

How To Start a Bike Bus



Cambridge
Bicycle
Safety



Photo Credit: Boston Globe

Getting Started. . .

- Get motivated!
- Start small.
- Choose a sustainable frequency.
- Think regular and predictable.



Find other families

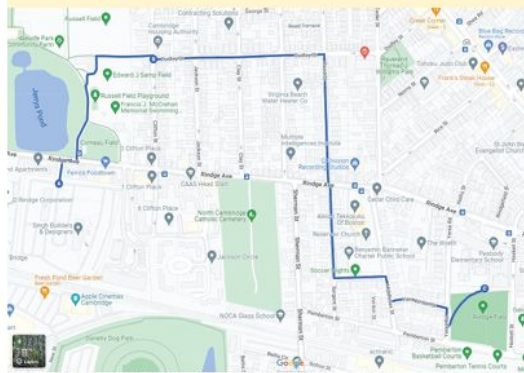
- Create a flyer
- Approach people you see cycling to school.
- Find out what are their barriers
- Ask your principal/family liaison to distribute your announcement
- Create a contact list for communications: Google group, Whatsapp, Slack, etc.



Bike Bus to Peabody School/RAUC Every Friday!

Want to ride your bike to school with friends? Join us every Friday at one of the stops, or pick up the bike bus along the way.

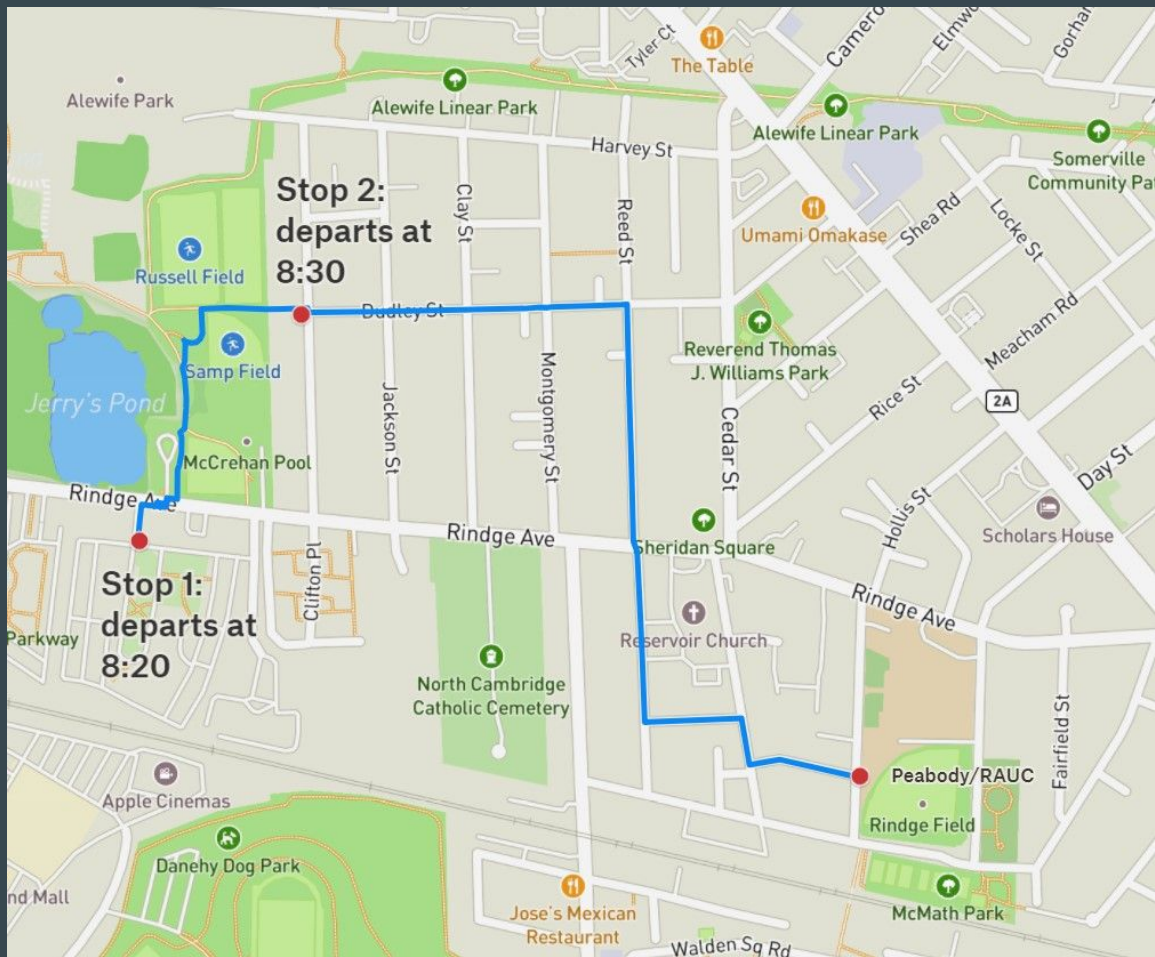
Stop A - 8:20 Rindge Ave Towers parking lot
Stop B - 8:30 Russell Field at Clifton Street entrance
End- 8:45 Peabody School



Not on the route? Let us know. No bike? No problem, we can help. For updates contact: peabodybikebus@gmail.com

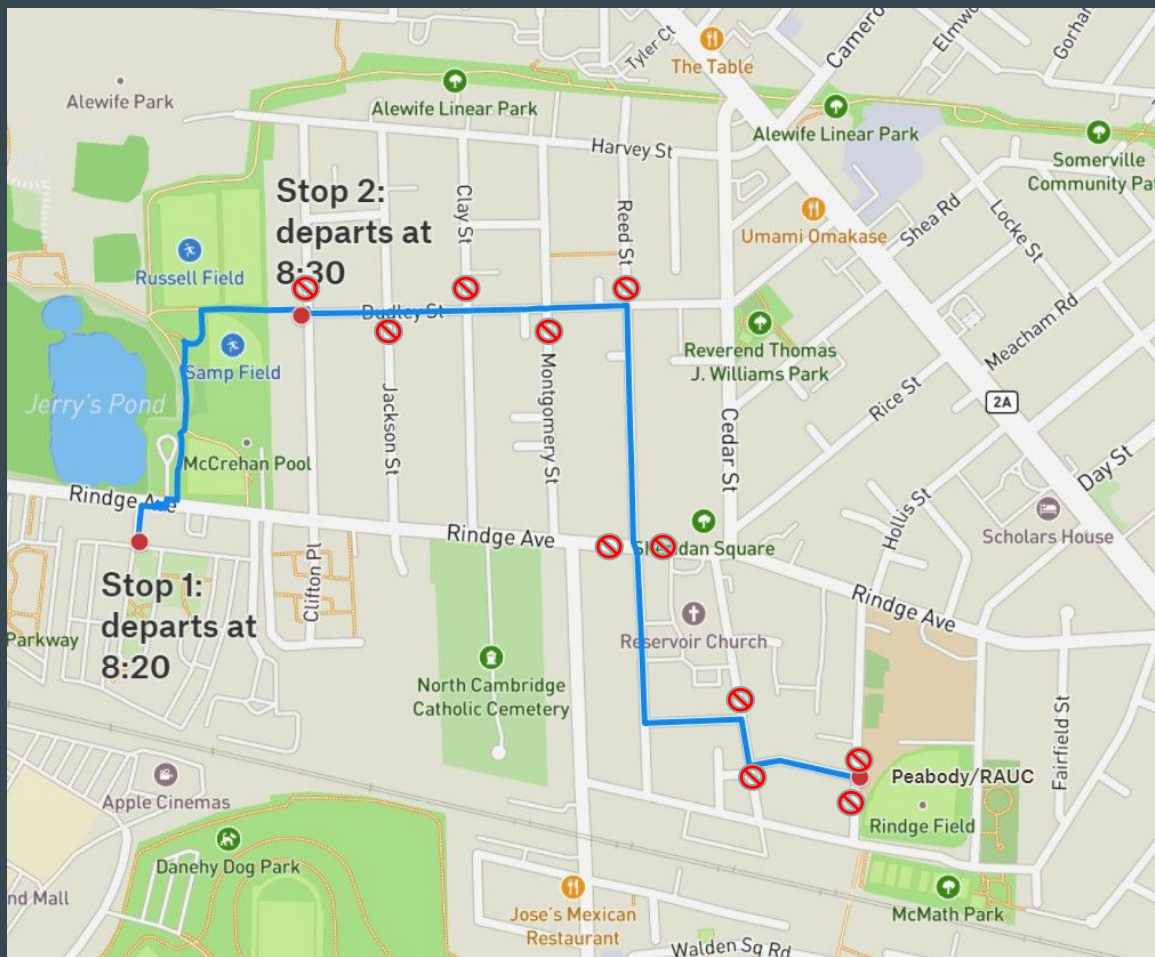
Route Planning

- Starting meeting point
- Pick up kids en route
- Find a low stress route:
 - Low traffic/low speed roads
 - One-way streets
 - Streets with separated bike lanes
- Consider conflict points:
 - Intersections
 - Major road crossing
 - High traffic driveways



Ride Day Roles

- Organizer
 - Delegate roles, communicate rules
- Ride lead
 - The person at the front of the pack
 - Has to manage speedy kids who want to get in front
 - The eyes up front for any hazards
- Marshalls/Corkers
 - 2-3 people floating between conflict points
 - Block traffic until the bike bus is clear
 - Might have to weave between riders or speed up on the sidewalk to the front
- Sweep
 - Stays behind last rider
 - Has to communicate to cars behind the bike bus to stay back



Ride Day Roles

- Organizer
- Ride lead
- Marshalls
- Sweep



FUN

- Music
- A box of Munchkins
- Bubble machine
- Stickers, stamps, etc.
- Costumes
- Get creative



Photo credit: Darren Buck



Documentation

- Take a headcount
- Snap a few photos or video mid-ride.
- Watch your bike bus grow!



Weather

- Use your best judgement
- Ice on the road
- Below 25 degrees
- Remember wind chill
- Unexpected overnight precipitation
- Consider switching to a Walking Bus



Road Maintenance

- Keep an eye on your route
- Approach contractors to allow safe passage.
- Consider reroute options.
- Cancel :(



Mechanicals

- Have a contingency plan with the Sweep if someone's bike breaks mid ride.
- Bring basic tools/pump
- Bring an extra lock



Advocacy

- Invite your principal or public officials.
- Inspire others, share pictures on social media, with permission.
- Use the magic of children riding bicycles together to impact the world around you.



CAMBRIDGE DAY

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A safe network of bike lanes is an investment for our children

Monday, October 30, 2023



The view from the back of the pack of the Peabody Elementary School and Rindge Avenue Upper School bike bus. (Photo: Katherine Beaty and Darren Buck)

Inspired by sensational videos from social media, a few parents and I started a "bike bus" last year. It grew organically; traveling along the same route one morning, we passed other families biking together and

Resources:

- Bike Bus Checklist
 - tinyurl.com/BikeBusChecklist
- Reach out to your Safe Routes to School representative, Vivian Ortiz
 - <https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school>
- Cambridge Bicycle Safety
 - tinyurl.com/cbsalerts
 - Reach out for help with route planning or marshalling.
- Check out Boston-area bike buses and get yours on the map
 - <https://bikebus.boston>
- Connect with the International Bike Bus movement
 - <https://bikebus.world>



Questions?

Discussion ideas

- Exchange contact info
- Where do you live
- Brainstorm possible routes
- Other biking families

Break Out Rooms

1. Morse School (2)
2. Graham and Parks School (4)
3. Cambridgeport School (2)
4. Baldwin School (3)
5. Kennedy School (2)
6. Amigos School (2)
7. Waltham Public Schools (2)
- 8.

Stay in main Zoom room:

- a. Haggerty School
- b. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School
- c. Winn School
- d. Hosmer School (Watertown)
- e. International School of Boston
- f. King Open School
- g. Thompson Elementary

