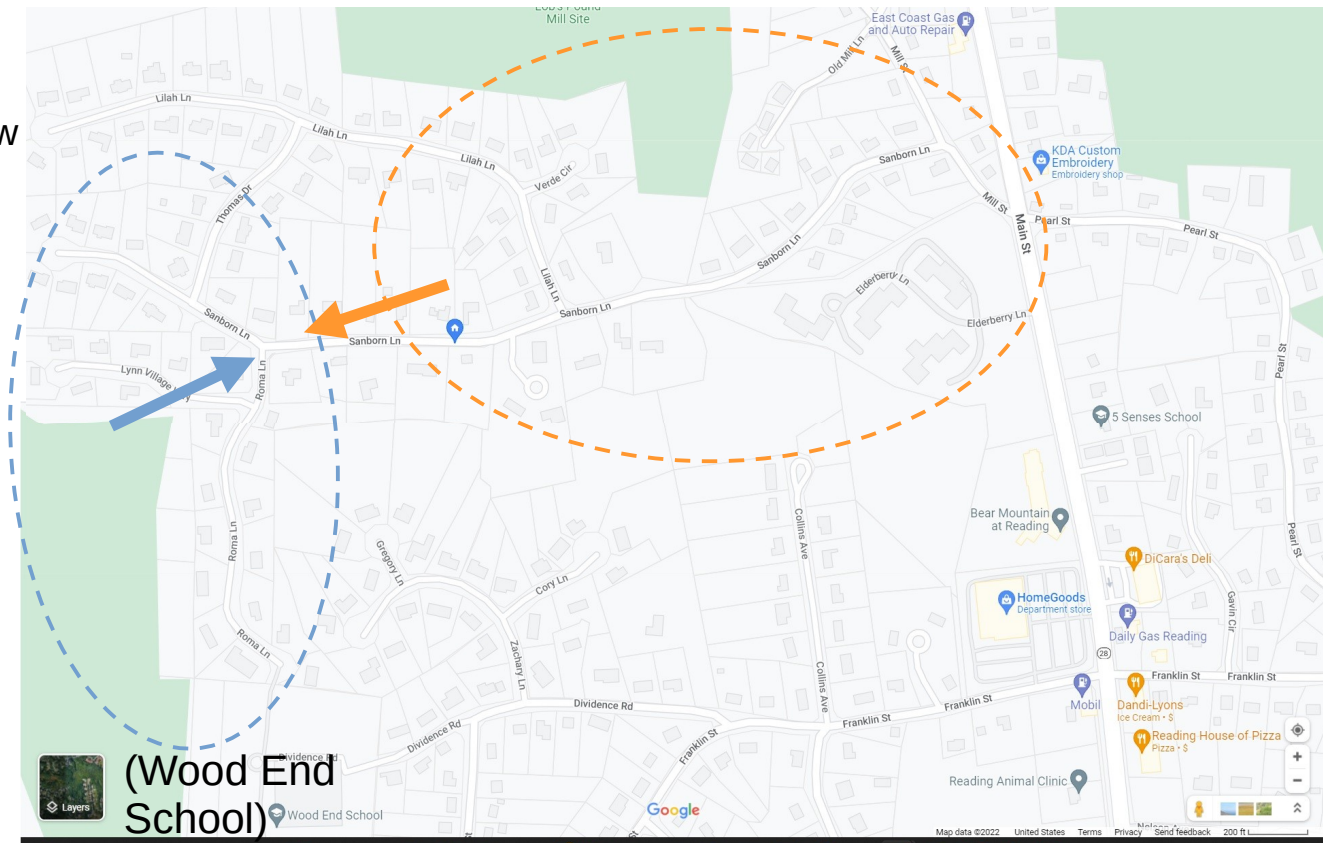


# Safety of Children Walking to Wood End School

One lane section of road, shared by school children, pedestrians & vehicles.  
(for reference, at North edge of Reading, East of Main Street.)

Drivers from 40 houses drive East, through narrow section, conflicting with pedestrians, including children, dog walkers, those exercising by walking around the block.

From: Roma Lane, Lynn Village, Thomas, Sanborn (west)



Children from 70 houses walk, or are driven, West, through narrow section, sharing one lane with cars.

From: Lilah Lane, Mill Street, Old Mill Lane, Mariano, Sanborn (east)

# Safety of Children Walking to Wood End School

How?

Private dirt road, at last house the road narrowed to ONE LANE driveway.  
After 1988, this “driveway” was paved, 40 houses & school built beyond it to the west.  
“Driveway” was never widened, never added sidewalks, never became public way.  
New residents are told the town cannot improve the road unless residents vote to pay  
Many Tens of Thousands of Dollars, each, for road to be accepted as a public way,



Inherently Dangerous:

When pavement was new and smooth,  
Fast drivers scared pedestrians, leading to police  
calls, animosity between neighbors, harassment,  
vandalism, threats and even assault.  
After potholes and police calls,  
there are fewer repeat dangerous drivers.  
But, it remains dangerous and a source of tension.

Any solution to separate kids & cars will involve  
Road Commission (Select Board) and Town Meeting.

Sample Suggestion:

- A) Town acquires narrow section of land as town property on south edge, just wide enough for a sidewalk, only spanning one house lot. Install short sidewalk, curb, and signs.
- B) Remainder of private way is wider, so it could have inexpensive pedestrian lane markings and signs.
- C) Could ask for “Safe Routes to School” grant or other outside funding.



# Safety of Children Walking to Wood End School

Other sections of the road were dangerous, but visibility was slowly improved as new owners trimmed back vegetation, and Mariano Drive was built with a sidewalk.

But, now Three houses are planned, for \$2 million each.

Note address 105 in middle, a new \$2M house will be built on that land, with sidewalk only used by that 1 house, with no sidewalk where the neighborhood would use it. This is the same original parcel of land, with same owner.

Town Staff recommended a change, but CPDC was not empowered to do so.

Chimney Hill CPDC Town Staff report:

“There is a potential sidewalk connection to the west - as a sidewalk ends at the 147 Sanborn Lane lot. The is directly across from Roma Lane which leads to Wood End School. A connection should be made to this sidewalk rather than the proposed sidewalk leading to the road. There is vegetation and a hydrant there; easements may be needed, but staff feel it should be explored nonetheless. [Aug. & Oct. 2021]

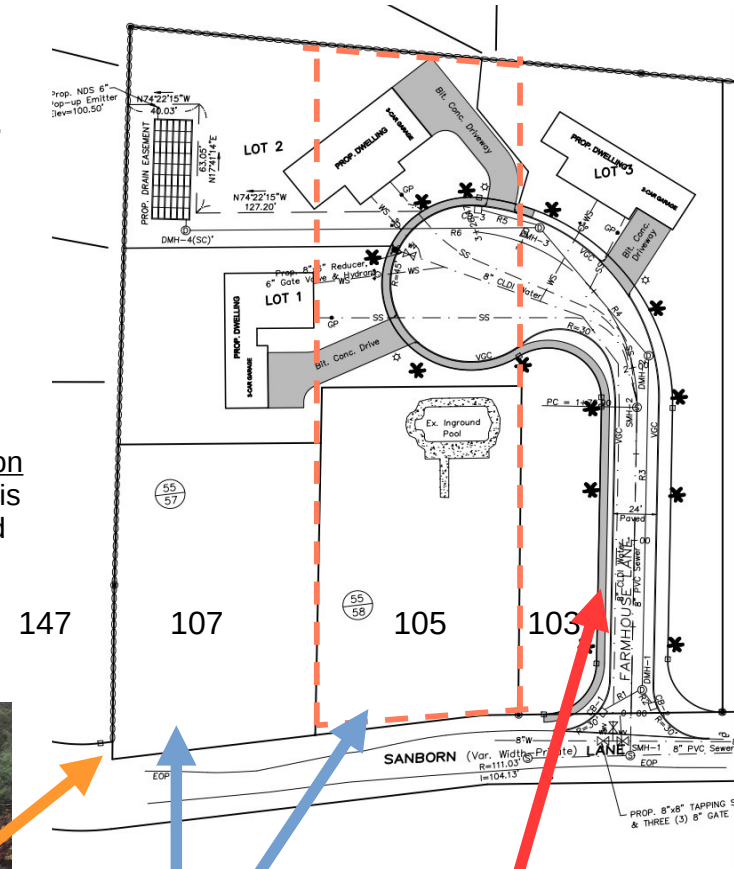
... staff strongly recommend... sidewalk along the property frontages ... The owners of 103, 105 and 107 Sanborn Lane have coordinated in the recent past (the ANR)... [December 13, 2021]

[Incidentally, The abutters were NOT notified, before plans were too far along to change.]

The “ASK”

Select Board (Road C.) to separate school children and vehicles.

This may require acquisition of some land at November Town Meeting.



Sidewalk needed,  
At narrow section

Sidewalk NOT needed