

**Maine Department of Transportation
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
Infrastructure Application**

Date Application Received
(For MaineDOT use only)



SECTION 1: General Information

School Name(s) (required) List all schools (K-8) directly benefiting from the proposed project:

Blue Hill Consolidated School and the Bay School

Contact Person: Mike Astbury,
(Individual familiar with the project and who can answer questions.)

Title: Road Commissioner

Mailing Address: P.O Box 412

City: Blue Hill

State: ME

Zip: 04614

Daytime Phone: 374-2281

E-Mail Address: mikeastbury@verizon.net

Town/City/MPO: (Town or city where the proposed project(s) is located. If the project is located within the boundary of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), please indicate)

City/Town Name: Blue Hill, ME

MPO Name (if applicable): NA

Brief Description of Proposed Improvements (25 words or fewer)*:

Integrative program to improve sidewalks, trails, and road shoulders to connect four schools, recreation facilities, public library and hospital in town center.

*** (Provide a Detailed Description of Proposed Project in Section 3)**

Location of Project: Provide street name(s) and additional project location references. Attach map showing location of the school(s) and their proposed improvements. Indicate proximity of the proposed improvement(s) to each affected school.

Please see attached map. All improvements are within 1 mile of the town center and include shoulder improvement on South Street, from the Bay School west to commercial area (Rite Aid and Tradewinds grocery) and to a proposed "on-demand" light at head of "Parker Point - South Street community trail. Shoulder improvement will be made on both sides of South Street for approximately 400 yards, with the east side of the street connecting from the trail head to the corner of Tenney Hill, where a sidewalk exists down the hill into town. Partial funding for bridge improvement on High Street (town picking up additional costs), alteration at corner of Beech Hill Road and 177 to improve safety (costs shared by town), improved shoulder on Parker Point Road to east end of trail head, and construction of sidewalk on west side of Tenney Hill are also included in this proposal.

Section: 1A Infrastructure Project Cost Estimate

Is this project request for Planning and Preliminary Engineering Funding? Yes No

Design Engineering, Environmental Documentation

Environmental Evaluation (if applicable). 1. \$

Preliminary Design Engineering (if applicable). 2. \$

Right of Way/Land Acquisition (if applicable). 3. \$

Construction

Construction. 4. \$ 183,000

Construction Engineering (if applicable) 5. \$

Subtotal (Add Lines 1 through 5). 6. \$ 183,000

Voluntary Contributions

Note: All voluntary contributions must be documented.

There is no requirement for a match or additional local resources. MaineDOT may consider giving further consideration to applicants that have secured additional funding or resources. However, to protect the ability of disadvantaged communities to compete effectively, equal weight will be given to applications from schools or communities with fewer resources at their disposal.

Cash, Right of Way, or municipal labor Contributions (if applicable) 7. \$ 60,000.

In-kind, Real Property, or other contributions (if applicable) 8. \$ 7,000

Total Voluntary Contributions (Add Lines 7 and 8) 9. \$ 67,000

Total Value of Project (Line 6 + Line 9) 10. \$ 250,000

Funds Requested (Cannot exceed 100% of Line 6) 11. \$ 183,000

Note: Section 3 of this form also requires further details on construction costs. The amount shown for "Construction" (Line 4) on the above estimate should match the total construction costs in Section 3, or an explanation must be given for the discrepancy.

Section 2: Application Signature(s) (required as noted)

An authorized representative of the applying school district and city/town must sign the application. If the school is located within an MPO, an authorized individual from the MPO must also sign the application.

School Official: (Check One)

Signature: *(required)*

Applicant

Endorsement

Name: Fred Cole--(BHCS)/ Judy Robbins--(Bay School)

Title: Principal (BHCS) /Office Administrator (Bay School)

Date: 7/8/06

Phone Number: BHCS--374-2202
Bay School 3742187

E-mail: fcole@bhcs.org;
judyrobbins@bayschool.org

Town Official: (Check One)

Signature: *(required)*

Applicant

Endorsement

Name: Mike Astbury

Title: Road Commissioner

Date: 7/8/06

Phone Number: 374-2281

E-mail: mikeastbury@verizon.net

MPO Official (required, if applicable):

Applicant

Endorsement

Signature:

Name:

Title:

Date:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

NOTE: The following sections of this application request specific project related information. If warranted, pictures, maps, exhibits, diagrams, survey summaries, etc. must be included with the application. If a section does not apply to the proposed SRTS project, or if data are not available, write "NA" beneath the section number.

Section 3: Detailed Description and Construction Costs *(required)*

PLANNING/PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PROJECT DESCRIPTION *(if applicable)*

If the request is for planning, right-of-way and/or preliminary engineering funding please provide further details of the expected project parameters. Attach diagrams, maps and/or correspondence that will help provide a clear description of the proposed scope.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND COST *(if applicable)*

Provide a detailed description of project work items and/or construction costs. (e.g. if the project involves a sidewalk with a culvert at a stream crossing, separate costs for the sidewalk and culvert should be provided.) Provide a clear written description of the precise nature of the proposed improvements. Supplemental descriptions with dimensioned drawings of the proposed improvements and typical cross sections depicting the proposed project will be very helpful in evaluating the application. **Note that all infrastructure improvements must comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).**

In-Kind: Town of Blue Hill: Constructuion costs for shoulder improvements on Beech Hill Road and improvement on corner of Beech Hill Rd. and Union Street (Rt. 177). Work includes walking/bicycle lanes on Beech Hill Rd, excavation of unsuitable material and culverts. 18"-23" base gravel at each road shoulder, related ditch work, 2" pavement. Line painting to delineate lanes (\$60,000). Blue Hill Heritage Trust is making major improvements and provides maintenance on the Partker Point-South Street trail (7,000). Total In-kind: 67,000

Budget Narrative:

1. Hight Street sidewalk from Union Street along the south side to Pleasant Street. Re-build Mill Brook foot bridge, including steel girders and wooden planking for bridge. Work includes excavation, gravel base, granite curbing and 4.5' paved width. Cost: 65,000.

2. South Street improvement to include walking/bike lanes from Rt. 15 intersection along both sides of South Street (Rt. 172) to trail head and on the west side up to the Bay School. Will include "on-demand" cross light. Costs include excavation, gravel base, 4.5' paved width, cross walk painting, signage and light. Cost 52,000.

3. Sidewalk on Tenny Hill from Rt. 15 (High Street) intersection to north side of Beech Hill intersection. Costs include asphalt curb removal, excavation, gravel base, asphalt curb installation, asphalt walk 4.5' width. Cost: 66,000.

Total cost for project is \$183,000.

Section 4: Identification of Current and Proposed Walking and Bicycling Routes to School

Identify current and potential walking and bicycling routes to school by providing a map(s) of the area showing all existing and proposed routes. The map(s) should include all schools affected by the proposed SRTS project.

Answer YES or NO to the following information for each school affected by the proposed improvement:

(Attach additional copies of this sheet for each school)

	YES	NO
Does your project involve the improvement to an existing walking route?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your project involve the improvement of an existing bicycling route?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your project involve the creation of a new walking route?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your project involve the creation of a new bicycling route?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 5: Identification and Demonstration of Needs

Describe the essential problem. Include background information about the risks that K-8th grade school children are exposed to because of unsafe routes to the school(s) in the proposed project area. How have unsafe routes been identified as a local problem by organizations and officials (e.g., council or board resolution, agency's plan, etc.)?

Problems: Poor pedestrian-bicycle connectivity; lack of shoulders along roadways, dangerous or non-existent crosswalks, low numbers of school-age students currently walking and biking to and from school due to hazardous byways.

Local organizations, including Healthy Peninsula (Local HMP), Hancock County Planning Commission, town selectmen, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, and Peninsula Chamber of Commerce have all identified poor walking routes along roadsides, lack of community "connecting" trails, and un-plowed sidewalks as deterrants to walking and biking.

Given that unsafe routes may exist in multiple locations, explain why the selected routes/sites have been targeted for improvements. You may choose to provide photographs as attachments to illustrate the problem or hazard: These improvements have been selected for several reasons: 1.) We are building on current or existing community assets--The "Parker Point-South Street" trail was constructed 3 years ago and some students are already using it--improved safety components will result in further use. The town is investing in improvements on Beeh Hill road, thereby creating a potential "loop" around the village center. Similarly, the sidewalk and bridge construction on High Street creates improvement for walkers coming down from Route 15 and nearby residents. The Blue Hill Heritage Trust is making improvements on the top end of the Parker Point - South Street Trail. 2.) Proximity to the highest number of students (these are the two largest elementary schools on the Peninsula) and local resources lend support to this project. The fact that we "encircle" two elementary and two high schools provides us with the greatest numbers of potential students to use the improved routes. The Blue Hill Public Library (which gets high use among students) is located in the center of the village. The tennis courts, town playground, and town recreation fields are within walking distance of town center along proposed improved routes. Finally, this route has potential for increasing use by area residents, business community and hospital employees. Without these improvements the town will continue to be only partially walkable. Few connections exist between current safe sections of sidewalks and roadways.

Check the categories that most closely reflect the primary need(s) your project is targeting:

- Increasing connectivity.
- Separating children from motor vehicles.
- Improving children's ability to cross streets.
- Improving pedestrian pathways.
- Improving bicycle pathways.
- Improving visibility of motorists and children (by restricting obstacles, improving sight lines, etc.).
- Promoting safe driving by motorists.
- Other (please describe): **Community and school education about Safe Routes!**

Section 6: Potential for Proposed Improvement to Correct or Improve the Problem

Describe how the proposed infrastructure SRTS project will address the identified need and safety hazards identified in Section 5. Use the following guidelines to provide a detailed description:

How does the proposed project correct or improve the pedestrian/bicycle traffic safety at or near the project site? Builds sidewalks; installs "on-demand" crossing signal; widens road shoulders, creates bridge improvement to ensure safe walking, alters dangerous corner to improve safety, and provides community and school education.

Describe why the proposed improvement is the best, most cost effective solution to the problem. This is a coordinated project that builds on recent road improvements in town. The town of Blue Hill will share costs; and Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Hancock County Planning Commission and Healthy Peninsula will provide support. Costs to create curbing and drainage would be higher, so we opted for shoulder expansion and improvements.

Describe other options or alternatives that were considered and why they were rejected. We considered improving Green's Hill (Rt. 172) from Ellsworth and from a low-income housing project, but that project's costs and magnitude (including significant road expansion), and the relatively few students who lived on the road, made that consideration unrealistic. We also considered trail improvements along Mill stream inland from Rt. 177, but did not have private landowner permission and no time to secure same.

If applicable, describe how the proposed solution improves traffic safety for secondary users (other than grades K-8) of the facility or system. This project will benefit to village residents and local business owners as it connects major walkways within Blue Hill village: recreation facilities, the public library, four schools, the hospital and outpatient clinics, an area church that sponsors Meals for ME and a nursery school program, and the town park. During the summer many summer residents and visitors frequent the village center. The Peninsula Chamber, several galleries and seasonal restaurants are open daily, providing employment for high school and college students as well.

Describe and define the scope of the improvements, provide pictures, diagrams, exhibits, or maps as attachments. See attached map and photos.

Section 7: Potential for Encouraging Increased Walking and Bicycling Among Students

Answer the following questions for each school (Grade K-8th only) affected by the proposed improvement:
Note: Estimations are appropriate, however pre-assessment and post construction assessment will be required if the project is awarded.

School Name: 1.) Blue Hill Consolidated School (BHCS)	2.) The Bay School
Student Population: 1.) BHCS: 205	2.) Bay School: 97
Grades of students at the school: 1.) BHCS: K-8	2.) Bay School: K-8
Number of students living within 2 miles of school: 1.)BHCS: 40/ Bay School: 20	1 mile: 1.)BHCS: 20

2.) Bay School: 12 ½ mile 1.) BHCS: 10 2.) Bay School: 7

Number of students who typically walk to school now: BHCS: 5/Bay School: 12 Number of students expected
after project: BHCS: 20-25/Bay School: 22

Number of students who typically bike to school now: BHCS: 0/Bay School: 2 Number of students expected
after project: BHCS: 6/Bay School: 5

Number of students typically driven to school now: BHCS: 30/Bay School: 83 Number of students expected
after project: BHCS: 20/Bay School: 71

Number of students who take a bus to school: BHCS: 165/Bay School: 0 Number of students expected
after project: BHCS: 145/Bay School: 0

If the following questions do not apply to your proposed project or program, check the box marked N/A.

	YES	NO	N/A
Will the improvements create shorter or more direct walking routes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the improvements create shorter or more direct bicycling routes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the improvements improve connectivity of these routes? (If Yes, describe)			
Especially for Bay School Students, the trail and improved shoulders on South Street give them two safe alternatives to walk from school to town center. Finishing the "loop" of Tenny Hill, Beech Hill Road and Union Street gives many children easy access to a 1/2 mile or less walk from town center to either of the schools.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will this project or activity enhance the comfort of children walking to school?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the improvement(s) make children more comfortable about bicycling to school?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is this project part of a larger plan to improve bicycling and walking to school? (If Yes, describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe the project will reduce motor vehicle congestion in the vicinity of the school? (If Yes, describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your community have a pedestrian plan or bicycle plan? (Cite the plan title and date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposed improvement compatible with and supported by the bicycle or pedestrian plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will the activities or improvements enable or encourage walking along the route(s) for other than school trips?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the projects or activities encourage more bicycling along the route(s) for other than school trips?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe in detail (including distances) the neighborhoods/villages/subdivisions (how close to school and project, how many streets and housing units) that will benefit? This entire project radiates within 1/2 mile of the village center (1mile in diameter across in any direction). It includes the village of Blue Hill, area businesses (Main Street--Rt. 172), four schools (2 K-8), the local hospital and outpatient clinic, Blue Hill Public Library, recreation facilities, the Town Park, the tennis courts, Town Hall, and the commercial zone just west of town. It includes parts of five streets (Tenney Hill (Rt 172), Beech Hill, Union Street--(Rt. 177), High Street, and South Street), and one community trail (Parker Point-South Street Trail).			

Describe the benefits the proposed improvements will provide to K-8th grade students at this school. Attach any pictures, diagrams, exhibits, or maps that will help describe how the project will encourage students to walk or bicycle. Beyond what is described above, the educational component, which both schools have agreed to co-sponsor with Healthy Peninsula and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, will support parents, teachers and children to feel and be safe as they ride or walk to and from school. Benefits with the cross-light on South Street give children a safe crossing, access to safe routes along road ways, a new sidewalk up Tenny Hill, and re-construction at the intersection of Rt 177 and Beech Hill will encourage more students to walk or bike to school. Bay School teachers will use the improved walkways to take students downtown to the library or other educational "opportunities".

Describe your community's efforts at creating improved walking conditions for pedestrians, including past or planned investments in sidewalks, zoning ordinances, etc. The construction of the Parker Point-South Street trail began 3 years ago as a collaboration among interested citizens and Bay School & Liberty School students, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Healthy Peninsula and town selectmen. Since then, the Trust is now making improvements at the top of the trail. Efforts to connect that trail with the Town Park failed when the local "connecting" property owner declined permission for a right of way. The Town has just invested in improvements on Beech Hill Rd, adding a shoulder to make the former walkable/bikeable. Their plan was to undertake the project on High Street including foot bridge improvement, but funding ran out. The town also recently purchased a sidewalk plow to plow in-town sidewalks. Healthy Peninsula recently published a Trail Guide of 21 trails (also posted on HealthyMaineWalks website) that includes walking routes in-town Blue Hill. In 2004, the DOT made major improvements on RT. 15, adding a bikeway. Healthy Peninsula worked with HCPC and the DOT to get signage posted along that route.

Describe your community's school policies regarding walking and biking to school. The Bay School has a policy that students cannot leave campus without parent's permission. Several students do have permission to walk down to the library after school, but few walk to school. As a private institution, no busing is provided and parents are responsible for transportation. Blue Hill Consolidated School has an informal policy that parents are to inform them of pick up and drop off or special arrangements for release from school.

Section 8: Additional Support for the Proposed Project by the Community and Interested Parties

Provide information on the consultation and support for the project by the community. Identify organizations that pledged their support of the project and the roles they plan to play in project implementation. Possible project partners may include school officials, local traffic engineers, municipal officials, law enforcement agencies, public health agencies or organizations, school-based associations, local elected officials, and other not for profit community groups. Include as attachments letters of support addressed to the applicant. There is wide support for this project. Healthy Peninsula, HCPC and Town of Blue Hill Selectmen and road commissioner are key partners in planning and writing this proposal. Blue Hill Heritage Trust and the local schools provide clear support and the community at large has been asking for improvements to create a more walkable/bikeable community.

Maintenance/Ownership/Easement--Please explain both the winter and long-term maintenance plan and current and future ownership of the property. Include any proof of ownership and/or easement documentation. The town agrees to plow sidewalks during winter and remove sand from all surfaces each Spring. The town also maintains surface paving as needed on town-owned roads. The town maintains a sidewalk and maintenance and improvement budget yearly. DOT has responsibility to plow roadways. Blue Hill Heritage Trust maintains the community trail.

Education/Outreach Program—Describe existing and/or proposed education/outreach efforts. (If the project is selected for funding, the affected school(s)/communities will be required to participate in an education and outreach program in conjunction with the MaineDOT Statewide Safe Routes to School Program.) Blue Hill Consolidated School (BHCS) has participated in Bike Safety Training. Both the Bay School and BHCS agree to co-sponsor additional training and community awareness campaign regarding "Safe Routes". We expect to engage the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and Safe Routes folks to help with training.

Is the municipality where the project is located certified to locally administer the project? No, but HCPC , DOT coordiantor, Jim Fisher is. Is the municipality willing to become LPA Certified? yes- -Mike Astbury. A municipal/state agreement with the Maine Department of Transportation is required for the development, design, and construction of the project in accordance with Federal, State, and Local requirements.

Note: Information on Locally Administered Project Requirements can be found at <http://www.state.me.us/mdot/locally-administrated-projects/consultant-brochure.php>

Project Partners: (Provide the agency responsible and contact information for each of the project components: engineering, education and enforcement, as applicable.)		
Engineering/Infrastructure:		
Agency: Town of Blue Hill		
Name: Mike Astbury		
Title: Road Commissioner		
Date: 7/8/06	Phone Number: 374-5049	E-mail: mikeastbury@verizon.net
Education/Encouragement Coordinator Contact:		
The education/encouragement coordinator contact will identify people who will serve as coordinators of the local effort in coordination with the MaineDOT Statewide Safe Routes to School Education and Outreach Program.		
Agency:		
Name: Barbara Peppey		
Title: Director, Healthy Peninsula		
Date: 7/8/06	Phone Number: 374-3257	E-mail: bpeppey@healthypeninsula.org
Law Enforcement Contact:		
Agency: Town of Blue Hill		
Name: Scott Kane		
Title: Local Sherriff		
Date: 7/8/06	Phone Number:374-2281	E-mail:

Send all application information as follows: **Applications must be received no later than August 11th 2006.** If the application is not received at MaineDOT by August 11th, it will not be accepted. Via email to saferoutes.mainedot@maine.gov. Seven complete hardcopy application packages (including all attachments and

all required documents) must be submitted. An electronic copy must also be emailed and provided on a cd. Hardcopy information and digital format to be mailed to:

**Paul Niehoff
MaineDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator
MaineDOT Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016**