539 or 633?	Fatal
1105749	NJ 33	2006	ACADEMY STREET	Pain
1105762	NJ 33	2006	SUMMIT STREET	Incapacitating Injury
1405335	NJ 33	2007	WARD STREET	Pain
1405337	PEDDIE CAMPUS PRKING LOT	2007		PDO
1405365	WESTERLEA AVENUE	2007	SPRINGCREST DR	Moderate Injury
1405433	ROUTE 539	2007	WEST WARD STREET	Pain

Appendix B: Roundabout Examples



This Trenton roundabout shows a raised splitter island, creating a very protected pedestrian refuge. The sidewalk also support cyclists navigating like pedestrians, note the shared crossing sign.



This Princeton roundabout has lower raised splitter island pedestrian refuges, and sharrows encouraging cyclists to use the middle of the lane, like motorists.