

# Sharing Chappy Roads

Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Dulaski,

December 29, 2009

We are writing to you on behalf of Sharing Chappy Roads Committee (SCR), to provide information essential to the consideration and development of any civil engineering project on Chappaquiddick.

SCR was established to explore safety alternatives to a bike path, and to represent those Chappaquiddick residents opposed to the single-solution approach of a roadside bike path to address perceived, un-established safety issues. Our committee comprises a diverse group of Chappaquiddick property owners – year-round and seasonal – who are committed to safety for cyclists and pedestrians along Chappaquiddick Road. We are bicycle enthusiasts, hikers and automobile drivers who have biked, walked and driven on Chappaquiddick for decades, and have accumulated a long list of ways to help cyclists and walkers feel safer on our roads.

We understand that you're considering putting a team of students together at the invitation of the Chappy Path Committee (CPC) to create a plan for a bike path for Chappaquiddick Island.

While we appreciate both your civic spirit and your willingness to volunteer your time and that of your students, we would like to make sure you hear from all sides about the bike path issue before you and the students decide to embark on this project.

Here are some important facts:

1. The idea of a bicycle path on Chappaquiddick Island is a highly contentious issue and has been for 30 years. Island residents have organized, researched, discussed and voted against similar plans multiple times in the past.
2. Chappaquiddick Island boasts a unique rural character and ecosystem that would be permanently and severely impacted by a bike path. Chappy is a rare, rural jewel of the heavily developed Eastern United States, without taint of urban quality. This is the main reason a majority of residents and homeowners oppose it.

3. [www.ChappyBikePath.com](http://www.ChappyBikePath.com)

This website hosts all civil surveys, town meeting reports, relevant research and community member correspondence on all sides of the issue.

At this writing, a substantial majority of Chappaquiddick residents opposes the construction of any bike path, specifically the initiatives and proposed two-way side path of the CPC. The listing of community members for and against, along with comments and arguments from both sides are posted on the website.

---

Siamek & Joan Adibi • Roger Becker • Skip Bettencourt • Bill & Ann Brine • Bob & Fran Clay  
Terry Forde • Susan Gomez • Chrissie Haslet • Geoff & Norma Kontje • Ginny Murray • Rick Murray  
Sally Nicholas • Tom & Lys Pike • Edo Potter • Hatsy Potter • Steven & Barbara Raichlen

# Sharing Chappy Roads

Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts

4. Cars and bicycles currently share Chappaquiddick's one paved road, which has a posted speed limit of 20 to 25 mph. As a seasonal community, our roads are most heavily used during summer months, after which there is a dramatic drop in activity. There are only 80 households using the roads year-round. We have a remarkable safety record, one of the safest in the country – in the last 15 years, there have been no serious accidents involving bicycles and cars. There is no demonstrable need for a bike path, and many good reasons to oppose one in favor of less disturbing alternatives.

5. There are miles and miles of excellent bike paths in Edgartown and elsewhere on Martha's Vineyard – a 3 minute ferry ride away.

6. The Chappy Path Committee has made several presentations to the Chappaquiddick community as well as to the Edgartown Selectmen and the Edgartown Planning Board. A majority of Chappaquiddick residents opposes the plan and neither Edgartown board has shown any willingness to support it.

Before you finalize your plans to become involved, we hope you'll take the opportunity to speak with someone from the Sharing Chappy Roads Committee. You have our email address--please let us know a good time to talk and we'd be happy to call you.

If you should decide to move ahead, we ask that you make sure the planning process addresses what for us are the most essential questions:

Does Chappaquiddick even need a bicycle path?

Does a clear majority of residents want it?

Can the same safety goals be accomplished using other traffic calming techniques with less environmental impact?

What will the costs—monetary, environmental, ferry delays, etc.—be, and are they worth the disruptions and changes they will bring to the island?

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Sharing Chappy Roads Committee

302 Chappaquiddick Rd

Edgartown, MA 02539

[SharingChappyRoads@gmail.com](mailto:SharingChappyRoads@gmail.com)