

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR
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RELEASE**

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**Contact: Juliet Walker
Planning Department**

**603-610-7296
FAX 427-1593**

***Portsmouth to Begin Evaluating Middle St / Lafayette Rd Corridor for
Addition of Bike Lanes***
Public information gathering meeting scheduled for November 19th

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The City has embarked on a project to make travel along a critical section of Route 1 safer and more appealing for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages. This project was initially identified in the City’s Safe Routes to School Action Plan in 2010 and was also highlighted as a high priority project in the City’s recently completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. According to Juliet Walker, the City’s Transportation Planner, “Improving conditions so that this is a comfortable and safe option for all ages will not only support Safe Routes to School objectives, but will also support the City’s policies to encourage people throughout the community to select bicycling and walking more often as their chosen modes of transportation. In addition to connecting neighborhoods to the Middle School and St. Patrick School, students in grades K through 8 and their families will likely use all or portions of this route to travel to the public library, athletic facilities at the High School and Leary Field, and destinations along this corridor and within the downtown.”

The project area extends approximately 1 mile along Lafayette Road and Middle Street from Andrew Jarvis Drive at Portsmouth High School to the intersection with Congress, Islington, and Maplewood Streets in the downtown. The project, which received funding from the NHDOT Safe Routes to School Program, will evaluate options for creating an on-road bike route within the existing public right-of-way. This project will also assess pedestrian crossings at

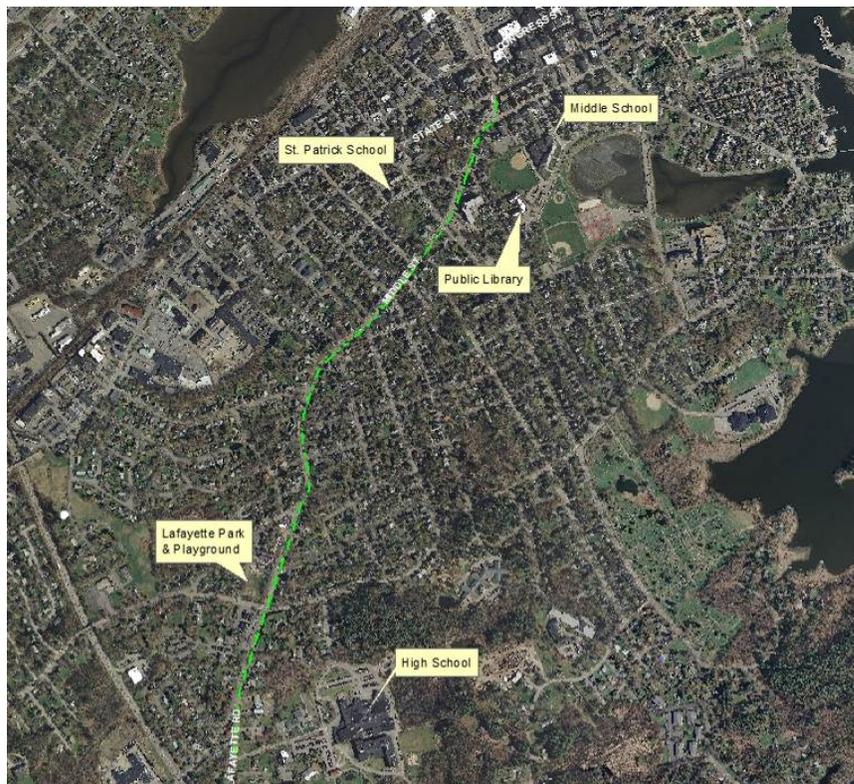
the intersections along this section of Route 1 to determine where improvements might be necessary to improve safety and accessibility.

The City has contracted with a consultant team led by engineering firm of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. to develop the design and engineering plans for this project. The team's first task is to meet with the public to explain the project and to hear input from abutters and existing and potential users of this corridor. The public meeting is scheduled for November 19th at 7pm at the Portsmouth Middle School.

Based on the public input received and additional analysis of traffic patterns and physical conditions of the corridor, the team will next develop design alternatives for this corridor. A second public meeting will be scheduled for later this winter to present the alternatives considered and gather additional public input.

For more information please contact Juliet Walker, Transportation Planner, City of Portsmouth Planning Department at (603) 610-7296 or by email:

jthwalker@cityofportsmouth.com.



Project Area for Route 1 Bike Lanes Project



Middle Street at Aldrich Road