



UPDATE

JUNE 15, 2009

Still Awaiting SRTS Grant Decisions

The City of Winston-Salem submitted two Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant applications to the North Carolina Safe Routes to School Program by the January 30, 2009 deadline. The infrastructure grant was for sidewalk construction, crosswalks, and other pedestrian accommodations in the area near Sherwood Forest Elementary School where busy traffic makes it unsafe for many children to walk to school from their homes. The city's SRTS noninfrastructure grant application asked for the maximum of \$50,000 to undertake a pilot program of education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation at six Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools: Clemmons, Forest Park, Kernersville, Kimberley Park, and Sherwood Forest Elementary Schools plus Kernersville Middle School.



According to North Carolina's Interim SRTS Coordinator Sarah O'Brien, the state is still reviewing the 76 infrastructure grants, 17 noninfrastructure grants, and 20 SRTS requests through the NCDOT's division offices around the state. Review was somewhat delayed by the SRTS Program's relocation to the NCDOT Division of Mobility & Safety in Garner earlier this year as part of NCDOT's restructuring efforts. Thus, it may be late summer before any decisions on the grants are made.

Registration Is Open for International Walk to School Day



Participating in International Walk to School Day is a great way to introduce biking and walking to students or encourage greater participation. Last year students from more than 40 different countries around the world participated, including Kimberley Park and Sherwood Forest Elementary Schools in Forsyth County. This year International Walk to School Day is **October 7, 2009**, although all of October is Walk to School

Month, to give schools flexibility in scheduling.

So that all students can participate regardless of the distance from home to school, many schools designate a drop-off point at a church or park within walking distance of the school. Parents and buses/vans drop the students at the designated location where walk organizers and parents/staff walk with the children to school.

You can find more information and tips about Walk to School Day as well as register your school at www.walktoschool.org.

Federal Legislation Reauthorizing Safe Routes to School

Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina has joined a bipartisan group of Senators [Harkin (D-IA), Sanders (I-VT), Merkley (D-OR), and Collins (R-ME)] to introduce S. 1156, the Safe Routes to School Program Reauthorization Act. The bill proposes to strengthen and expand SRTS. Full details of the bill are the website for the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](http://www.SafeRoutesToSchoolNationalPartnership.org). The Partnership encourages all SRTS supporters to [contact Senators](#) to ask them to cosponsor the legislation. If we can build a lot of support, it will help ensure that SRTS is included in the next transportation bill, so we can expand programs to more schools.

Kimberley Park Sees Increase in Walk to School Event Participation



Kimberley Park students participated in International Walk to School Day in October, 2008, with approximately 150 students walking, accompanied by parents, staff, and volunteers. On June 3, the school saw participation increase by 30% for its second Walk to School event for the school year. Next year the school plans to have regular monthly Walk to School events.

Kimberley Park's first walking school bus (shown in photo on right) has made it safer for a group of children from North Cherry Street to walk to and from school every day for several years. Sheila Washington, assistant principal, plans to start more walking school buses next year to reassure parents so more children can walk to school every day.



Sherwood Forest Parents Lead Safe Routes to School Effort



For the third school year, the SRTS Committee of the Sherwood Forest PTA has organized walk to school events during most warm weather months. During the first year, all students were encouraged to meet at an area church so everyone could walk together, including students who normally rode to school. The committee tracked and recognized those homerooms with the most walkers. The final walk event this year on April 17 (see photo of banner displayed in front of the school) brought students walking from all directions to the school, especially from the two meeting points, one of which was at an area church. For next year, the committee is exploring ways to get even more children walking regularly.

Starting a SRTS Program at Your School

Parents or school staff can get information about the national Safe Routes to School Program from the National Center for Safe Routes to School at www.saferoutesinfo.org . Information about the state program is also available at <http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/saferoutes/SafeRoutes.html> .

For more information on local SRTS activities, contact **Judi Wallace, Safe Routes to School Coordinator for the Winston-Salem Urban Area** at 336.768.3339 or judiwallace@triad.rr.com .

Matthew Burczyk has been hired as **Pedestrian & Bicycle Coordinator for the Winston-Salem Urban Area** and can help with issues related to walking and bicycling around schools and neighborhoods. He can be reached at 336.747.6884 or mattbk@cityofws.org .

The Winston-Salem Department of Transportation sponsors and coordinates the Safe Routes to School Program for the Winston-Salem Urban Area, which includes all of Forsyth County and parts of Davidson, Davie, and Stokes counties.

