DALLIN ELEMENTARY AREA | SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM PROPOSED ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PLAN

PROJECT FAQ

What is Safe Routes to School, and what does it have to do with Dallin?

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an international program that works to increase safe biking and walking among elementary and middle school students. The Department of Transportation (DOT) runs statewide SRTS programming that provides technical assistance and educational resources. The MassDOT SRTS program conducted an arrival dismissal audit for the Dallin Elementary at the request of staff and parents. Recommendations include the school taking additional measures to improve arrival and dismissal safety, including adjusting the traffic flow within the school zone to facilitate safety for all users.

What changes are being proposed?

To improve school zone safety, proposed changes include a) changing George Street to a one-way abutting the school to improve pedestrian safety at the Florence/George Street intersection; b) creating a school street on Florence Street directly in front of the school to make for a safer school bus zone during posted arrival and dismissal times by closing this part of the street to general traffic; and c) separating family vehicles from buses and pedestrians by designating a drop-off and pick-up area.

Why is this being proposed and how will the changes improve safety?

Student safety is the primary concern for Dallin's 425 students. Dedicating the front of the school for buses only during arrival and dismissal will make the journey to and from school safer for walking and biking students, families, staff, and neighbors. Changing traffic flow on George Street will reduce conflicts and make it easier for crossing guards to manage traffic. Relocating parking will reduce vehicle congestion in the school zone and provide a more orderly arrival/dismissal process.

How can I learn more about this plan?

A virtual community forum led by Dallin School staff will take place on August 26 from 7-8pm. Join the meeting at <u>tinyurl.com/DallinSchool</u>

What is the project timeline?

Any proposed traffic and parking changes must be approved by the Arlington Select Board. The Transportation Advisory Committee plans to recommend these changes as a pilot project when the Board meets in September. If approved, the goal is to monitor the changes and how well they are working during the fall. If the pilot is successful the TAC and Dallin School will seek to make the changes permanent.

Who can I contact for more information?

To learn more about this project, contact:

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VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM, 8/26 @ 7PM https://tinyurl.com/dallinschool



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