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# Public Letterbox

September 20, 1965  
P.T.A. Board Members  
William Gripe School

Dear Sirs:

As the school year approaches, many parents begin to discuss the problem we all face regarding the safety of our children as they travel to and from school along Shiawassee Road. As the result of these "sidewalk talks," we have found many mothers who are willing to support, with both time and money, any measure which would insure their children's safety.

We have two suggestions we would like to propose to the P.T.A. and the Forest Park Homeowners Association. First, we would like to reopen the issue of a sidewalk along Shiawassee Road. We have reason to believe that the homeowners along the north side of Shiawassee may be willing to allow the use of their property for a sidewalk. This sidewalk would serve the dual purposes of protecting the Shiawassee homeowners property from the damages of the school children as well as increasing actual property value.

As a footnote to the sidewalk issue we'd like to propose the use of the south side of Shiawassee if it were more readily available. We could then initiate a system of safety crossings from the subdivision and back across Shiawassee at the school entrance. This would be proposed to insure our children with some margin of safety off the shoulder of the road only if the north side proved impossible to obtain.

**THE PARENTS** with whom we spoke were all willing to contribute the necessary \$10 per family in order to raise the necessary \$3,000. This financial support might have to be supplemented by additional funds, since there are many families who have no children of elementary school age. To supply this deficit we propose P.T.A. bake sales, ten club sponsored car washes, paper and clothing drives, etc.

If the sidewalk plans prove unworkable, we'd like to offer plan has the advantage of not an alternate suggestion. This requiring much money. We'd like to propose that Shiawassee be closed from Middlebelt to Inkster Road the three times during the day when the children travel to and from school.

**"TO DO THIS** we could use portable "road closed" signs, as they do at schools in Detroit. We feel that since there are alternate routes available, such as from Nine Mile to the school yard, this would not impose hardships on parents going to the school area, or local residents in transit who would find Nine Mile Road easily available. The parents of school children would be responsible for the placement and removal of the signs. As a group, we feel that if the children must walk a mile to school during icy and inclement weather, we would feel that their safety would be assured if, with no sidewalk available, and the necessity to walk along the shoulder their could be assured safety from skidding cars only if the roads were closed. Furthermore, traffic hazards created from parents picking up children would be virtually eliminated. We hope the joint efforts of the P.T.A. and Forest Park Homeowners Association can improve and improve our suggestions to create a workable solution to our problem with the support of the legal and school authorities concerned.

Sincerely Yours,  
Mrs. T. Bishop  
Mrs. J. K. Andersen  
Mrs. J. Neau  
Mrs. R. Oberdorf  
Mrs. Kenneth G. Hall  
Mrs. Gordon Woosley  
Mrs. N. Firestone  
Mrs. D. Wittenberg

P.S.: For further information contact either Mrs. Firestone, GR. 4-7548, or Mrs. Wittenberg GR. 6-0777.

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