

## Foxborough Regional Charter School

### Facilities Expansion Project - Frequently Asked Questions

**\*\*\*Revised July 30th, 2008\*\*\***

***When is construction expected to begin now due to the delay?***

Pre-construction work will begin in the Spring of 2009 and construction is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2009.

***How will the delay of the expansion project affect Regional Transportation Services?***

There will be NO affect on Regional Transportation Services. If you have registered for the regional program, thank you, there is nothing further you need to do. This service will be in place for the first day of school 2008.

***Are the bus stops and times for the Regional routes available yet?***

No. The new transportation provider will be routing and scheduling the registered families. We will post the information on the school's website immediately, once available. We anticipate this information to be available in late August.

***How will the delay of the expansion project affect the Shuttle Transportation Services?***

If you have registered for the no-fee based shuttle bus program, please know that this phase of the transportation program will **NOT** begin in September as previously planned. Shuttle buses will be implemented in conjunction with the start of construction later in the 2008-2009 school year.

***With the construction delay and the postponement of the Shuttles, will there be carpool assignments as in years past?***

Yes. If you carpool with other families, please complete the carpool registration form if you have not already done so. Morning drop off and afternoon dismissal will continue as has been the case in the past.

***What if my child is a current Attleboro or Base bus rider, do I need to fill out the F.R.C.S. forms sent home?***

Yes. Forms are due by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

***What if my child is a new student, do I need to register for Transportation Services?***

Yes. If you would like your child transported to school from your home town please complete the Registration form and return it to the school by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. If you plan to carpool with another family, please complete the carpool registration form and return it to the school. Carpool assignments will be made in September.

***Will there be early drop off and Late Parent Pick up?***

Yes, there will be Early drop off beginning at 7 AM available for those students participating in before school programs and morning extended day and a 'Late Parent' Pick up room will be available until the implementation of the Shuttle bus program, additionally Extended Day Care is available as in years past.

**\*\*\*Revised June 16th, 2008\*\*\***

***When will construction begin?***

Pre-construction work will begin in July/August and construction is anticipated to begin August/September 2008.

***Will students be relocated offsite during construction?***

The most favorable option for continuity of programming for all students will be to remain on campus during the construction project and we continue to pursue this option. Regardless of the final plan, we will be losing access to the current sixth grade building so we have developed a plan to address this. Under this plan we could house the sixth grade students and science labs in alternate locations within the existing main and modular buildings.

***How will the construction project impact the academic program?***

Please be assured that the integrity of our academic program will remain a priority. We expect to not only maintain our current programming but to continue to build, grow and meet the needs of all students.

***What areas of the campus will be affected?***

The primary impact of the construction project will be on the main parking lot area outside of door A near the front office. In order to ensure safety for our school community, the entire construction area will be fenced off, including all of the available parking spots in the main lot. This means that we will no longer have use of this area. While we will still have access to the loop around the buildings, we will need to reserve primary access to the campus for staff, student drivers and construction personnel only.

***How will we accommodate parking for staff, student drivers and construction personnel during construction?***

The estimated total parking needs of staff, student drivers and construction workers is 225 spaces. During construction, we will have 80 available parking spots on campus and anticipate having access to 145 additional spaces next door at Invensys.

***How will the construction project impact drop off and pick up?***

Because access to the campus will be so limited, we will need to redesign our drop off and pick up procedures. Passenger cars will no longer be allowed to drop off or pick up students at the school.

***What is the plan to accommodate drop off and pick up during construction?***

Students will be transported to school grounds in the following ways: (1) Foxborough bus service, (2) Regional bus service, or (3) Shuttle bus service from local off-site points.

***What does this mean for current bus students?***

Bus students will continue their current routine. Foxborough, BASE and Attleboro buses will have the same offsite pick up/drop off locations and will drop off/pick up students directly at the school.

***Will there be additional regional bus service?***

We have hired a new project specialist to coordinate the expansion of regional bus service to all towns. The plan is to offer bus service to as many families as possible. The regional bus service will operate similarly to the existing BASE and Attleboro private bus programs, where there are designated drop off / pick up locations strategically chosen throughout the sending districts. We strongly encourage these families to take advantage of the expanded bus service. Buses will drop students off directly at the school.

***Will there be a fee for the regional bus service?***

Because the federal grant will supplement the cost of the bus service, the fees for families will run only \$80 - \$100 per month, comparably less than the current cost of existing regional transportation programs. Consistent with the policies and practices of FRCS, we will work with families in cases of financial hardship.

***How will the new regional bus service impact the current private parent buses?***

Ridership and schedules will remain the same and we anticipate fees to be reduced. The fee schedule will be consistent with the additional regional buses in our transportation program.

***How will this new plan impact families who carpool?***

We encourage families to continue to form carpools. Carpool students will be dropped off at a designated shuttle site where students will be transported to the Central Street location by bus. The designated shuttle sites will be located in Foxborough and will have easy highway access, adequate parking and sufficient entry/exit ways. Upon dismissal, students will be transported back to the shuttle site by bus, and all carpool pick up will take place at the off-site shuttle location.

***How will this new plan impact families who drive individually?***

Individual drivers will drop off students at a designated shuttle site where students will be transported to the Central Street location by bus. The designated shuttle sites will be located in Foxborough and will have easy highway access, adequate parking and sufficient entry/exit ways.

***What if my child is a “walker”?***

A “walker” is defined as a child whose primary residence is in Foxborough AND is less than 1 mile away from the school. These students will be permitted to walk onto the school campus. **ALL other students will be required to arrive at the school by shuttle or regional bus. In conjunction with the local police department we will strictly enforce this policy to ensure the safety of ALL students.**

***How will an offsite shuttle location work?***

Students who participate in a carpool or who are driven to school individually by their parents will be dropped at a designated shuttle site instead of at the Central Street location. From the shuttle site, students will be transported to the school by bus. Upon dismissal, all carpool and individual students will be transported by bus, from the school to the shuttle pick up site.

***Will there be a fee for the offsite shuttle service?***

There will be no fee for this shuttle service.

***Will the shuttle bus program include monitors?***

Yes.

***How long will the ride be from the shuttle site to the school campus?***

Given the convenient, nearby locations, we anticipate the ride from the school to the shuttle site to be less than a 5 minute drive.

***What if I miss the last shuttle bus at 7:30am?***

Due to construction equipment/supply arrival and delivery vehicle traffic, we will be unable to allow passenger transport access on site before 8:30am. All students arriving at the school after the homeroom bell sounds will be officially marked tardy. However, as no personal vehicles will be admitted onsite before 8:30am, the school will provide **LATE** shuttle bus service until 8:15am. The **LATE** shuttle bus service will be available for student(s) as follows: **7:45am, 8:00am and 8:15am**. The last shuttle commute of the morning will be scheduled at 8:15am. All students arriving after that time must be driven directly to the school.

**REMINDER:** Students arriving **AFTER** 7:40am will be marked as an unexcused tardy. The information provided below is the Student Attendance Policy in the school’s student handbook:

**Student Attendance Policy**

Foxborough Regional Charter School believes that regular and punctual attendance is essential for success in school activities. Absence from a class for any reason is academically detrimental to students. Foxborough Regional Charter School firmly believes that the development of desired habits of punctuality and satisfactory attendance is a shared responsibility of the school, the parents, and most importantly, the students. The successful progress of students depends on prompt and regular attendance. In order to achieve our shared goals, the school has developed the following procedures:

- Students are expected to attend school regularly, on time, ready to learn, with appropriate instructional materials, and completed assignments.
- Parents or legal guardians shall be responsible for insuring that each child within the compulsory ages as defined by policy and law shall attend school regularly.

- Each school (lower and upper) shall keep accurate attendance records. Attendance lists shall be produced daily and shall include the names of students who are absent or **tardy**. Such list shall also include the names of students who have an early dismissal for health or other legal or excused reasons.

### **School and Class Absences**

Students who are absent from school 20 or more days in the school year without authorization or approval will not be promoted to the next grade, or in the case of seniors, will not graduate from Foxborough Regional Charter School. Students who are not in school for a minimum of four class periods will be considered absent for the day. Students who are absent from a class 7 or more days in a term or 20 or more days in the school year without authorization or approval will be denied credit for that course. Missing more than 15 minutes from a class without approval from administration, guidance, or nursing will be considered an unexcused absence for that class.

### **Truancy/Class Cuts**

Truancy is an unexcused absence. Truancy is a violation of the compulsory attendance law and may be referred to local authorities such as the local police department, truancy officers or the Department of Social Services. The consequence for truancy is seven hours of detention for each full day of truancy. Such detention shall be served in (2) Saturday morning sessions or at an alternative time when school is not in session. Students not present in class and not known to be absent for the day, will be considered truant from class. Class or homework missed during this time may not be made up. Students will receive a zero (0) for class work missed due to cutting class. Class cuts are considered unexcused absences and will be addressed accordingly. In addition, students who cut class will receive a two-hour administrative detention for the first offense. Additional offenses will be addressed as stated within the school's Disciplinary Guidelines.

### ***What will happen in the event of inclement weather or unforeseen delays on the highway?***

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen delays on the highway, parents will be notified through the AlertNow system of extended time schedules for the shuttle bus service. Please take care to provide clear and accurate contact phone numbers on all forms.

### ***What will happen in the event of early dismissal?***

In the event of an early dismissal, the school will use the AlertNow system to notify parents.

### ***What if I am running late and do not make it to the shuttle site on time?***

Students who do not have parent/guardian (or authorized pick up arrangements) representation at the shuttle site will be returned to the school and registered in our Extended Day Program.

### ***How long will students ride on the regional buses?***

We are sensitive to the length of your child's school day and are working with the bus companies to minimize the length of the ride for possible bus routes. We will continue to provide you with further information as we continue through the planning process and more concrete answers are available.

### ***Will there be a staggered drop off and pick up to accommodate the volume of traffic?***

School start and end times will not be affected by this new system. Shuttle services will start as early as 7:00am. The last afternoon drop off at a shuttle location is anticipated to be no later than 3:20. Shuttle sites will be located close to highway access.

### ***How will this impact the Late Parent Pick up Room?***

There will no longer be a "Late Parent Pick up Room". All students will (1) board a regional bus, (2) board a shuttle bus, or (3) check in to our Extended Day program.

### ***What if I MUST drop my child off after the start of the school day or attend a meeting on campus during school hours?***

Limited visitor parking will be available for onsite meetings and for unavoidable tardy purposes. However, we encourage you to reserve this right for real emergencies. Please help support this program by scheduling doctor and other personal appointments for your children at times that do not interfere with the school day.

### ***What if I MUST dismiss my child BEFORE regular dismissal?***

We will be unable to dismiss students from the front office after 2:00pm. We will not be able to accommodate any requests after this time.

***How will the limited access to the school impact pick up for extra-curricular activities, such as Extended Day, Charter Clubs, tutoring, enrichment and detention?***

Students who participate in after school activities that end AFTER 4:00pm may be picked up at the Central Street Campus. Designated spaces will be available for this purpose.

***Will I be able to ride the bus with my child on the first day of school?***

No. However, the school is planning a dry run at the end of the summer so that children and parents can ride the bus, walk to their classroom, meet the teachers and return back to the shuttle site by bus.

***How will I continue to stay updated on progress?***

As we enter into this exciting time in the school's history, we will continue to share information with our parent community through various channels. Throughout the summer we will keep our lines of communication open regularly, through direct mail, email and by using our AlertNow system to send voice messages to your phone. **Also, please visit our website regularly for news!**

***Will it be less expensive for my child(ren) to ride the bus rather than drive them myself?***

YES! AAA's 2008 "Your Driving Costs" study shows the cost of driving a passenger vehicle has increased 1.9 cents per mile in the last year — now averaging 54.1 cents per mile. The report includes such factors as fuel, maintenance, tires, insurance, license/registration/taxes, depreciation and finance. The study also takes into account the number of miles driven in an average year. This compares with last year's \$7,823 estimate, or 52.2 cents per mile. "While the cost of some driving expenses declined since the start of 2007, higher gasoline prices have more than offset these savings and pushed the overall cost of vehicle ownership and operation higher this year," said John Nielsen, Director of AAA's Approved Auto Repair network.

**For your convenience, we have calculated a "true cost" average of your current monthly expense to drive your child/children to school. Based on a 180 day school year with an average of 18 school days per month your current cost is:**

<b>How many miles away from the school do you live?</b>	<b>What you are currently paying to drive one way per month</b>	<b>What you are currently paying to drive round trip per month</b>
5	\$97.38	\$194.76
10	\$194.76	\$389.52
15	\$292.14	\$584.28

# Foxborough Regional Charter School

## Student Transportation / Traffic Comparison

Our goals are first and foremost, ensuring student safety and minimizing the disruption of our academic program while we facilitate construction. We will continue with our current forms of transportation, including individual and carpool drop off / pick up and bus service.

Shuttle sites will be located in convenient locations with adequate parking, sufficient entry/exit ways and close highway proximity.

Transportation	Now	08-09
Individuals	<p>Drop off at the school between 7:00am and 7:40am</p> <p>Pick up at the school after 3:05pm</p>	<p>Drop off at a designated shuttle site between 7:00am and 7:30am</p> <p>Pick up at a designated shuttle site between 2:50pm and 3:20pm</p>
Carpools	<p>Drop off at the school between 7:00am and 7:40am</p> <p>Pick up at the school at 2:45pm</p>	<p>Drop off at the designated shuttle site between 7:00am and 7:30am</p> <p>Pick up at the designated shuttle site between 2:50pm and 3:20pm</p>
Walkers	<p>Walk on to campus between 7:00am and 7:40am</p>	<p>A "walker" is defined as a child whose primary residence is in Foxborough AND is less than 1 mile away from the school. These students will continue to be permitted to walk onto the school campus. <b>ALL other students will be required to arrive at the school by shuttle or regional bus. In conjunction with the local police department we will strictly enforce this policy <u>to ensure the safety of ALL students.</u></b></p>
Bus	<p>Foxborough buses follow Town of Foxborough bus schedule</p> <p>BASE bus has 7 stops and arrives at the school by 7:30am</p> <p>Attleboro bus has 5 / 6 stops and arrives at the school by 7:30am</p>	<p>No Change</p> <p>No Change</p> <p>No Change</p> <p>Additional regional buses will pick up students in their hometowns at designated stops and will transport students to the school by 7:40am.</p>