



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 554-6196
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov
Web: www.wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCDOT AWARDS WAKE FOREST OVER \$330,000 THROUGH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

WAKE FOREST, NC – September 8, 2009 – The NC Department of Transportation announced Tuesday that the Town of Wake Forest will receive a total of \$330,704 in grants through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program.

The Safe Routes to School program is a federal program that encourages elementary- and middle school-aged children to walk and bicycle to school as a healthy transportation alternative. The program makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school. In the process, the programs work to reduce traffic congestion and improve children's health and the environment.

Altogether the NCDOT will award more than \$3.6 million to 22 municipalities and local agencies.

More than \$3.4 million will go to 13 infrastructure projects that include constructing new sidewalks or greenways, and installing school zone signs, bicycle parking racks and pedestrian signals. Funds will also help improve intersections by constructing wheelchair ramps and marking crosswalks.

Nine non-infrastructure grants totaling \$256,751 will fund activities such as pedestrian and bicycle safety instruction, programs encouraging children to walk or bike to school, student safety patrol programs, neighborhood speed watch programs, and crossing guard programs.

Wake Forest is one of only two municipalities that will receive funding for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects.

The Town will receive \$299,987 for its infrastructure project serving Wake Forest Elementary and Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle schools. The initiative involves constructing a sidewalk along Wingate Avenue from West Sycamore to Durham Road and along Durham Road from an existing sidewalk to Tyler Run Drive. In addition, a separate sidewalk will be

constructed to connect the elementary school campus to the community center and Boys & Girls Club. Other highlights of the project include marking pedestrian crosswalks, installing pedestrian signals, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and signage at various locations; installing bicycle parking racks and constructing a shared-use path with lighting from Main Street onto the middle school campus.

Wake Forest's non-infrastructure project will also serve Wake Forest Elementary School. It entails conducting a "Train the Trainer" program to teach 10 program leaders to be primary resources for training other volunteers in future years on how to conduct bicycle safety instruction to fourth grade students. Activities will also include developing a walking school bus/bike train program with a neighborhood captain system; distributing incentive items; securing walking school bus supplies; holding a poster contest and a t-shirt design contest; and initiating a Pedometer Challenge for fourth grade students. Evaluation efforts include monitoring the number of students regularly participating in SRTS programs, conducting before/after questionnaires for bike safety, and collect before/after data using a parent survey and an in-class student tally.

NCDOT received 93 applications from across the state requesting almost five times the amount of funding available.

For more information about the N.C. Safe Routes to School program, contact Sarah O'Brien at (919) 515-8703 or visit the Safe Routes to School Web site at www.ncdot.gov/programs/safety.

For more information about Wake Forest's Safe Routes to School program, contact Town Planner Candace Davis at (919) 554-4895.

** wakeforestnc.gov **

For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.